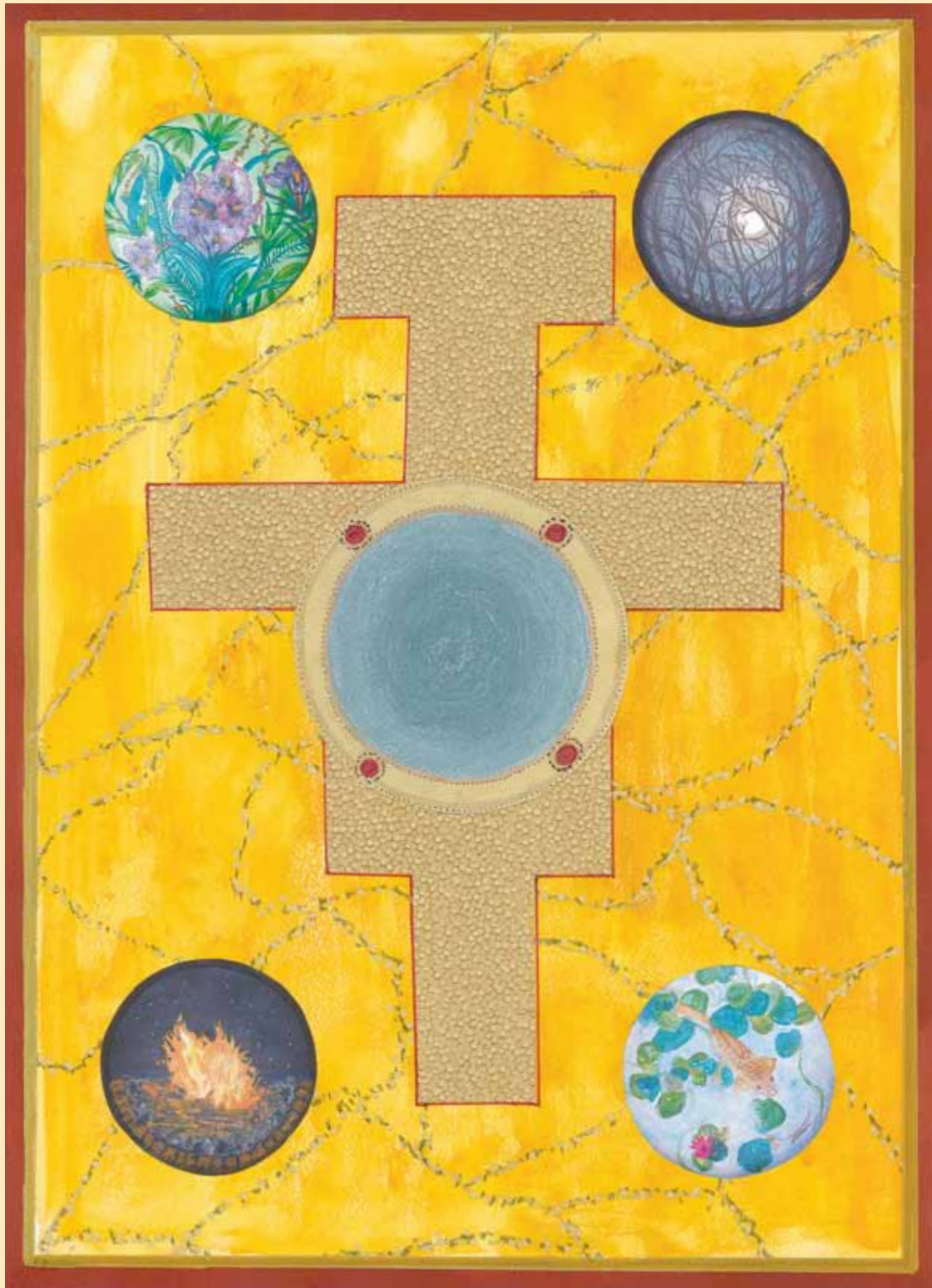


Franciscan Life in Evolution



Logo Artist: Georgene L. Wilson OSF, D.Min.

2013 Annual Franciscan Federation Conference

DESCRIPTION OF LOGO

Artist: Georgene L. Wilson, OSF, D.Min.

Our logo serves as an aid to give us the perspective
to see the embodiment of our theme.

Franciscan Life in Evolution

This Logo has been written in the style of a sacred icon. Thus it is created in tones of gold. It is bordered by deep red to represent the love with which we are all embraced by God.

An icon is an incarnation of matter and spirit. It lures us to gaze into it as a window into the holiness of the saint or symbol represented in the icon. At the moment that we behold such wisdom the window turns into a mirror that reflects the wisdom back into us. It missions us to go forth and be such wisdom and grace with and for others. This is why Clare of Assisi invited her sisters to pray by gazing, considering, contemplating and becoming.

This is what happened to Francis of Assisi when he gazed into the Icon of Christ, the San Damiano Cross. He was missioned forth to evolve the church with the same love, energy and consciousness of Christ, who was the reflected love, energy and consciousness of the Trinity in all creation. We are all invited to gaze into Christ who will mirror back to us how we are to live in evolution.

These are the symbols:

The shape of the San Damiano Cross to image that Franciscan Life in Evolution is Christic Centered.

The mirror at its center invites us to gaze and to receive what is reflected to us for Franciscan Life in Evolution.

The circles that surround the cross represent Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Light and Darkness, Sun and Moon . . . elements of Francis' Canticle of Creation.

All of this is on the background of cobwebbing. This represents the web of life. And it represents how the matter of creation is always in evolution, as are cobwebs, and as is the matter and spirit of our own body, mind, heart and relationships.

Ilia Delio tells us in *The Emergent Christ*, "Belief in God incarnate is belief in the wildness of divine love to seize us from within, turn us upside down, and move us in a new direction." This is the nature of Franciscan Life in Evolution.



FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Edna Michel OSF, President

Dorothy McCormack OSF, Vice-President

Susan Ernster FSPA, Treasurer

Mary Maloney SFP, Secretary

Michele Craig MFIC

Eileen Golby OSF

Kathie Uhler OSF

NATIONAL OFFICE

Ann Lyons FSSJ, Executive Director

Dianne Kaimann OSF, Associate Director

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Edna Michel OSF*

Our 2013 AFC theme, *Franciscan Life in Evolution*, could hardly have been chosen in a more appropriate year. Quite unexpectedly, we witnessed the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of a Jesuit bishop from Argentina. From the moment Cardinal Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio stepped onto the balcony as Pope Francis, his demeanor signaled a new era in contemporary Catholicism. Suddenly the whole world seemed to acquire a renewed interest in the patron saint of the new bishop of Rome, along with hope that the little poor man from Assisi, who had been called in a dream to "rebuild my Church," would now guide the living Church to renewed discipleship. It has not been uncommon for us Franciscans to be congratulated for the pope's choice of name; therein lays a subtle challenge: Live as authentic Franciscans, conscious of the signs of these times, work to rebuild the Church of God, and share the wealth of the Franciscan Charism with the world.

Little did we realize at the time the 2013 conference theme was determined that we would not only be talking about our evolutionary universe, but the evolution of the Franciscan Federation as well. Last summer, after heroic efforts by the By-laws Committee, the ECCCEL, the National Board, the National Office staff, President Ramona Miller and others, the provisional by-laws were officially approved during the Commission of Elected Leaders' meeting on July 28, 2012. It would be tempting to expect life to "go back to normal" after the completion of that monumental project. However, we know that evolution does not include "going back." Allow me to highlight here several areas in which the Federation has been active and evolving this past year.

1. National Office

Sister Ann Lyons FSSJ, announced early in 2012 the completion of her second (non-renewable) term of service as Executive Director of the Franciscan Federation, effective July 31, 2013. In preparation for this leadership change Sister Ann has been keeping detailed lists and timelines which will greatly benefit the next Executive Director. The Franciscan Federation TOR family is deeply grateful for the immense contribution she has made to the health of the Federation. Under her leadership, the Federation made great strides in financial accountability, rebuilding the trust fund and

eliminating debt, reducing the inventory, selling and distributing 10,000 prayer books, and assuring high quality presenters, liturgical ministers, and hospitality for the annual conferences. She helped steer the organization through the early days of implementing the new federation structure, maintaining communications with and among the three commissions and the national board. All of us have appreciated her friendly, helpful, and prompt response to requests. She has represented the Federation very well.

In October, 2012 Sister Dianne Kaimann, OSF (Oldenburg), was hired as the new associate director, replacing Sister Margaret Magee, OSF (Allegany), who had been elected to the leadership team of her community. Sister Dianne's background enabled her to step into the position with confidence, making a smooth transition possible. Kudos to Sister Margaret Magee for her stellar handling of communications, AFC preparation, minute-taking, data entry and updating, and the myriad other ways she enabled the national office to run efficiently and hospitably these past six years.

2. Revision of the Personnel Policy

Primarily through the efforts of National Board members who were assisted by various human resource professionals, the Personnel Policy for employees of the Franciscan Federation was revised, bringing it up to code and suiting it for our particular circumstances. This policy was provisionally accepted during a conference call in November, 2012 and then formally accepted in April, 2013 by the National Board.

3. Human Trafficking Workshops

Through the availability of a generous grant from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, Hamburg, NY, the Federation was able to offer an educational workshop on human trafficking. It will be described elsewhere in the annual report, but I want to mention them as a significant response to the 2011 and 2012 Assembly resolutions.

4. Search for a New Executive Director

A search committee for a new Executive Director was appointed in August, 2012. A timeline was established, and the position opening was published in *The Cord, Musings*, and in a

direct mailing to the leadership of each member congregation. That was followed up with phone calls and personal contact. One viable candidate applied, but later withdrew from the process. The search was re-opened in April, with a presidential appeal to all members of the executive committees of the three commissions (CEL, CCS, and COR) to make additional contacts with their membership.

5. Future Directions

The National Board realizes that the difficulty in surfacing qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director is symptomatic of other challenges we need to face as a federation. A phone conference with ECCEL members in April resulted with several facts that Federation members need to address currently and in the next 3-5 years:

Leadership Pool

The Federation is already affected by a limited pool of leadership: for executive director, national board members, board treasurer, and executive committees of commissions. There may be various reasons for this: people feeling overwhelmed, inability, lack of interest, lack of energy, aging. This has been especially true of CEL.

Finances


The Federation depends on membership dues and income from the Annual Federation Conference as the two major sources of funding.

- a) The number of members in our congregations is declining; hence income from dues will continue to decrease.
- b) Dues were significantly increased three years ago (up to \$20/person) effective until 2015; another increase would need to be approved by CEL in 2014. With many congregations concerned about their financial situations, another increase in dues may be unrealistic.
- c) In five years there will be less energy among aging members for attending conferences and meetings, both regional and national.
- d) The Development Committee has concentrated on seeking other sources, but has found the number of grantors quite limited. Furthermore, the Federation has no donor mailing list apart from the congregations which belong.

Contribution of the Federation to Franciscan TOR Life

The Federation is stronger today than it was five years ago. Conferences in recent years have been of excellent quality. While CEL members can benefit from membership in LCWR, CMSM, or CMSWR, the Federation provides similar quality presentations for grassroots Franciscans. A definite strength of the Federation has been its ability to provide “people friendly,” inspirational material for its members, both at the annual conference and in some regions. The vision and mission of the Federation is still needed to be proclaimed and lived.

The congregations which make up the Franciscan Federation hold reserve powers for the vision and mission of the Federation. (*Cf. By-laws 6.4.2*) Although that power is exercised by the congregational leader of each member congregation, we as members of the Franciscan TOR family and tenders of the charism are all called into prayerful discernment, creative thinking, and great trust in God as we deal directly, honestly, and courageously with the realities that will shape our imminent future and eventually evolve the Federation into a new era.



Franciscans believe that the Gospel has public significance, and there is value in articulating our core religious and ethical values in forms that speak to the aspirations of our fellow human beings. Social criticism — alone — is not sufficient. We deploy practical intelligence and wisdom to articulate a positive moral vision for Christians' participation in the civic life of their communities. Our tradition is full of examples of Franciscans who listened very closely to the social concerns of laypersons, and in dialogue with them, launched positive social projects. The retrieval of a broader array of these examples from our tradition can inspire us and others today.

