

LET'S HELP THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS BRING CARE AND HOPE TO THE AMAZONIAN PEOPLE

URGENT
THE POPE FRANCIS HOSPITAL BOAT
NEEDS MEDICINES



The Pope Francis Hospital Boat is the Franciscan friars' response to Pope Francis' appeal:
A HOSPITAL SHIP TO REACH THE LEAST ONES.

The health mission of the Franciscan friars in the Amazon region began in 2013, when Pope Francis, visiting the Franciscan Hospital in Rio de Janeiro, asked Brother Francisco if the friars were present in the Amazon. When Brother Francisco replied, "No!" **the Holy Father told him, "Then you must go!"** Immediately, the friars obeyed the call with great love and commitment, first taking over two hospitals in the region. A few years later, **to bring the necessary care to even the most distant and suffering communities**, the idea was born that the hospital itself should go out to meet the least ones. **Hence the "Pope Francis Hospital Boat"**. Since September 2019, it has been sailing through the Amazon and its tributaries, ensuring for the first time that thousands of people in the most remote places have access to medical care, saving lives and bringing hope to even the poorest communities.

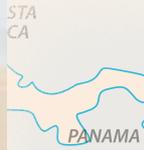
If the Church is called to be a "field hospital", welcoming everyone, without distinction or condition, with this initiative, it now presents itself also as a "hospital on water". And just as Jesus, who appeared walking on the water, calmed the storm and strengthened the faith of the disciples, this ship will bring spiritual comfort and serenity to the concerns of men and women in need, abandoned to their fate.

Pope Francis' Letter on the occasion of the arrival of the "Pope Francis Hospital Boat"



To continue treating the poorest people
THE HOSPITAL BOAT NEEDS MEDICINES.





Onboard the hospital ship, in addition to **a religious and a crew of ten**, there are about **20 doctors and paramedics**, often volunteers, who take turns on **missions of about ten days**. During the ship's 36 missions to date, more than **142,000 treatments** have been carried out.



A land of infinite distances where beauty is wounded, and peoples suffer.

Over the past 500 years in the Amazon, colonising interests have expanded logging and mining and **havedrivenout, besieged and impoverished the indigenous peoples who have cared for this land for centuries**. As a result, many people in the most remote regions of the Amazon live in **extreme poverty** and have **never had access to health care**. The distances are endless, and many villages can only be reached by air or water. People cannot afford to make the long journey to the nearest hospital, often hundreds of kilometres away, and so, all too often, the necessary help arrives too late.

Bishop Bernardo Bahlmann of Óbidos has promoted and supported this project from the beginning and does his utmost to ensure that there are always the resources to continue this mission in the Amazon.



The floating hospital has **medical and dental surgeries, an operating theatre, an ophthalmology room, an analysis laboratory, a medicine room, an immunisation room and infirmary beds**, as well as all the necessary **diagnostic equipment**. The teams also work on **prevention and early diagnosis** through examinations and screening.

From Óbidos, the Hospital Boat sails down the Amazon River, reaching **over 1,000 remote locations** and bringing medical care to more than **700,000 people**.

As well as being committed to its health mission, the Hospital Boat is coordinated by a Franciscan friar-priest responsible for **bringing the word of God**, spirituality, and **a human face to all those cared for** by the volunteer medical teams.



The **Covid-19 pandemic** has shown the importance of the hospital ship even more clearly. The Pope Francis Hospital Boat also **distributes food parcels to families in need**. In addition, the team provides **information and protection**, and the ship is used as an **intensive care unit** for patients who need to be ventilated.



Dear sisters and brothers,

since 2019, our Pope Francis Hospital Boat has been working tirelessly to **reach out to the communities** living along the banks of the Amazon River, especially **the indigenous peoples, the many tribes and people on the margins**, who never before had access to real **healthcare**.

Since the first mission, we have assisted thousands of sick people and **saved many lives, starting with little Adriano Francisco**, the first of many children who began their lives onboard our hospital on the water.

And **life in its entirety is the mission of Hospital Boat**, which even during the Covid-19 emergency has continued to sail, rescuing the sick and distributing food parcels to needy families at risk of starvation.

Today, however, to continue to bring relief and care to the poorest people of the Amazon, we really need your help. But unfortunately, there is **a shortage of medicines** on board the Hospital Boat, and we Franciscan friars alone will not be able to meet the huge cost of purchasing them.

That is why, as our father, St Francis, taught us, I ask for your charity: **help us to buy the necessary medicines so that Hospital Boat can continue to be a sign of peace and hope** for the suffering peoples of Amazonia.

Bn. Francisco



**HELP THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS TO BUY
THE MEDICINES NEEDED TO SAVE SO MANY LIVES.**



Without medicines, the doctors at the Hospital Boat will not be able to do anything to save the lives of the poorest people in the Amazon.

We need to collect
€37,802
 to buy the necessary
 medicines urgently.

DRUG TYPES	COST IN EURO
Antiallergic, cortisone	1,817.10
Analgesics, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories	12,530.91
Bronchodilators, expectorants and thinners	3,359.76
Anti-vomiting and antacids	2,757.34
Anti-diarrhoeals, laxatives, anti-parasitics	3,150.37
Antidepressants, antiepileptics	5,532.88
Anaesthetics	5,679.33
Antifungals	220.37
Anti-hypertensives	892.32
Anti-aggregants	452.05
Anti-diabetes and anti-cholesterol	666.30
Vitamins	744.00
TOTAL IN EURO	37,802.73

HELP THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS BRING MEDICINES AND CARE TO THE PEOPLE OF AMAZONIA



With **35 €uro**

you donate food parcels and protective equipment from Covid for needy families reached only by the hospital ship.

With **50 €uro**

you help supply the Hospital Boat with medicines, such as antibiotics and anaesthetics, to deal with the most common illnesses.

With **100 €uro**

you help buy and distribute drugs for chronic diseases, such as hypertension and diabetes.

How to support the Franciscan friars in Amazonia

by **BANK TRANSFER** to a bank account in the name of FONDAZIONE OFM FRATERNITAS ONLUS
 BANK: Banca Intesa Sanpaolo BIC-SWIFT: **BCITITMM**
 IBAN: **IT15T030690960610000168958** PURPOSE: Amazonia 2022

ONLINE **www.ofmfraternitas.org**



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