

*Becoming a Sacred Flame:
Francis, Clare and John's Gospel*



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FRANCISCAN FEDERATION
2011 Annual Report

Becoming a Sacred Flame: Francis, Clare & John's Gospel

It is interesting that the gospel that most focuses on the divinity of Jesus would be a gospel favored by those who sought to know Christ the poor human one.

— *Nancy Schreck OSF*

For Francis, the Body and Blood of the Lord is the only concrete material means we have to encounter the human Jesus in this world, and Francis focuses our attention on how in the celebration of the Body and Blood of the Lord, we experience the very incarnation of God with us! Francis explains this approach to God in Admonition 1, where he begins by repeating the statement of Jesus that “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (*John 14:6*). Francis understands that with this statement Jesus is not speaking about himself in relation to other religions, but is rather responding to Peter and Philip’s discomfort with the implications of his statement: they would prefer something more ethereal and transcendent than the life of the human Jesus as the way that gives access to God — they did not want to follow a vulnerable, weak and limited human whose way to God was through suffering and death! For Francis and for Clare, God is revealed in what is simply and ordinarily human, which is the Franciscan way!

— *Michael Blastic OFM*



FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Ramona Miller OSF, President

Margaret Wick OSF, Vice-President

Susan Ernster FSPA, Treasurer

Michele Craig MFIC, Secretary

Dorothy McCormack OSF

Mary Maloney SFP

Kathleen Warren OSF

NATIONAL OFFICE

Ann Lyons FSSJ, Executive Director

Margaret Magee OSF, Associate Director

O sing praises to the Beloved whose Love sustains us! (Psalm 136)

God's Love has sustained all who have responded to God's invitation to live the Gospel life in the spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi for 800 years. During this past year, members of the Franciscan Federation have radiated this Love through fruitful ministries, dedicated prayer life, and regional efforts to implement our AFC 2010 resolution: *As Franciscan Pilgrims and Strangers, we stand in solidarity with migrants*. Although our hoped for passage of legislation for comprehensive immigration reform with family unity and a path toward citizenship as priorities did not happen, we continue to advocate for immigration reform. We also reach out with compassion to the many homeless and grieving persons who are suffering from natural disasters — earthquakes, tornadoes, flooding, volcanic eruptions. . . . These hardships along with the devastating consequences of continuous war reminded me of the preface for the *Legend of Saint Clare*:

*The aging world was almost oppressed
By the weight of years:
The vision of faith faltering in the darkness,
the footing of morals slipping away . . .
when God, the lover of humanity,
raising from the treasures of His kindness
a newness of sacred Orders,
provided through them
both a support of the faith
and a discipline for renewing morals.*

This *Legend*, written at the time of Clare's canonization in 1254, goes on to state "these modern fathers [sic] and their sincere followers were lights of the world, leaders of the way, teachers of life." After eight centuries we continue our passion to live the Franciscan charism — lights of the world, leaders of the way, teachers of life. During our 2011 AFC we anticipate the renewal of our passion to continue to embrace evangelical life, to become sacred flames, that God's Love may shine through us in the many places we live and minister.

NATIONAL OFFICE

The National Board sang praises of gratitude for our Executive Director, Sister Ann Lyons FSSJ when she chose to renew her contract continuing in this role until August 2013. Both Sister Ann and our Associate Director, Sister Margaret Magee OSF, competently serve in their administrative roles. Sister Margaret's responsibilities include maintaining the web page that receives many compliments from across the nation. Sister Ann provides leadership as liaison to

the three Executive Committees of the Commissions and the AFC planning committee. Their steady and generous ministry guided the Federation to its current stabilization following the adoption of a new structure and bylaws.

BYLAWS

The 2009 Annual Federation Conference attendees voted to adopt a provisional set of bylaws and elected a new National Board to implement the new structure. The board and the executive committees of the three commissions have reflected on their experience and provided suggestions to the bylaws committee (Sisters Janet Gardner, Marlene Klein and Jan Cebula) as well as questions for further discussion among the commissions. The ongoing dialogue on these provisional bylaws we hope to have concluded at AFC 2012 in Cincinnati for the final acceptance of the new structure and bylaws.

NATIONAL BOARD

Members of the National Board bonded together these two years through the implementation of the new organizational structure. The communication and collaboration of the three executive committees of the commissions continues to evolve for a stronger effort to be about our Federation mission:

The Mission of the Franciscan Federation is to promote the exploration and study of Franciscan Evangelical Life and its implications for these times and for our world. The Federation provides national and regional opportunities to collaborate, gather and celebrate so that the brothers and sisters can better live the Third Order Regular call to conversion, contemplation, poverty and humility.

