



*Mons. Domenico Sorrentino*

ARCIVESCOVO

VESCOVO di ASSISI - NOCERA UMBRA - GUALDO TADINO

Prot. N. Cor. 18/2023

24 July 2023

To: Presidents of Episcopal Conferences

Eminence/Excellency,

Prayerful greetings from the Diocese of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino!

I write to you concerning the International Award “Francis of Assisi and Carlo Acutis for an Economy of Fraternity,” which was instituted by this Diocese in 2021. This past May, on the Feast of the Sanctuary of Renunciation, where Saint Francis of Assisi renounced worldly riches and Blessed Carlo Acutis is buried, we were pleased to confer the Award of Euro 50,000 to Chad, one of the poorest nations in the world. The Award will support the project, “*Bethléem, la maison du pain*” (“Bethlehem, House of Bread”), a fraternal and economic initiative “from below”. 12 poor and needy young people from the village of Baïbokoum will work together, accompanied by the local Franciscan Angeline Sisters, to build and develop a bread making laboratory, placing their talents together and drawing on local resources in order to serve their community and provide for themselves and their families through dignified work.

The Award follows on from the winners of the last two years: in 2021, the Seraphic Institute in Assisi, which for over 150 years, has cared for the most disabled children and young adults, and in 2022, a project involving a group of unemployed and abandoned young people with disabilities in the Diocese of Pasig (Metropolitan Manila) in the Philippines, who presented a revolutionary technology to use water lilies to produce charcoal briquettes as a source of energy. A second project from Nigeria – the “demo Farm of Francesco” – also received a substantial monetary recognition for the creativity of young people to combat desertification by cultivating the land in a sustainable way.

These are examples of what we mean by an “Economy of fraternity.”

I ask your kind assistance to make known this initiative, so much in line with the teachings of the Encyclicals *Laudato si* and *Fratelli tutti* of Pope Francis, to the Bishops in your jurisdiction, religious congregations, missionaries and other interested parties, and to encourage their participation. On the site [www.francescoassisicarloacutisaward.com](http://www.francescoassisicarloacutisaward.com), you will find a brief video of past project winners and all details for the new edition being launched for 2023/24. Thanks to the generosity of benefactors, the prize will again be a maximum of Euro 50,000 that is intended to reflect charity that is “generative,” and not merely “welfare assistance”. Once again, this will be conferred next May 2024 here in Assisi to a specific project, initiated at the grassroots level, by persons, entities or societies, who come together and design a project to care for the most disadvantaged in their communities, especially in the poorest regions of the world.

Attached you will find the relative application form(s) for your jurisdiction and details of the application process, which includes a grid of nine criteria for the presentation of projects. The website also contains the full Statute of the Award and the forms in various languages. The closing date for submission of applications is 31 December 2023.

Please be certain that I am at your complete disposal to provide any further clarification and information. I thank you most sincerely and assure you of my prayer from this holy city.

+ Domenico Sorrentino



**INTERNATIONAL AWARD FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND CARLO ACUTIS**  
**FOR AN ECONOMY OF FRATERNITY**  
**APPLICATION FORM**

**THE UNDERSIGNED:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS – CITY, REGION & NATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ N°: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY/ENTITY/ASSOCIATION/OTHER (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIN ACTIVITIES (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTERED ADDRESS OF COMPANY/ENTITY/ASSOCIATION/OTHER:

CITY, REGION & NATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ N°: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

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NAME OF PARTICIPANTS (MAX 10) AND ROLE IN PROJECT:

1- .....

2- .....

3- .....

4- .....

5- .....

6- .....

7- .....

8- .....

9- .....

10- .....

HOW DID YOU LEARN OF THE AWARD?

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## REQUESTS

participation in the competition for the Award **“FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND CARLO ACUTIS FOR AN ECONOMY OF FRATERNITY,”** submitting to the judgment of the organizers this application and the attached documentation.

### FOR THIS PURPOSE, DECLARES

1. **to be the owner or co-owner** of the intellectual and / or industrial property rights relating to the proposal submitted and / or its contents, including ownership titles or licenses on any copyrights, trademark rights, know-how rights, patents that relate to the project in its entirety and / or to individual items, procedures, documents, drawings, models, ideas, whether patented or not;  
  
in relation to the same, not to be aware of the existence of any claim and / or dispute by third parties; in the case of joint ownership of the aforementioned rights or of a license by part of the same, to attach the consent of the other holders to the submission of the proposal by the other holders;
2. **to allow the organization, in the case of being awarded the prize, to use and disclose** the name and / or the social or business denomination and the brief description of the proposal submitted or an extract thereof, for the purposes related to the competition (advertising, press releases, dissemination of the list of participants and winners both in newspapers and on websites), and only for these purposes;
3. **to allow in the organization of the Award, in every case, to use and disclose** the name and / or the social or business denomination, for the purposes related to the competition (advertising, press releases, dissemination of the list of participants and winners both in newspapers and on websites), and only for such purposes;
4. to have read and understood the competition rules, to accept them and to undertake to respect them in full;
5. to be aware and accept that the organizers do not assume any responsibility for any disputes that may arise regarding the originality, authorship, safeguarding or possible violation of the contents of all the entries in the competition; the organizers are also exempted from signing confidentiality agreements;
6. to accept and undertake to cooperate in the request for any necessary further information and / or useful information for the purposes of the selection process;
7. to agree that any material sent will not be returned.