Keith Warner OFM

LIVING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

St. Francis caught the gospel message and absorbed it into his heart. He meditated on it, lived with it, and sent it with renewed strength into the future. Francis brought forth four concepts that shocked the society of his time into a new consciousness that calls us even to this day. He brought a call to peace, a love and concern for the poor, a sign that material possessions are not necessary for happiness and a radical reading of the gospel. His life imprinted a new design on his world and the process needs continual expansion. The Franciscan revolution was and is simply a return to the gospel. Francis returned to it with such force that it has something vital to say to every age, including our own. Now it is our turn, to see to it that the gospel way of life reaches our sisters and brothers with strength and clarity.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

“Christ . . . considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry” (1 Timothy 1:12).

We never know when some event or conversation will contribute to the call of a person to serve. At the July, 2012 Chapter of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, Margaret Magee was called to be a member of the community’s leadership team. Margaret’s decision to accept the call was a cause for joy because she would share her many gifts and talents with her sisters. Her decision also caused sadness — the Franciscan Federation would miss her presence, her organizational skills, her efficiency and her love of all things Franciscan. Personally, I have missed the presence of a woman of faith and vision.

Dianne Kaimann, an Oldenburg Franciscan, also responded to a call to serve her sisters and brothers in the Franciscan Federation when she accepted the position of Associate Director at the end of October 2012. Dianne is no stranger to the Federation having served on the Freeing the Fire Committee, Chairperson for Region Five Steering Committee and a member of the National Board. Her bookkeeping and office management skills have been instrumental in providing a seamless transition. Margaret Magee has continued to offer her guidance and support gained from six years of service as the Associate Director. Dianne has proved

to be a conscientious and dedicated worker in all areas of her duties and has greatly assisted me in carrying out the various responsibilities necessary in the operation of the National Office.

NURTURING A FRANCISCAN HEART

“ . . . fan into flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you” (2 Timothy 6-7).

With hope-filled anticipation and the commitment of the Executive Committees of the Commission of Elected Leaders, the Commission of Charism Services and the Commission of Regions as well as their membership pulsing with possibilities, the National Board looked forward to moving into the future of the Franciscan Federation.

Edna Michel, president of the Federation, served as a reliable presence while demanding accountability, active sharing and listening on the part of each Board member. She was instrumental in reflecting on, evaluating and challenging a set way of thinking in order to make appropriate changes. The National Board has been effective because Edna called forth the gifts and capabilities of each member to accomplish particular goals and objectives.

The intensity with which the National Board strove to get things done, accomplish tasks, such as, the revision of the Personnel Policy Handbook, and achieve results was outstanding. The Board’s ability to focus and concentrate was key to their success. Despite having numerous and varied responsibilities and tasks, they were committed to cultivating the vision of the Federation and the charism of the Third Order Regular Rule. In reference to time and energy expended and invested the support of the Commission of Elected Leaders, the Commission of Charism Services and the Commission of Regions were most helpful.

FOCUSING ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

“Plans made after advice succeed . . .”
Proverbs 20:18

An interchange of thoughts, ideas and opinions is necessary for effective communication. Members of the National Board, Executive Committee of each of the Commissions, the Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation and the Development Standing

Committees and the National Office Staff share creativity and initiative and are fired by the same vision. The network of communication between and among these groups is necessary to keep them well informed. The relational dimension of collaboration allows the groups to become more effective in promulgating the goals and objectives of the Federation. Toward this end, there is a sharing of minutes, scheduled conference calls for each of the Executive Committees of the Commission and the Standing Committees — the Executive Director is a participant in all these calls — a monthly report from the Executive Director to the National Board. The mission of the Federation is shared and communicated throughout the organization.

CONFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion” (Philippians 1:6).

The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Standing Committee worked collaboratively with the JPIC Coordinators in each member congregation to select and formulate the Resolution presented at the AFC. This is the third year that the Federation has committed itself to work to eradicate human trafficking.

Having embraced our commitment to end trafficking we were ready to make the movement from educating ourselves to going out to the wider community. It is a movement that leads us to act and to be in the world as our Franciscan call demands — to be God’s presence of love, mercy and compassion to those who are less fortunate or marginalized. It was necessary that we trust in our abilities to bring about projects, activities and/or workshops that reflect our commitment to devote our thoughts and prayers, our energy and our resources to the task. One of our challenges was to empower others to share this commitment, to invite them to contribute their energy and resources as we work together for a cause.

The Direct Service Grant from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph secured last year to sponsor a workshop on human trafficking was awarded to Region Six of the Federation. Jeanne Rollins OSF, the chairperson of the Region Six Steering Committee coordinated the planning of the workshop with the assistance of Sandra Lyons OSF, a member of the JPIC Standing Committee. Jeanne also worked with the representatives from Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo County, California

where the workshop was held. The keynote speaker was Carissa Phelps, author of **RUNAWAY GIRL**, who is herself a victim of human trafficking. The Federation sponsored the advocacy training portion of the workshop held on April 29, 2013.

We have been challenged to begin a new wave of education to combat human trafficking. The Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Newton, Massachusetts made a sizable donation to the Federation to assist in our efforts to eradicate human trafficking. Some of the money was used to send the DVD **NEFARIOUS: MERCHANT OF SOULS** to each member community. We asked that each community use the DVD to continue educating the public so that they realize the presence of the evil of human trafficking among us and raise the consciousness of individuals. The remainder of the money will be used to help sponsor another workshop in a particular region.

This year at the Franciscan banquet the Franciscan Federation will present an award to NIX Conference & Meeting Management for their work in standing up to child sex trafficking in U.S. hotels.

DEALING WITH RESOURCES

“... good news invigorates the bones”
(Proverbs 15:30).

We are a Federation alive because of our relationship to one another brought together by our shared Franciscan heritage. Our story as a Franciscan Federation is enriched by our members who are our greatest resources. This past year, I contacted the National Board of the SFO Fraternities. I asked that they forward a letter of invitation I wrote to all fraternities offering them membership in the Franciscan Federation. The Board was thrilled to receive the invitation and the letter was sent to the National Leadership and 38 Regional Fraternities inviting them to forward it to local fraternities. I am happy to report that some of our sisters and brothers have joined the Federation.