The members elected to the national board in 2009 staggered the terms so that three persons would have a two year term, and the other three would serve three years. Thereafter the terms for board members will be three years. During the commission meetings at AFC, there will be elections for the board member from each commission. According to the bylaws, the board elects the president of the board. I am humbled and personally blessed to continue to serve as president until the completion of AFC 2012 in Cincinnati. My faith deepens in recognition of the Spirit of God at work with us through interaction with the board members and all who give of themselves in the committees and commissions. The psalmist's words ring true in my heart — *O sing praises to the Beloved whose Love sustains us!*

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Ann Lyons FSSJ*

John 8:47: "Whoever is from God hears the words of God." (LtOrd 34)

FRANCISCAN SOURCES

For Franciscans to be worthy of their name **Passionately Embracing Gospel Living** must always be kept central. Commitment is fired by passion. We find our hope and energy in the sharing of our Franciscan charism and a deep appreciation that the gospel is our good news. Good News that assist us in **Becoming a Sacred Flame**. "Your word in me is a burning fire, burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones and I am weary with holding it in." *Jeremiah 20:8-9*

As Franciscans we are blessed with the writings of Francis and Clare, with their biographies and with all the insights of scholars and followers of our brother and sister. Our shared encounters with these resources provide us with a grace-filled opportunity and a practical framework for embracing the Gospel of John which can be "a resource to meet the challenges we face as Franciscans living in North America in the second decade of the second millennium." (Michael Blastic OFM)

Francis and Clare's example teaches us that it is indeed possible with God's grace to live the gospel life. For them, what was essential in life had less to do with what one had than it did with how one cared. Francis and Clare found the flame of inspiration in the powerful images presented throughout John's Gospel: foot washer; the way, the truth and life; the Shepherd, friend, the vine. "These Johannine images and the meanings they communicate are the link between Gospel and life for Francis and Clare; these images communicate the meanings and values embodied in Franciscan living." (Michael Blastic OFM)

ACCOUNTABILITY

Over the last few years, our comfortableness was disturbed with the knowledge that we had a number of outstanding loans to be repaid. We accepted the challenge and recognized that nothing is impossible if we work together. By downsizing, increasing membership dues and being as fiscally conservative as possible we were able to make the final payment on these loans earlier than expected. This truly is a banner year for us as a Federation

because we can happily announce that we are debt free. I have no doubt that we have been able to arrive at this point because of your faith in the Federation, your faith in your sisters and brothers and your faith in our God with whom all things are possible.

There is no blueprint for success, no neat solution to every challenge yet in the messiness we learned to envisage new beginnings. We had the courage to enter into the possibilities that were placed before us, the courage to work through the tasks and challenges before us. We had the courage to accept the ideas and suggestions voiced and the courage to hear them with open and receptive ears. Responding to concerns for the future financial security of the Federation we have formed a Development Committee: Pius Fahistrom OSF, Frank Scornaienchi TOR, Linda Tan OSF and Margaret Wick OSF. This group will explore ways of securing financial aid for the Federation through grants. The Spirit has worked dreams from disappointments, paths in confusion, light in darkness.

MEMBERSHIP

No person in history has impacted the church as did Francis of Assisi. His gospel way of living called for a whole new respect for the dignity of each person and for a harmonious relationship between and among people and all creation. Francis' way of wholeness was not relegated to the hereafter but was to begin here and now in our world. It is a process in which each of his followers participates.

With this thought in mind we offered membership in the Federation to associates/cojourners of our member communities. This year one hundred thirteen have joined the Federation and twenty-four will be attending the AFC 2011 in Milwaukee. We ask that you continue to encourage your associates/cojourners to become members. Wishing to continue to broaden our membership base the National Board has decided that we will offer membership to our brothers and sisters in Secular Franciscan Fraternities. A letter of invitation will be sent in September 2011.

STRUCTURE & PURPOSE

As Franciscans we are responsible for maintaining continuity with the past but also, in light of our call to **Passionately Embrace Gospel Living**, for boldly and creatively living in the present and exploring the future. In the continuing dialogue regarding our bylaws and the operation of the commissions we have a perfect example of past versus present. While the tension this sometimes created was painful, the questioning has been and continues to be creative and life-giving for the Federation. We gave ourselves unreservedly to the structural changes that had the potential to transform the Federation. We accepted the fact that the purpose of our restructuring was not to make the present bearable. The purpose of the restructuring was to make the future possible.

