



FRANCISCANS, THIRD ORDER REGULAR
PROVINCE OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

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Provincial Economy

February 28, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

As friars of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis and members of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus we vow ourselves to the challenge of living poverty, chastity and obedience in the presence of the Church. In this way, we further the work of Francis of Assisi who unreservedly preached repentance and conversion for the salvation of all. The priests and brothers of the community are engaged in education, parochial and other charitable outreaches.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will impact on our mission and the people we serve in the various ministries of the community.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Father Laurence Uhlman, T.O.R.

(Rev.) Laurence Uhlman, T.O.R.

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