AND ATTACHES TO THIS FORM

1) ALL DOCUMENTATION AS STIPULATED IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS

2) ALL NECESSARY PERMISSIONS WHEN ACTING ON BEHALF OF A COMPANY OR CANDIDATE

\*Address to receive communications:

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\*Telephone \_\_\_\_\_, fax \_\_\_\_\_, \*@mail \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Information marked by an asterix is obligatory; failure to provide these will result in exclusion from the competition.*

The undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ declares to be informed that the acquisition and processing, including by computer, of the data contained in this application and in the related attachments are carried out for the purposes and activities provided for by the legislation governing the processing of data and that by signing this application, he/she authorizes the processing of data in compliance with the legislation on the protection of confidentiality.

Place/Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature and seal (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_



## **APPLICATION PROCESS EVALUTATION GRID**

### **International Award**

#### **“Francis of Assisi and Carlo Acutis for an Economy of Fraternity”**

The Diocesan Foundation of Religion – Sanctuary of the Renunciation, Diocese of Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino, invites applications for the 2023/24 International Award “Francis of Assisi and Carlo of Acutis.”

As stated in its Statute (Part II, Art.1), the Award aims “to promote a renewal of the economy in the name of the universal fraternity of all human beings, beginning with the condition and the interests of the humblest and most disadvantaged, in the evangelical perspective of the unique fatherhood of God and his design of love for all of his children.” Applicants are asked to view the website [www.francisofassisicarloacutisaward.com](http://www.francisofassisicarloacutisaward.com) for full details of the Award and to read carefully the Statute and attached Norms to ensure full compliance and acceptance of the terms.

1. Applications are invited from persons, entities and societies, in any part of the world, but especially in the poorer regions, who, responding to their lack of opportunities and scarce economic means, come together, in cooperative ways and always collaboratively, around worthwhile project ideas in favour of the most disadvantaged in their communities. In keeping with the Award ethos, projects submitted are to represent initiatives, beginning as fraternal economic processes “from below,” that is, from the grassroots level. Projects already begun within a maximum of five years prior shall also be admitted, as per the requested documentation. In the event of projects judged equal by the Evaluation Commission, the more recent will be favoured.

2. The Award will consist of:

- (i) A public recognition in a ceremony held in Assisi on or close to the feast day of the Sanctuary of the Renunciation foreseen for May 2024;
- (ii) A monetary award, set at no more than Euro 50,000 for 2023/2024, to be used exclusively for the realisation of the awarded project and to be disbursed as set out in the Statute, that is, in stages according to the progress of the work undertaken and the submission of relative documentation (Part II, Art. 13);
- (iii) A symbolic investiture of the “cloak of Francis,” recalling the gesture with which the then Bishop of Assisi, Guido, covered the young Francesco Bernardone, at the moment of his stripping in the public square;
- (iv) The conferral of a plaque bearing the images of Saint Francis and Blessed Carlo Acutis.



3. Applications will be admitted to the competition based on the following criteria and the evaluation grid (see below):

- (i) The completeness of the project profile (see n.7 below);
- (ii) Its adherence to the ethos of the Award and the competition guidelines, as set out in the Norms of the Statute;
- (iii) The presentation of named individuals, actively involved in the project;
- (iv) References from local ecclesial authority and other relevant authorities, where the candidate is domiciled or the project is being realized;
- (v) Projects submitted that do not correspond to the evaluation grid, set out below, will be automatically excluded.

4. Projects initiated by and intended to be carried out by persons under 35 years of age will be regarded with particular attention.

5. Bishops, other ecclesial realities, and entities of competent credibility may submit applications for deserving subjects upon their own initiative.

6. Applications are open to persons, entities and societies of any religious denomination.

7. Application forms, as found on the website [www.francescoassisicarloacutisaward.com](http://www.francescoassisicarloacutisaward.com), must include:

- (i) Name(s) of person(s) responsible for project;
- (ii) Full contact details of person(s) responsible;
- (iii) Location of project;
- (iv) Description of project – aim, beneficiaries, implementation process, timeline, budget, other relevant details;
- (v) References from the local ecclesial authority and other relevant authorities of the place where the project is being realized;
- (vi) A presentation of no more than two pages of how the project reflects the ethos of the “economy of fraternity.”