We are grateful to the Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committees of the Commission of Elected Leaders, the Commission of Regions and the Commission of Charism Services for their commitment and service to the Federation. It is due in large part to their generous sharing of their time and gifts that a new vision is rising that says the purpose of the Franciscan Federation is to be a leaven in society, to be a caring presence, to be **Pilgrims and Strangers** and go where the Spirit leads us while sharing our Franciscan charism.

HUMAN DIGNITY

Francis absorbed the message of the gospel and he lived it and for his followers there is no question of neutrality in the face of evil and injustice. In the light of the gospel we are called to create a just society which allows for the human dignity of all. One can easily feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems confronting our world. However, the helpful assurance that we as a Federation give each other of accompaniment and shared risk taking as we attempt to grow in lives of justice and peace are helpful.

The Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Standing Committee will present a resolution on "Trafficking of Human Beings: Our Response as Franciscans." We are grateful to the Committee: Marge Wissman OSF, Chairperson and Glenna Czachor OSF and Maureen Irvin OSF for organizing and seeking input from many members of the Federation in the selection and writing of the resolution. The entire resolution is presented in the Annual Report.

I would like to thank Marge Wissman for the outstanding job she has done over the past two years and for her willingness to serve as the chairperson. Marge will be leaving this position and Glenna Czachor will become chair and the National Board has appointed Mary Ann Mueller CSSF to fill the vacant seat.

ALLEGANY COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT (ACOR)

How can we make a difference in the struggle for justice? If we do not know what is going on in our society we cannot influence others for the common good. The gospel calls us to change unjust systems but it does not stop there, for as Francis knew, there is the need to change the heart as well. In order to make that journey together towards justice there needs to be an education in respect for others and in respect for life.

The Federation in an attempt to meet this need and, in doing so, to help our members to better understand the issue of "Trafficking of Human Beings" applied for the Allegany Community Outreach Grant funded by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. I wish to thank Margaret Magee who assisted me in writing for the grant. We requested and received a grant for \$5,000. The money will be used specifically to educate our membership on the issue of Human Trafficking. After the conference plans will be made to sponsor workshops on Human Trafficking in various parts of the country. Members will be encouraged to promote and advertise these events which will be open to the general public. This will expand the reach of the program to a broader population.

FRANCISCAN MORNING & EVENING PRAISE

The introduction to *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* states: "In praying with this book may we also share in the gospel metanoia that turns us toward God and neighbor with our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind, and with all our strength." In using *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* to begin and end our day we avow the love that inspires us as Franciscans. We name who we are. We declare aloud that we are followers of Francis and Clare and disciples of the gospel way. The pulse of the prayer nurtures and fosters our sense of partnership with our God, with our brothers and sisters and with all creation.

We started with 10,000 books and are now down to approximately 350. The sale of the books does bring added income to the Federation but the spiritual benefits far outweigh the monetary gain. The book is used not only in the United States but has been sent to Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Ireland and India. Comments from those who pray each day with the book give us an inkling of the power found in its pages. "Each morning when we pray it, we are so inspired by using our own Franciscan readings and prayers. I don't think we realized before how rich our heritage is until we read some beautiful phrase every day!"

VISION

"The Vision of the Franciscan Federation is to deepen the understanding and love of the Third Order Regular Charism in our lives so as to share this gift in the church and the world." The Third Order Regular Rule is the fundamental spiritual document that sets before us the founding charism we share. Many of our members continue to ask for the pocket edition of the Rule which has sold out. Recognizing the importance of the Rule in our lives

we have reprinted the pocket edition and it will be available at the AFC 2011.

We also continue to receive requests for Thaddeus Horgan's *Turned to the Lord*. "This book's purpose is to bring to Third Order Regular Franciscans reflections on the basic themes and fundamental values set forth in the Rule of Life which all share." We no longer had the digital copy of the text so Margaret Magee retyped the entire manuscript and the newly formatted edition will be available for sale at the AFC 2011. Thank you, Margaret, for all the time and effort you put into this project.

GRATITUDE

My report could not be complete without thanking the National Board for the energy of their commitment and their enthusiasm to get things done and to achieve results always recognizing that they represented the sisters and brothers of the Federation. To paraphrase Ephesians 3:20 by the power at work within us we were able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we could ask or imagine.

One of the things important to explore is not only what insight Francis' choice of portions of John's gospel have to teach us about Francis but what these choices teach us about our own journey into God.

Nancy Schreck OSF



Francis and Clare remind us that as Jesus said, "Servants are not greater than their masters. If they persecuted me they will persecute you; if they keep my word, they will keep yours also" (John 15:20).

Like Francis and Clare, Franciscans must make themselves vulnerable as Jesus made himself vulnerable. For the Word to become flesh in Jesus was God's biggest risk in that God risked God's very life because God is love.