We continue to receive requests for **THE RULE AND LIFE OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR OF ST. FRANCIS AND COMMENTARY**. We filled a recent order for 185 books which were sent to Uganda. This depleted our inventory. We have ordered a reprinting and the Rule with commentary will be available at AFC 2013,

I am happy to report that we have sold all the Assisi mugs. Shelf space in the storage area is increasing. The National Board has decided that we will make available to members the books and other resources we have in inventory free of charge. A list of the items will be compiled and made available through **MUSINGS**. If items need to be mailed members will be charged for the shipping. The inventory does no good sitting on shelves — books and other resources are meant to be used.

EMBRACING CHANGE

“For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

An attitude of hope and confidence should pervade and undergird our commitment to the Federation. Hope is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good. It is necessary that we look beyond the problems that confront us as a Federation and to have hope that working together we are creating something new which we have no doubt is good. Change is part of life and we must dare to confront our possibilities because it is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving that is important.

An obvious change which we face is that my term as Executive Director ends on July 31, 2013. I am confident that the next Executive Director will bring gifts and talents that are needed at this time in our history. New eyes have the potential to see things differently and bring energy necessary to take the steps to move in a new direction. Sue Ernster, our treasurer, will also be completing her term. It has truly been a privilege for me to work

with Sue over the years. She always presented a well thought out response to crisis situations and was instrumental in setting specific objectives in order to realize fiscal responsibility. Because of her ability to concentrate on issues and gather data and facts she always gave an accurate accounting of the financial status of the Federation to the membership. The work Sue has done enables us to look forward in anticipation to the possibilities that bring us deeper and deeper into God’s plan for the future of the Federation.

GIVING THANKS

“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you” (Philippians 1:3-4).

I take this opportunity to thank each member of the Federation for your commitment, trust and support which were a vital source of my energy during my years as Executive Director of the Federation. With a positive vision for the future of the Federation, we prayed together, reflected together, dreamed together and acted together as we lived out our call. Your generosity of spirit gives me pause for thanksgiving, an act of thanksgiving for your many kindnesses and the gift of hope that they engender. As we continue to journey together, supporting one another I am confident that this will be a hopeful time that will bring life and energy to the Federation. In living out creatively our Franciscan call and in loving relationship with each other may we continue to give thanks to God as we share our Franciscan charism with the world.

To realize that we humans are part of a larger process which involves long spans of developmental time brings a massive change to all of our knowledge and beliefs. We are not simply products of evolution; we are evolution come to consciousness, the arrow of evolution’s direction.

Our Christology is still expressed in exactly the same terms as those which three centuries ago could satisfy those whose outlook on the cosmos it is now physically impossible for us to accept. . .

What we now have to do without delay is to modify the position occupied by the central core of Christianity — and this precisely in order that it may not lose its illuminative value.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Ilia Delio OSF

TREASURER'S REPORT *Susan Ernster FSPA*

It is with gratitude that I complete my term as Treasurer of the Franciscan Federation. During these past six years I have witnessed transformational and alleluia moments. We have gone from borrowing money from congregations' investments to pay for our operating and prayer book expenses, to repaying these loans, having enough money to return each congregation's investment upon maturity if requested and having cash for operating expenses. This financial change seems almost miraculous considering the economy's tenuous state these past few years.

These financial changes occurred because of your trust and faith in the Federation. This was witnessed again this past year as we received congregational grants to assist in sponsoring trafficking programs as a response to our 2012 AFC Resolution. These grants are reflected in our donations section of the income statement.

In looking at the charts comparing YTD income and expenses to last year's budget, you can see variances. One of the reasons that income is lower than last year is prayer book sales. Last year we sold all of the prayer books. This year's prayer book sales are the re-sale of books which had been returned. One of the other reasons income is lower than last year is the decreased number of participants at the 2012 AFC compared to the 2011 AFC. At the 2011 AFC, one congregation had several hundred members attend the AFC as part of their community spiritual renewal days which did not occur in 2012. In preparing the 2012 budget we took these changes into account. Despite decreased AFC attendance, lower dues revenues and not meeting budget on either of these items, we were above budget on Trust Fund/Interest income. We earned more interest because we did not borrow against the trust fund, allowing us to have a greater amount of money in the account earning interest. We returned congregational investments upon maturity when requested. We transferred \$60,000 from the operating and restricted accounts to the Trust Fund account to earn a greater percentage of interest income. If needed the cash is available, however, the need has not arisen.

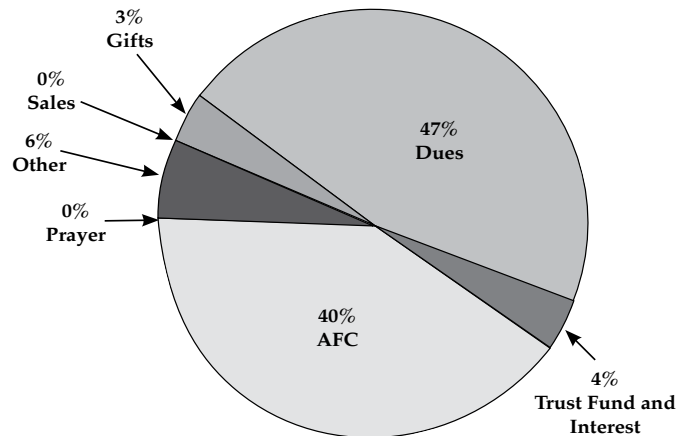
Besides income being down, expenses are down as well without impacting service. This is due to the good work of the office staff utilizing available technology. As well as decreasing expenses, donated services are another area in which the organization continues to flourish. In 2012 we had \$17,687 in donated services compared to \$15,180 in 2011. Donated services only include airfare, food, transportation, phone calls and do not include the

endless hours spent working to ensure the viability of the Federation on different committees or on the respective commissions.

