Diocesi di Assisi - Nocera Umbra - Gualdo Tadino
Curia diocesana

Ufficio Stampa

COMUNICATO STAMPA

Requests also on internet; 50 thousand euros allocated; deadline is January 31, 2026

Francis and Carlo Acutis award: applications now open online

Project "HOPE" in India the winner last year, for the rehabilitation of young people

ASSISI – Fifty thousand euros to support grassroots projects in a climate of fraternity. This is the amount confirmed by the Diocesan Religious Foundation - Sanctuary of the Renunciation in its announcement inviting new applications for the International Award "Francis of Assisi and Carlo Acutis, for an Economy of Fraternity," 2025/2026 edition. The competition is open to individuals, organizations, associations, and entities from any part of the world, especially from the poorest regions, who, to address the lack of opportunities and limited economic resources, come together in cooperative and other collaborative forms to elaborate effective project ideas for the benefit of vulnerable groups and the development of their local areas and communities. Building on the Award's ethical and value-based principles, projects submitted for the competition must represent initiatives that encourage economic processes of participation. Projects already begun (no more than five years old) will also be eligible, following the stated requisites. In the event of a tie, the Evaluation Committee will prioritize more recent projects. Applications can be submitted online at www.francescoassisicarloacutisaward.com by January 31, 2026. The Award, as set forth in the statute and regulations, is established for the purpose of "promoting economic renewal in the spirit of universal brotherhood among all human beings, starting with the condition and interests of the least and most disadvantaged, in the evangelical perspective of God's one fatherhood and his

loving plan for all his children." Thanks to this Award, the "HOPE" project ("Healing, Opportunities, Protection, and Empowerment") was launched last May in Goa, India. Born out of the experience of the local Caritas, which ran a highly successful program, "Childline" (through a toll-free number), for the rescue and rehabilitation of children in danger, especially from the poorest and most abandoned villages, the project was at risk of closure in 2023 when serious shortfalls emerged. In view thereof, seven young people, all under 35 and some already involved in Caritas Goa's outreach work for the deafblind, joined together and presented a project to relaunch it. In previous years, three projects were supported and implemented: in the Amazon (Brazil) to support a grassroots project of the local natives for chicken breeding, a second in Chad (Africa) to train young people in oven construction and bread making in various depressed areas of the country, and the third in the Philippines (Asia), to encourage putting to good use overgrown water lilies to produce eco-sustainable briquettes to produce energy. Overall, over 225,000 euros have been allocated to various projects around the world.

Assisi, 30 settembre 2025