

Franciscan Federation - Annual Conference 2013  
Minutes - July 21, 2013 - afternoon

Franciscan Life in Evolution

Annual Business Meeting

Edna called the annual meeting to order and invited Ann and Sue to come up to answer any questions on the annual report

Approval of Annual Report

There were no questions. By applause, the assembly accepted the Annual Report

Lynn invited Glenna Czachor, OSF to present the JPIC resolution. She reminded everyone that the Franciscan Federation asked for a long term commitment to an issue so congregations would have time to act. This is the third year of responding to human trafficking. Glenna presented the resolution:

JPIC Resolution Presentation

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 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.***

After reading the resolution, Glenna asked if there were any questions specifically on the resolution. There were no questions. She said that the voting will be done on Monday.

Glenna said that she will seek permission to send out the morning PowerPoint prayer to individuals. She added that the many resources listed in the booklet seem to be overwhelming but she gave two concrete ways to help with human trafficking. 1) write to editors of magazines to eliminate ads that promote exploitation such as exotic dancing ads 2) regarding the chocolate industry - 80% of cocoa beans are harvested by children in the Ivory Coast. She suggests that we encourage chocolate companies to buy fair-trade chocolate and/or be attentive to our consumption of chocolate

On another issue, Susan Susany (?) of Newmann communities, spoke about immigration. She urged all congregations to act on the comprehensive immigration reform bill. The Senate has passed it but the House has held back. Contact your own representatives and Boehner everyday to say you stand with the bishops of the US that

includes a pathway to citizenship, no further penalties for illegals, no increased border patrol, family unity. 1-866-940-2439 is the number to call.

Glenna mentioned some other partners who are helping us in the fight for issues of JPIC. She thanked FAN in particular for representing Franciscans as lobbyists.

Lynn thanked Glenna and then invited the chairs of the three commissions to come forward to present their reports.

#### Report of Commission Chairs

CEL - Chair, Louise Hembrecht, OSF

She said that her report is in the conference booklet so she will not repeat it.

We have used *Musings* to get across some of the reflections - they included a follow-up to the preceding AFC; the international conference and Franciscan endeavors world-wide; future of the Franciscan Federation - there are challenges with personnel and finances

CCS - Chair, Nancy Miller, OSF (Renita Brummer represented Nancy today)

She reiterated the importance of *Musings* to get across their messages. She mentioned who the members are but did not read their written report.

There are 15 groups in this commission from education, healthcare, and other groups.

The spiritual directors group did meet this past year as did another group.

Resources have been posted in *Musings*. Glenna and Nancy were elected and Annie Dougherty, Suzanne and Jean will continue.

In 2015 the spiritual directors and directors of retreat centers will meet in Tampa, FL.

COR - Chair, Kay Klackner, OSF

In addition to mentioning the written report, Kay used photos to tell of the accomplishments of some of the regions across the US. Many of them were actions taken in the areas of JPIC and relationship building.

Future Visioning - She mentioned several ideas that came about in their discussion yesterday. They will be posted on the website very soon.

Lynn thanked the presenters and invited Edna to make her presidential address.

Presidential Address - Edna Michel, OSF

The following are key points of Edna's address:

The words we have heard these days draw us into hopefulness.

Evolution of the Franciscan Federation:

- Bylaws accepted last year and we got out of financial debt; all seemed good but..
- Had no applicants for Executive Director, fewer funds, fewer leadership persons available;
- Franciscan Federation provides quality speakers and time to do business and renew relationships
- The Franciscan Federation still needs to tell its message, there is still a need but it may be done differently

- Over the past few decades we have had a plethora of Franciscan specialty groups such as FAN, Assoc of Franciscan Colleges and Universities....; these become more complex with meetings, dues, conferences and speakers
- Franciscan Federation will have a 25% reduction in membership in 5 years; 46% by 2023; the AFC is very appreciated but some said meet bi-annually, hard to do since AFC is a major source of income
- Is the Franciscan Federation better served by eliminating the National Office and have local leadership or is it better to have a strong National Office that serves as a resource for materials via various means; should we merge with other groups for conferences or should all three branches pool their resources for conferences?
- What does the 21st century need from Franciscans? We cannot stand on the side and wring our hands. Problems vs conditions. Conditions require us to learn. We cannot keep trying to fix the problem. We need to look forward with the intention to change into the unknown
- Journey to change 1) leaving the shore - involves loss and fear of unknown, grieving 2) eyes on the horizon - in a tumultuous current, confusion and lots of energy, feels like being lost; seeing the vision of why we are transforming helps 3) open waters - feels like we have stopped moving, no clear course, initial commitment now wanes, tempted to quit and go back to the old way but can't, this is when the real transformation takes place in our hearts; 4) if we have stayed the course we will arrive at a new shore - we remember all the effort but see the new growth, we will see some familiarity, may be grateful for the change.

Our Franciscan values:

- Look at life through a lens/philosophy of abundance rather than scarcity, believe in a God who provides for our needs - God will provide for the Federation
- Adopt an attitude of non-appropriation; all is gift... no effort is wasted, major change does not have to embitter us
- Rejoice that we have been chosen to live in this time of grace - a stirring of the waters in evolution; something new is coming; faith tells us that the Spirit of God is at work

We are in the good hands of God. Launch the journey that beckons!

Lynne thanked Edna for her words that mirrored the messages that we have received this weekend. She then invited the participants to discuss questions based on Edna's talk:

- Share a change that was hoisted on you. What were the stages you went through as you dealt with this change? Are you still in the kayak or have you reached a new shore?
- What are the changes we face as a Federation in the next 3-5 years? How can we help one another deal with the changes?

Edna called the group backed together and asked if there is any other business to be brought up.

- What is going to happen in the national office? Response: It was decided by the Board to appoint Dianne Kaimann as the interim Executive Director. It will be a trial to see if the office can be "manned" by one person.
- Other major issues will be discussed at the post conference Board meeting and decisions will come out via the website.
- In 2015 the Federation will be 50 years old, so we should plan a big pow-wow with all of our fellow Franciscan groups together.
- How many Associates are here? A few persons stood up.
- We haven't mentioned our new saint, Marianne Cope, a Franciscan. We need to acknowledge her. Applause was given.
- Support given to explore new ways of membership to the Federation.
- Thank you for support of the effort of the DVD of *Francis and the Sultan*
- Third Order Manual for IFC needs to be translated into Spanish, looking for funding to help get it done - Lisa Zmuda
- Kathleen Moffett's writing projects were mentioned as possibilities for ongoing formation

Edna adjourned the meeting and then Lynn made several announcements regarding the banquet and tomorrow's schedule.

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Banquet

The Honorees Banquet took place in the evening.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sr. Jean M. Cherry, FSSJ  
Recording Secretary