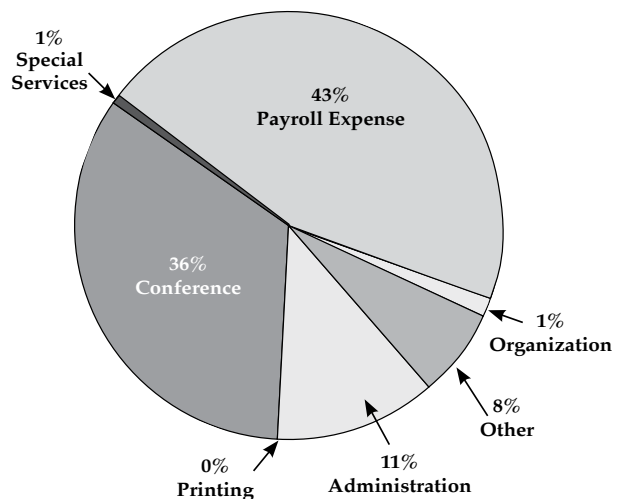
All of this gives me hope for the future of the Federation while reminding me that we need the Development Committee to continue securing other funding sources for the Federation. The AFC and dues are over 85% of our income. This is our reality and one that could cause concern since congregational membership continues to decrease and attendance at the AFC is tenuous. These realities propel us to seek additional revenue streams.

Having mentioned all of this, I am hopeful and grateful for having had the opportunity to serve these past six years as Treasurer and want to say thank you for witnessing gratitude and hope to me.

SOURCES OF INCOME



USE OF INCOME



**2012 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
of the Franciscan Federation
Statement of Financial Position as of**

ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2012	Dec. 31, 2011
Cash and Checking/Savings	\$212,227	\$257,835
Trust Fund	260,050	212,792
Accounts Receivable	8	1,125
Prepaid Expenses and Inventory	22,269	25,366
Fixed Assets	5,576	6,315
Total Assets	\$500,130	\$503,433
 LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Accounts Payable	\$-0-	\$784
Trust & Loan Fund	169,500	199,500
Deferred Revenues	118,590	127,355
Equity	212,040	175,794
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$500,130	\$503,433
 INCOME		
Membership	\$145,905	\$147,975
Sales/Service	1,455	5,711
Conference	123,650	185,767
Prayer book sales	135	31,741
Gifts & Donations	10,785	8,117
Investment Income	12,446	10,539
Other	17,687	15,180
Total Income	\$312,063	\$405,030
 USE OF INCOME		
Administration	\$29,817	\$36,115
Conference	98,803	104,684
Organizational Expense	1,135	1,446
Payroll Expense	117,316	118,747
Printing	23	14,552
Services/Programs	4,096	3,533
Other	24,573	20,938
Total Use of Income	\$275,763	\$300,015
 Net Income	 \$36,300	 \$ 105,015

COMMISSION REPORTS

COMMISSION OF ELECTED LEADERS

Chair: Louise Hembrecht OSF

Members: Annette Marie Lucchese OSF,
Frank Scornaienchi TOR, Rose Dowling FSM,
Rose Elsbernd FSPA

The 2011-2012 members of the Executive Committee of Elected Leaders met prior to and during the 2012 AFC. The first item on the agenda was the election of members of the Executive Committee of the Commission of Elected Leaders. Frank Scornaienchi TOR was elected for a second term on the Executive Committee and Annette Marie Lucchese OSF for a first term. Louise Hembrecht OSF, Rose Dowling FSM and Rose Elsbernd FSPA began the second year of their terms. Eileen Golby OSF was elected to the National Board.

Other business included:

- a vote approving a change in the By-Laws allowing for past elected leaders to serve on the Board as officers
- approval of the financial report
- information about the IFC-TOR in Assisi April 25 – May 1, 2013
- ideas for themes and speakers for future AFC gatherings
- faith sharing
- discussion of scenarios involving the actions of Community members and dealing with difficult situations
- large group sharing following table discussions

The Executive Committee of the Commission of Elected Leaders did not have any face to face meetings during 2012-2013. The ECCEL met three times during the year via conference calls. Significant time was spent discussing:

- the future of the Franciscan Federation
- the search for an Executive Director.

COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Nancy Miller OSF

Members: Renita Brummer OSF,
Suzanne Kush CSSF, Jean Moore FSPA,
Georgene L. Wilson OSF

CCS Goals:

- to make resources readily available on the website utilizing links to websites of Franciscan research, prayers, and art
- to develop an idea bank to share programming and other resource materials
- to connect the charism within ministries through stories from the field using Musings as a monthly means of communication
- to assist members among the ministry areas by sending an email to the Ministry Service Contacts and encouraging them to network
- to surface new names for the committee
- to encourage all who have their own or organizational Facebook page to include a link to the Federation website on their Facebook page

During the 2012-2013 year the Executive Committee:

- held five conference calls
- exchanged countless emails
- collated the input received from our CCS Business Meetings and established goals for the year
- worked to secure contact persons for each of the Ministry areas and encouraged them to network
- highlighted various work/activities of three ministry areas: Cosmic Consciousness, Spiritual and Retreat Directors, and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation(JPIC) in Musings
- updated our website by making it a resource for members by collating and posting Franciscan resources e.g., the project known as "Custodians of the Franciscan Tradition: Reclaiming the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition," including its bibliography; and numerous other Franciscan websites and resources

- encouraged membership to become involved in the nomination process by soliciting individuals to serve on the Executive Committee
- planned agenda for AFC 2013 to include time for networking among ministry areas and fun
- developed a power point to highlight the ongoing mission/ministry of the CCS

COMMISSION OF REGIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Kay Klackner OSF

**Members: Sister Mary Aquinas Szott CSSF,
Sister Mary Maloney SFP, Sister Pam Falter OSF,
Sister Wilma Kramer OSF**

Throughout 2012-2013, the Commission of Regions (COR) Executive Committee met via one face-to-face meeting at the AFC for planning, seven monthly teleconferences, and three joint teleconferences with the six Region Chairs.

2012-2013 Commission of Regions Executive Committee Goals were:

- To use Webex for COR meetings and then, with regional chairs.
- To enhance our section on the Federation website with videos and photos.
- To work with regional chairs by communicating with and supporting them.

