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January 31, 2020

Dear Sister Licia and Council,

The Board of Directors of Franciscan Ministries, Inc. is honored to be a part of the mission of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor. We see Franciscan Ministries as a vehicle to help carry forward the charism of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor in the United States.

Franciscan Ministries has grown and developed over the past few years. The board and governance structure has evolved as well. Last year, the closing of Our Lady of the Woods, while difficult, was part of our vision to allow us to focus energy and resources on activities that most match our mission.

The work of Tamar's Center has revealed a deep unmet need in our community. Finding a stable location has proved challenging. The board and staff have spent countless hours on this project and determined that purchasing a small residential-type building is the best solution. This would stabilize the program and help us attract new funding sources.

We understand that it is necessary to suspend this activity while the Congregation is in the process of study to determine a future structure. Yet, this leaves Tamar's Center in a precarious situation. Should Tamar's lose its lease, a meaningful ministry that is growing and serves 145 women (a 16% increase since 2018) could disappear and the instability makes it difficult for Franciscan Ministries to be seen as operating a viable program.

We also recognize that this highlights a larger concern about our current operational oversight. In order for Franciscan Ministries to move to the next level, broaden community support, recruit board members who are invested in the mission, and to raise significant funds, we must be able to act quickly, decisively. This becomes challenging under the current oversight.

Consequently, we would like to open a dialogue with the Congregation on the subject of the governance of Franciscan Ministries and share suggestions as they emerge from our strategic planning efforts in 2020.

The staff and board of directors sends its prayers to you and all of the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor throughout the world. We look forward to our continued work together.

Respectfully,

Jason Bruns, Chairperson
Franciscan Ministries Board of Directors