

December 29, 2004

Dear Provincial/Regional Presidents,

I am, and I know you are as well, still in shock at the terrible devastation that has hit the countries in south Asia.

As is the case in tragedies like this, the leading world emergency relief agencies are already on site and have been calling for emergency funds around the world. The Society is presently in five of the countries affected – India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

At this time I would ask that you solicit contributions from your Conferences/Councils to be sent to the National Council for deposit in our International Emergency Relief Fund.

Given the devastation is spread over a wide area we will be forwarding the funds to the International Council General to be directed to the areas of greatest need.

We realize that there are still requirements for funds in countries like Haiti, and anyone wishing to send funds to the National Council for this country can (and they will also be placed in the International Emergency Relief Fund account), but as of this date we still do not have a secure conduit to ensure the funds reach those in need.

Thank you for your cooperation and compassion for our stricken brothers and sisters in this appeal.

Yours in Frederic and Vincent

Michael Burke