Our accomplishments include:

- Enhanced two-way supportive communication and encouragement to the Region Chairs and their programs and activities on the grassroots level via Committee contacts for each Region Chair and three joint teleconferences
- Succeeded in having Webex for COR executive meetings with 4 out of 5 able to participate via video
- Sustained communication with the National Office through ongoing conversations with Ann Lyons
- Maintained the Franciscan Charism of BEING and DOING by sharing personal life stories, updates on regional activities related to the 2012 AFC theme, *Releasing Energies to Love: Creative Fidelity in the Church*, and the trafficking resolution
- Communicated with other Commissions by sharing minutes with Executive Committee Chairs
- Enhanced the Federation website with regional pictures of AFC activities
- Shared current updates with membership-at-large via monthly *Musings* contributions
- Planned the COR meeting for 2013 AFC

Departing from the monastic spirituality of his day, Francis opted to live and preach the Gospel in the public realm. Franciscans ever since have been giving witness to God's love by their practical works of service to the poor and marginalized, and by preaching conversion to all. Many men and women are drawn to Franciscan spirituality today by the intuitive sense that following Jesus should be practiced, at least in part, in public.

Keith Warner OFM

DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

Chair: *Margaret Wick OSF*

Members: Frank Scornaienchi TOR, Linda Tan OSF

The Development Committee was formed after the 2011 AFC meeting. The purpose of the Development Committee is to identify sources of funding for the Federation to supplement the major source of funding — membership dues. The committee met twice during the 2012-13 year. After the research work of the first year, this year's activity focused on identifying specific foundations that were likely to fund the Federation and then writing and submitting grant proposals.

Two areas were identified for grant requests:

- (1) Funding to underwrite the cost of the keynote speakers for the annual conference in 2013 and
- (2) Funding to replicate the trafficking workshop

held in 2012 at Hilbert College through regional collaboration of congregations, colleges and agencies.

A proposal to fund the keynote speakers was prepared by the committee and submitted to a foundation in January. The Roskob Foundation informed us that our application was not among those which their Board of Trustees was able to assist.

A proposal to fund trafficking workshops was prepared by the committee and submitted to two foundations in January and February. Response was received that funding was denied by both foundations.

The Development Committee is open to additional membership as well as suggestions of projects for which grants might be submitted.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Chair: *Glenna Czachor OSF*

Members: Maryann Mueller CSSF,
Sandra Lyons OSF

"The just cry out, and God hears them and saves them from all their troubles. God is close to the brokenhearted and rescues those whose spirits are crushed." (Psalm 34: 17-18)

The JPIC Standing Committee for the Franciscan Federation is pleased to serve the members throughout the year sharing information related to social justice issues, and providing networking opportunities for JPIC Coordinators. The 2012-2013 Committee was served by Sr. Maryann Mueller, Sr. Sandra Lyons and Sr. Glenna Czachor OSF (chair). Sr. Glenna will complete her term after the 2013 conference. Br. John Kerr TOR will be joining the Committee.

One of the ways we have been able to successfully connect is through a Google Group of JPIC Coordinators. All are invited to share articles, ideas and information, and most importantly advocacy action alerts. We are also pleased to report that a number of workshops and educational sessions were

held throughout the country on the topic of human trafficking. We hope that communities and regions will continue to host these important events.

The Standing Committee, in collaboration with the JPIC coordinators and region chairs, writes and presents the JPIC Resolution for the annual conference. You may recall that in 2011 there was overwhelming support for the idea to maintain a single JPIC focus for three years to enable communities to more fully educate members and engage in meaningful advocacy actions. Therefore, we will renew our commitment to Human Trafficking in this year's resolution. However, taking a clue from the conference theme "evolution and deepening complexity" we will be adding a focus on the issue of slavery in the mining industry. We encourage member congregations to continue their efforts of education, advocacy and prayer.

The JPIC Standing Committee will host a gathering of all JPIC coordinators and all interested persons during the afternoon before the Annual Conference begins. All are welcome to join us on Friday, July 19th, 3 – 5 pm (room to be determined — look for signs in the hotel).

TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS: OUR RESPONSE AS FRANCISCANS

Franciscan Federation JPIC Resolution 2013

Statement of Resolution: Be it resolved that we, as members of the Franciscan Federation, upholding the inherent dignity of each human person in the tradition of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, denounce all forms of human trafficking as criminal acts that violate basic human rights and exploit innocent people.

We renew our pledge to work for the elimination of human trafficking and its causes. We make special efforts to recognize the inter-relationship of trafficked victims around the world, especially related to the industries of agricultural production and the mining of minerals and gems.

We advocate for rescue, safety and justice for trafficked persons, demand prosecution of perpetrators, and look within ourselves as complicit in continuing the demand for exploited persons through our consumer habits.

Background: Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. It is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing, or obtaining, by any means, of a person for forced labor, slavery or servitude in any industry or site. It includes sex trafficking, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or when the person induced to perform a commercial sex act is not yet 18 years of age.

According to the U.S. State Department, there are over 12 million adult and child slaves worldwide, 56% of whom are women and girls. After drug trafficking, trafficking of human beings is tied with arms trafficking as the second largest criminal industry in the world. It is also the fastest growing. Traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits every year while victimizing millions of people around the globe.

Victims of trafficking can be found in commercial sex situations, domestic situations (nannies or servants), sweatshop factories, construction, farming and landscaping, mining, fisheries, hotel and tourist industries, panhandling, janitorial services, restaurant services, and in many other circumstances including forced marriages, illegal

adoptions and the removal and selling of organs or other body parts.

Poverty and inequality are important factors in making people more vulnerable to being trafficked. As a criminal industry driven by large profits and the low risk of prosecution, trafficking will continue to exist as long as the demand is high and the risks are low.