8. The Award will normally be conferred upon one candidate, unless a double award is decided exceptionally.

9. Non-awarded applications may be deemed worthy of some recognition in a way deemed appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

10. Applications will be judged by an Evaluation Commission.

11. A historical and completed project will not be admitted to the competition.

12. The closing date for applications is December 31, 2023.

13. The Evaluation Commission retains the right to undertake further investigation/interviews on the proponents and project in the final phase of evaluation.

## EVALUTATION GRID

<b>1. Capital of Fraternity</b>	<p>“The Award is aimed at encouraging those fraternal economic processes ‘from below,’ in which people with scarce economic possibilities, in any part of the world, but especially in the poorer regions, come together around valid project ideas, relying above all on the “capital of fraternity” (Art.2, Norms).</p> <p>“not being able to dispose of large financial capital, they rely above all on the ‘capital of fraternity,’ coming together in cooperative forms or always collaboratively” (Art.1b, Bylaws).</p> <p>“they dedicate available resources – physical, moral and material – related to valid project ideas” (Art.1c, Bylaws).</p>
<b>2. Attention given to the poor and fragile groups of people</b>	<p>“they seek, above all else, the advantage of the weakest and ‘discarded’ social classes, stimulating their active participation in the process of their economic and social regeneration” (Art.1h, Bylaws).</p> <p>“ they are concerned with ensuring equal opportunities for both men and women, while fully respecting the possibilities, vocation and rights of each one” (Art.1i, Bylaws).</p> <p>“they have due regard for the condition of the elderly, valuing their wisdom and experience” (Art.1j, Bylaws).</p>
<b>3. Credibility</b>	<p>“The credibility of the candidacies will also be assessed on the basis of references from ecclesial authority (bishops, missionary institutes, etc) and other authorities of the place where the entity concerned has its domicile and / or the actual implementation of the project.” (Art.10, Norms).</p> <p>“In addition to the documentation provided by the subjects participating in the competition, the credibility of the candidacies will also be assessed on the basis of testimonies from ecclesial authority (bishops, missionary institutes, etc.) of the place where the candidates have their domicile and / or the actual realization of the project. Other authoritative evidence from the civil sphere is also considered where appropriate. In this regard, the Foundation reserves the right to make further checks, where necessary. The disbursement of the envisaged sum can be made in different instalments in relation to the documentation provided in terms of the progress of the awarded project and initiative” (Art.6, Bylaws).</p>
<b>4. Integration in one’s own territory and community of reference</b>	<p>“Persons, entities and societies who, especially in the poorest regions of the world, responding to their lack of opportunities and scarce financial resources, take economic initiative for the development of their own territories and communities” (Art.1a, Bylaws).</p>



5. <i>Generativity/Creativity</i>	“The initiatives are admitted to the competition on the basis, jointly, of both their project profile and the working path already begun, with well-defined persons and actively involved in it ... Having an incentive purpose, the Award is not given to initiatives that have already been “completed” and, thus, in historical recognition, but to projects which, in some way, set to be implemented, are worthy of attention and support with respect to the aims that they propose.” (Art.9, Norms).
6. <i>Work/Labour</i>	“they do so in full respect of the dignity of work, ensuring, alongside other rights, a fair remuneration according to the conditions practicable in each region and in each initiative, taking account not only of individuals but also of their families” (Art.1d, Bylaws). “ they develop an ethic of fraternal concern towards all people involved, both protagonists and recipients of the entrepreneurial initiative and work activity” (Art.1e, Bylaws).
7. <i>Sustainability</i>	“ they engage, with the dynamics of the market economy, their own project, production and distributive thinking” (Art.1f, Bylaws).
8. <i>Care of the Environment</i>	“they adopt criteria based on environmental sustainability and care of creation as a ‘common home,’ according to the logic with which Francis of Assisi, in the Canticle of Brother Sun, called the same material creatures, ‘brother’ and ‘sister’ (cf. Encyclical <i>Laudato si</i> )” (Art.1g, Bylaws).
9. <i>Timeline/Budget</i>	“The documented presentation of projects and the progress achieved in the specific stages of their development must reach the Foundation by 31 December according to the rules established in the competition. Each year, the Foundation takes into consideration worthy projects and initiatives, in the number and manner specified in each competition.” (Art.2, Bylaws).

Applications should be submitted both by email and regular post by midnight on 31 December 2023 to:

**Segreteria per il Premio**  
**Fondazione Santuario della Spogliazione**  
 Diocesi di Assisi-Nocera Umbra-Gualdo Tadino  
 Piazza Vescovado, 3  
 06081 (PG)  
 ITALY

Email: [segreteria@francescoassissicarloacutisaward.com](mailto:segreteria@francescoassissicarloacutisaward.com)