



Order of Christian Knights

Deus Ante Omnia

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Relief Funds and Grants 23 December 2022

1. The purpose of this document is to outline the standard operating guidelines for collection, management, and disbursement of relief funds and grants. This memorandum shall take effect immediately by authority of the Grandmaster.
2. Charity is, and has always been, an integral part of the life of chivalry; likewise, charity is, and has always been, a key identifier of the people of God. It is strongly encouraged that each member of the Order practice individual charity as led by the Holy Spirit. Corporate charity is also important, and is the primary focus of many Christian organizations. The Order of Christian Knights needs to be able to practice corporate acts of financial charity as well as fulfill its other obligations. One of the major reasons for the Order's existence is to contribute what many other organizations cannot: the skills and equipment necessary to serve our families, churches, and communities during emergencies. At the corporate level, we must be discerning about which needs we are able to meet and which needs are best met by other organizations. We cannot meet every need, but we must do the best we can with what we have. As a nonprofit organization, we must also ensure that our disbursement of funds is fair.
3. The principal is this: everything that we have is given to us by God, and therefore everything we have is to be seen as a resource at disposal for His Kingdom. We are entrusted with these resources and are given the responsibility of proper stewardship. We rely on our best judgment and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for direction in this stewardship.
4. To that end: the funds held by the Order's Treasury as of today's date, 23 December 2022, shall be divided equally and made available for disbursement as necessary by the Council of Masters, the Northwest Regional Command Staff, and the Southeast Regional Command Staff. The Master Treasurer is hereby authorized to establish checking accounts for each of these three entities for the purposes of ensuring monies are tracked appropriately.

5. Each entity shall hold a special vote of the knights within their echelon to determine the amount of money that is to be set aside for the purpose of issuing charitable relief grants. For example, a Regional Commandery may decide to set aside \$500 for their relief fund. The knights shall then vote to decide the maximum amount a single request for funds may be awarded. For example, the Regional Commandery may decide to award up to \$100 per grant.

7. Once these numbers have been determined, they must be published to the Commandery and reported to the Council of Masters.

8. Any member of the Order may submit a request for a grant on behalf of another person; a member of the Order or someone outside the Order. No member may submit a request on their own behalf. Requests on behalf of a commander must go to the next higher echelon of command for approval.

9. Approval for each request shall be at the discretion of the commander.

10. Commanderies may revisit the amount of their relief fund and the individual grant, but if a change is made it must be published and reported to the Council of Masters.

11. Commanders and Treasurers shall be responsible for ensuring that their relief fund be replenished in a timely manner.