Human Trafficking can be combated in several ways:

- 1. Eliminate Extreme Poverty:** In the long term, wiping out slavery requires helping the world's poor gain greater control over their lives. Mandatory primary and secondary education and effective anti-poverty programs are the first steps; included in first steps might be a commitment to purchase fair trade products that offer a helping hand-up for local farmers of coffee, tea, and chocolate, as well as global artisan cooperatives.
- 2. Criminalization & Sanctions:** While there are often laws in place prohibiting sexual exploitation and criminalizing trafficking, stronger penalties and increased enforcement are imperative. Prosecutors need more assistance and protection developing cases against traffickers, while victims must be given public assistance in the form of protection, rehabilitation shelters, healthcare and residency status. The services provided trafficking survivors need to be victim-centered and acknowledge the further trauma caused when trafficked persons are arrested, charged with crimes or offenses, and detained in holding cells and jails.
- 3. Prevention:** Training programs for law enforcement and government officials, public awareness, a warning system (like Amber Alert), and media and advocacy campaigns have all proven successful against human trafficking.
- 4. Communication and Cooperation:** International law enforcement coordination and cooperation are essential. International NGOs that focus on human trafficking give power and protection to

those who are fighting human trafficking locally, by putting pressure on corrupt public officials and observing criminal activity from abroad. Political lobbying, legal aid and funding for non-governmental groups are also vital.

5. **Decrease Corruption:** Corruption is one of the primary reasons human trafficking and slavery continues. Therefore, public officials must be regularly investigated, held accountable and punished for corruption.
6. **Decrease Demand:** Human trafficking will continue as long as there is demand for cheap labor, inexpensive consumer products and commercialized sex. The demand side of trafficking includes sweatshop or brothel owners, farmers, clients of sex workers, and people who hire domestic servants. We recognize the need to be well informed as we make choices concerning our purchasing and investment power, our personal and corporate demand for cheap products and our over-consumptive habits. We will engage in careful research into products, corporations, and their contracted and sub-contracted services, and discernment of our need for electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, computers, etc. that require the minerals and gems mined by trafficked persons. We will examine our financial investment policies to exclude from our portfolios those corporations whose human resource practices are open to human trafficking, unless it is deemed necessary in order to file/co-file shareholder resolutions.

Rationale: As Franciscans, we affirm our relationship with all persons as our brothers and sisters. Following the example of St. Francis who reached out to the poor, oppressed and marginalized in his day, we have special concern for the dignity of all human beings and a call to respond when persons are being oppressed. We aim to transform hatred to love, despair to hope, sadness to joy, and darkness to light for all human trafficked victims.

Therefore, we will continue to call for and support local, state, federal and international legislation, policies and enforcement that are compassionate, comprehensive and just. We advocate that trafficked victims be treated with respect and made safe and secure rather than being treated as criminals. As Franciscans, we recommit ourselves to prayer and advocacy for an end to human trafficking and for respect and justice for all victims, and we commit ourselves to curbing our personal and corporate demand for excessive consumer products that exploit humans and all of creation.

Call to Respond

Let us, as members of the Franciscan Federation, continue and increase our efforts to address the needs of our times, as we respond individually and collectively to the issue of the trafficking of human beings in the United States of America and around the world.

Members are encouraged to:

- respond prayerfully by engaging in prayer services and remembrances, by offering intercessions during liturgies and on other such occasions, and by holding in contemplative silence: victims, perpetrators, and those responding in various ways to this horrendous injustice.
- become better educated about the issues related to Human Trafficking in the U.S. and around the world, including human trafficking's relationship to global mining issues such as exploitation of persons in mineral and diamond mining that "demands" slave labor for profit, as well as adults and children exploited in the production and harvesting of agricultural products.

In the person of Jesus of Nazareth, a new God-consciousness of love becomes radically expressed. This new religious consciousness evokes a new way of action. Jesus is a new Big Bang in evolution, an explosion of love that ignites a new way of thinking about God, creation and future. Francis of Assisi grasped this new consciousness as a new way of life.

- engage in advocacy efforts such as petitions and postcard campaigns, calls, letters and visits to legislators, letters to the editor, nonviolent marches, vigils and demonstrations, media and other advocacy opportunities as they arise.
- further specific education and advocacy efforts concerning trafficked adults and children at sports events, conventions, or other public events.
- promote increased education in identification and safe rescue in hospitals, schools, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, motels and other places where human trafficked victims can be rescued and provided with safety.
- engage in advocacy efforts that discourage demand for cheap labor and sexual exploitation which may lead to trafficking. This includes monitoring media for unhealthy messages and educational programs for boys and men regarding respect for women and girls.
- recognize the connections between the broken immigration system of the U.S. and human trafficking, and continue to advocate for immigration reform.
- become aware of our purchasing practices and the use of our investment power by researching the companies we support, their contracted and sub-contracted services and the products we consume.
- commit to purchasing a minimum of 10% of our consumer goods to fair trade products and educating others about fair trade.
- collaborate with appropriate organizations working against human trafficking, by engaging in networking meetings, collective actions, advocacy efforts, and by financial support when possible.

Recommended Resources for 2013 Resolution: Human Trafficking

- **DVDs** (many of these can be found through www.amazon.com)

The Dark Side of Chocolate: Child Trafficking and Illegal Child Labor in the Cocoa Industry

www.thedarksideofchocolate.org

While we enjoy the sweet taste of chocolate, the reality is strikingly different for African children. In 2001 consumers around the world were outraged to discover that child labor and slavery, trafficking, and other abuses existed on cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast, a country that produces nearly half the world's cocoa. An avalanche of negative publicity and consumer demands for answers and solutions soon followed. Miki Mistrati and U Roberto Romano launch a behind-the-scenes investigation and verify if these allegations of child labor in the chocolate industry are present today.

VIEW FOR FREE ONLINE: <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/dark-side-chocolate/>

The Day My God Died

www.thedaymygoddied.com

The Day My God Died is a feature-length documentary that presents the stories of young girls whose lives have been shattered by the child sex trade. They describe the day they were abducted from their village and sold into sexual servitude as, "The Day My God Died." The film also introduces us to the heroes of the movement to abolish child sex slavery — non-profit organizations which rescue and care for former sex slaves. 54 minutes

Lives for Sale — Maryknoll and Lightfoot films

www.livesforsale.com

A one-hour investigative documentary exposes the painful, rarely seen human side of illegal immigration — including the growing black market trade in human beings.

Stolen Childhoods

<http://www.stolenchildhoods.org/mt/index.php>
<http://vimeo.com/17350618>

This film features stories of child laborers around the world, told in their own words. Children are shown working in dumps, quarries, brick kilns. *Stolen Childhoods* provides an understanding of the causes of child labor, what it costs the global community, how it contributes to global insecurity and what it will take to eliminate it. The film shows best practice programs that remove children from work and put them in school. The link above is from a 19 minute ABC NightLine feature on the essence of this movie. If you go to YouTube and type in "Stolen Childhoods," there are many short clips on the same topic.

