

October 1, 2016

Dear Branch/District Presidents and District Deputies:

Re: Earthquake in Italy Disaster Relief Fund

On August 24, 2016, an earthquake measuring 6.2 hit Central Italy. Its epicenter was close to Accumoli, in an area near the borders of the Umbria, Lazio, Abruzzo and Marche regions.

As of September 16, 2016, the death toll stood at 297 people. Many buildings and landmarks with cultural heritage significance were damaged or destroyed.

The Federation has started a relief fund for the people who were devastated by the earthquake in Italy. \$2,500.00 has already been donated from the Central Council funds. We encourage all Branches and Districts to donate to this relief fund to help the people of Italy who were affected. Individual Donations are also welcomed.

Please send your donation to: Italian Catholic Federation, 8393 Capwell Drive, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621. **Please make all checks payable to the Italian Catholic Federation and write Italy Earthquake Relief on the memo line.** We will in turn gather all donations and send one check to Catholic Relief Services. The deadline for donations is December 31st, so we can forward the money on to help the victims and their families as soon as possible.

Catholic Relief Services is the relief and development arm of the Catholic Church in the United States and they are assisting a sister agency in Italy in coordinating the relief efforts. They are working to provide food, shelter, water and hygiene kits.

Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to pray for those who were impacted by this terrible disaster.

If you have any question or comments, please contact the I.C.F. office at 1-888-423-1924.