Being vulnerable, especially as we experience diminishment today, does not mean that we cannot or should not risk finding new ways to be God's love in our world, as Francis and Clare did in their world.

Michael Blastic OFM

TREASURER'S REPORT *Susan Ernster FSPA*

2010 was another year of rejoicing, thanking God for the many blessings we continue to receive as we live the Evangelical Life Passionately. Inspired by last year's speakers, we can use the prayer book as another avenue of embracing our life. The prayer book continues to sell well even internationally. We do incur costs with the books, such as shipping and the copyright fees which will continue until all the prayer books are sold.

Utilizing all the tools available to us, namely technology, has allowed us to decrease the use of paper, saving natural resources and money.

Many continue to take seriously the plea for members to share their time and talent with the Federation. We embraced our poverty and continue to be blessed abundantly as witnessed with people donating their services which helps to keep the Federation afloat and enables us to thrive. During this past year, there was \$15,147 in

donated services, including room, airfare, food, transportation, phone calls but doesn't include the endless hours spent working to ensure the viability of the Federation.

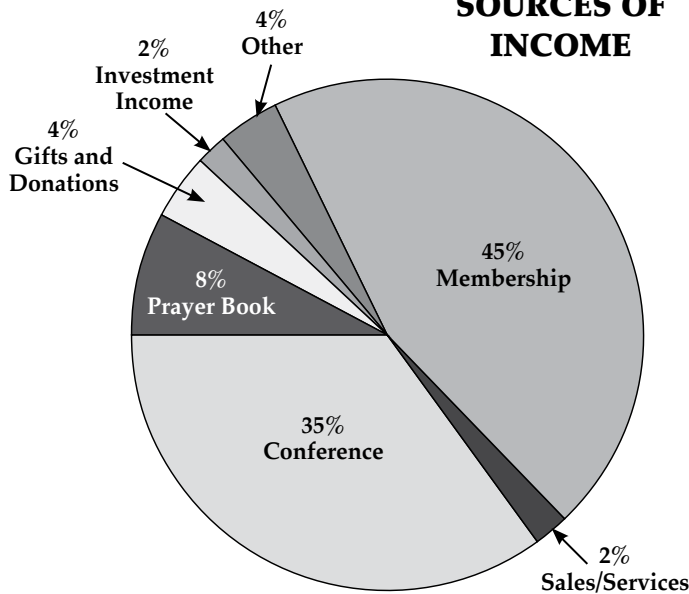
The increase in dues instituted last year allowed us to pay off the loan from the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee, as well as to make scheduled payments to the congregations from whom we borrowed in 2007 and 2008. As you can see on the balance sheet we have increased the Trust Fund Investment account, almost to the point of being able to repay all loans to congregations if repayment was requested upon maturity.

We have much to be grateful for and realize we need to look at the future of the Federation and create a plan to ensure the viability of the Federation as we are not out of the woods yet financially. The finance committee and the national board continue to discuss options in creating more avenues for revenue stream.

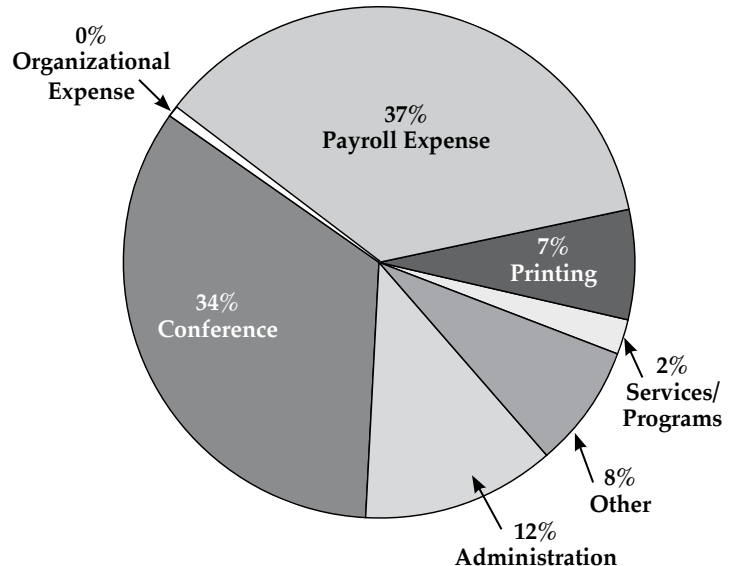
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at sernster@fspa.org.

