

**OFS Active Presence in the World Survey**  
**OFS National Fraternity of SPAIN**  
***THE ROAD TO EMMAUS* Association**

## **1. Project Description**

The Association *The Road to Emmaus* is a path open for the poor and marginalized in general. The main objective of the Association is to ensure the integral formation of persons who are accepted as residents.

Here are the specific objectives:

- Moral and spiritual formation
- Socio-professional and cultural formation
- Vocational training
- Job placement



The vision of this association is to become: "A caring atmosphere of understanding and love," "a place of residence." It is promoted this way: "At last, a way to encounter Christ and our brothers".

## **2. Historical Background**

YEAR 1982

After a proper study on the life of prisoners released from their physical imprisonment, but not of the spiritual one, and after direct and prolonged contact with them, Caritas members from San Francis of Assisi and of the OFS concluded that an entity was needed in order to welcome them after they regain their freedom and to assist them in their reincorporation into society. "He who is without sin cast the first stone."

While considering this problem, a dream was born: to establish a Social Charity Association with the name "THE ROAD TO EMMAUS", where men and women may start a new and free life; where they would experience true understanding and love and be lead to a genuine encounter with Christ, like the two disciples on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

The Association was established, a non-profit entity, composed of people committed to the good of society, permanent partners, donors and residents.



This association comes into fruition in the City of Las Palmas of Gran Canaria on May 13, 1982, having as Coordinator and founder the then Minister of the Secular Franciscan Order and Chairman of Caritas at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, our brother Alejandro Flavio Alvarez Lopez.

The patron saint of the Association is St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe.

### **3. Project Coordination**

The Road to Emmaus Association is coordinated by the *San Antonio de Padua* OFS Local Fraternity.

### **4. Impact on Society**

Currently there are two shelters with a total of 10 immigrant residents, of which six are Moroccan, one of Mali, three from Paraguay and one from Mexico.

### **5. What we learned**

MOTTO: "Focus yourself on loving and let yourself be guided".

We are to get ourselves busy with people who need help, so that they can find themselves and live immersed in society acting with responsibility, without being the subject of suspicion and contempt.



## 6. Contact Person

### GOVERNING COUNCIL

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