

January 17, 2024

Dear Confreres and Consouers:

Last fall, Tri-Association Members made significant donations earmarked for survivors of the devastating August 8 firestorm in Lahaina, Maui. Over \$250,000 was raised to aid the most needy and vulnerable people affected by the disaster. The Order's relief efforts were coordinated by our office in New York.

Contributions were collected and accounted for by MIA under the direction of a committee composed of the Tri- Association Hospitallers and our Executive Director. After assessing needs and the practical obstacles to the delivery of relief, the Committee selected a local partner – the Maui Disaster Relief Fund, a joint operation of ten (10) Catholic parishes – to administer your donations.

The Fund established an application and vetting process to select the survivors most in need, aggregated the Order's contributions with donations from other sources, and purchased nearly 3900 COSTCO gift cards which were distributed to qualified recipients between December 11 and January 5. The gift cards were in \$1000 and \$250 denominations.

Each recipient received the gift card with a personalized letter from Msgr. Terry Watanabe, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, bearing the shield and logo of our Order.

A Long-Term Recovery Group has been formed to coordinate ongoing housing needs including mental health support; assistance with mortgage, rental and utility bills; as well as other day to day necessities. The recovery and rebuilding process will continue for years.

Your generosity restored dignity and hope, elevating the quality of life for hundreds of displaced residents this past Christmas season. Thank you so much for answering the Order's call.

Sincerely,



John E. McInerney III
President
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief - Americas