Friends of Orphans:

Healing the Wounds of War

video.google.com/videoplay?doc

Friends of Orphans (FRO) in northern Uganda is a lifeline for former child slaves who were abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army and forced to commit atrocities in their own communities. These former child soldiers have survived the unimaginable. FRO starts with the basic food and medical care before moving on to educational and vocational help. 10 minutes

Dreams Die Hard

www.freetheslaves.net

In *Dreams Die Hard*, Filmmaker Peggy Callahan profiles the real-life story of people trapped in slavery across the United States. Ultimately, the stories presented highlight these survivors' passion for freedom and justice. About 36 minutes.

■ **BOOKS**

(many of these can be found through www.amazon.com)

Refuse to Do Nothing: Finding Your Power to Abolish Modern-Day Slavery

by Shayne Moore and Kimberly McOwenYim (2013)

Trafficked by Kim Purcell (2013)

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not for Sale: A Memoir

by Rachel Lloyd (2012)

Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade — and How We Can Fight It

by David Batstone (2010)

Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective

by Louise Shelley (2010)

Slavery Today by Lankford, Ronald, Jr. (2008)

Slavery (Global Viewpoints)

by Tengalia-Webster, Maria. (2009)

The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today

by Bales, Kevin. (2010)

Daughters: The Heartbreak of Human Trafficking

by Nelson, James. (2010)

■ **PRAYER RESOURCES**

Exodus Cry: A Prayer Movement to End Slavery

Prayer is our central value. We believe it is the most powerful and effective weapon to combat slavery. Our global prayer initiatives include City in Focus, Exodus Cry Prayer Watch — a coalition of prayer meetings — Adopt a Nation, and the Red Light Prayer Initiative.

<http://exoduscry.com/>

Prayer for Freedom

Ending human trafficking and slavery through prayer, education and advocacy.

www.prayerforfreedom.com/slavery,faith,prayer,awareness/human-trafficking/

Two Prayer Services to use on January 11th – Human Trafficking Awareness Day

www.sistersofstjosephorange.org/images/resources/Prayer%201%2011%2013.pdf

www.weekendofprayer.net/2013_Trafficking_Prayer.pdf

■ WEB SITES

The Bakhita Initiative: US Catholic Sisters United Against Human Trafficking

Named after St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave-turned-nun, the aim of the Bakhita Institute is to create a nationwide network of U.S. congregations of women religious connecting those involved in activities to end human trafficking.

bakhitainitiative.com/

How much “forced labor” supports your lifestyle?

Was your cell phone made in a sweatshop? Was that sweater you are wearing made by slaves? Were child slaves forced to put that stitching in the Catholic School uniforms or the sports uniforms worn by the students in the school you support?

You are now able to find out by going to:

www.slaveryfootprint.org

The Stop Trafficking newsletter, hosted by the STOP ENSLAVEMENT serves as a forum for exchange among religious congregations and their collaborating organizations:

- to promote awareness re. human trafficking
- to exchange best practices in advocacy for and empowerment of survivors of human trafficking
- to recommend actions to counter human trafficking

www.stopenslavement.org

The Alliance to End Slavery & Trafficking

(ATEST) is dedicated to ending modern-day slavery and human trafficking around the world. Modern-day slavery manifests itself in many forms — from forced labor to sex trafficking — but each is alike in posing a severe threat to basic human rights.

www.endslaveryandtrafficking.org/action

Polaris Project is a leading organization in the United States combating all forms of human trafficking and serving both U.S. citizen and foreign national victims.

www.polarisproject.org

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes

UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. UNODC, as guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto, assists States in their efforts to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Trafficking in Persons Protocol).

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html

National Human Trafficking Resource Center of the US Dept. of Health and Human Services (Administration for Children and Families):

Project Rescue and Restore, a public awareness campaign, which established *Rescue and Restore* coalitions in 24 cities, regions and States. These community action groups are comprised of NGO leaders, academics, students, law enforcement agents, and other key stakeholders who are committed to addressing the problem of human trafficking in their own communities.

www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

Human Trafficking.Org

The purpose of this Web site is to bring Government and NGOs in the East Asia and Pacific together to cooperate and learn from each other's experiences in their efforts to combat human trafficking. This Web site has country-specific information such as national laws and action plans and contact information on useful governmental agencies. It also has a description of NGO activities in different countries and their contact information.

<http://www.humantrafficking.org/>

Franciscans can and should demonstrate that our social praxis is rooted in a theological, philosophical and spiritual tradition that is vigorous, coherent, pastoral, practical and rooted in the Gospel.

Franciscan social praxis should be thoroughly anchored in the wisdom of our tradition — yet also open to innovative solutions as yet untried.

Keith Warner OFM

Tribute to
Susan Ernster FSPA

**Franciscan Federation Treasurer
2008 – 2013**

“Entrust your work to the Lord and your plans will succeed.”
Proverbs 16:3

As treasurer of the Franciscan Federation, Sue has made a most generous and significant contribution to its vision and mission. She has worked through some very complex financial entanglements. Her communication with the National Office and Board, the Finance Committee and the Commission of Elected Leaders exemplify her collaborative effort to share in developing accountability in the use of resources and a workable budget. Her availability and positive as well as realistic attitude toward budget and finance reflect a responsible nature which has fostered a sound financial base for our daily operation and future planning.

Recognizing that an effective Franciscan Federation is one that is fiscally sound Sue has exhibited:

- an openness to a variety of ideas and a spirit of teamwork
- an ordered, accurate accounting of resources
- an overlapping of delegated work to ensure a diversity of views
- a willingness to confront and resolve difficult issues
- a desire to shape alternatives as well as make decisions
- a consistent system for disseminating information, setting goals and evaluation

Throughout her years as treasurer, Sue has made it abundantly clear that as members of the Federation we need one another and each member plays a unique role in accomplishing our goals that will allow us to share in creating our future. Sue has shared the gifts God has given her and used them for the benefit of the Franciscan. We are deeply grateful for her dedicated years of service.



FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

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