*Peace and all good,
Sue Ernster, FSPA*

SOURCES OF INCOME



USE OF INCOME



2010 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
of the Franciscan Federation
Statement of Financial Position as of

ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2010
Cash and Checking/Savings	\$119,048	\$169,928
Trust Fund	136,033	180,473
Accounts Receivable	6,851	1,978
Prepaid Expenses and Inventory	61,766	46,272
Fixed Assets	8,532	7,793
Total Assets	\$332,230	\$406,444

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable	\$-0-	\$-0-
Trust & Loan Fund	229,000	200,500
Deferred Revenues	104,450	125,980
Equity	(2,220)	79,964
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$332,230	\$ 406,444

INCOME	2009	2010
Membership	\$113,304	\$183,940
Sales/Service	12,483	6,961
Conference	132,396	144,137
Prayer book sales	121,790	33,002
Gifts & Donations	77,025	18,013
Investment Income	4,683	7,298
Other	14,458	15,147
Total Income	\$ 476,139	\$ 408,498

USE OF INCOME	2009	2010
Administration	\$ 34,468	\$ 33,994
Conference	95,644	95,531
Organizational Expense	1,972	749
Payroll Expense	104,245	108,771
Printing	124,616	19,443
Services/Programs	4,743	4,727
Other	(9,319)	21,474
Total Use of Income	\$ 356,369	\$ 284,699

Net Income	\$ 119,770	\$ 123,809
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COMMISSION REPORTS

John 1:3: "All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being." (2L1F 12)

COMMISSION OF ELECTED LEADERS

Dorothy Pagosa SSJ-TOSF

The Commission of Elected Leaders met twice during the Annual Federation Meeting 2010. During the first session the Elected Leaders reflected on the theme "Passionately Embracing Gospel Living." The second meeting was the business meeting. During that session, the Commission elected Sr. Edna Michel OSF and Fr. Frank Scornaienchi TOR to the Executive Committee for a term of two years. Sr. Dorothy Pagosa SSJ-TOSF, Sr. Celine Goessl SCSC and Sr. Louise Hembrecht OSF remain on the Executive Committee to fulfill their terms. The Commission thanked Sr. Mary Hrosinkoski OSF (chair) and Sr. Jomary Trstensky OSF for their dedicated service on the Executive Committee. The Commission of Elected Leaders also elected by acclamation Sr. Kathryn Cahill OSF (Allegany) and Sr. Candice Tucci OSF (Stella Niagara) to serve as members of the Reconciliation Committee.

The Executive Committee of the Commission of Elected Leaders (ECCEL) met four times during the past year. They accomplished the following:

- Reviewed the Elected Leaders' survey to determine priorities.
- Encouraged leadership to share "Musings" with their membership
- Provided monthly articles to "Musings" to keep the membership informed of our work.
- Attempted to gather resources around prayers and charism. It was determined that Charism Services is working on this and collaboration would be helpful.
- Reviewed Finances with the Treasurer, Sue Ernster, FSPA.
- Reviewed Bylaws and offered recommendations.
- Proposed themes for the AFC in 2012.

- Researched the possibility of getting the publication "Proposito" sent to the elected leaders. Sr. Louise, who is on the Board of the International Franciscan Movement, is the contact person. The International Franciscan Movement will be covering the cornerstones of Franciscanism.
- Initiated a nomination process to replace three members of the Executive Committee and one member of the National Board.
- Developed a process of theological reflection on the "Franciscan cornerstones" for the Commission of Elected Leaders meeting during the AFC 2011.
- All of these efforts were to provide support to Elected Leaders in carrying out the Franciscan charism in their own congregations.

COMMISSION OF REGIONS

Betty Kane OSF

By means of a series of meetings both face-to-face and by phone conferences, the Commissions of Regions Executive Committee was able to meet and accomplish the following:

- Communicated with the region chairs by means of phone conferences and by means of liaisons from the executive committee.
- Provided a form for yearly update to have pertinent information from each region (for example, Steering committee members/ names/address, summary of yearly programs, newsletter, annual dues, etc.).
- Encouraged a representative for Region 6 who is now chair.
- Communicated monthly with the region membership by making use of *Musings*.
- Prepared, planned, and assigned responsibilities for the AFC.
- Developed an election process to use at the AFC.

- Planned to meet with the newly elected members of the executive committee with the region chairs at the AFC.
- Shared our minutes with the other commissions, President, and with the Executive Director of the Federation.
- Participated in a telephone conference with the National Board.
- Grappled with thinking outside the box.
- Followed our communication plan.
- Responded to questions brought forth from the region chairs.

COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES

Arlene McGowan SFP

Executive Committee members: Elias Mallon S.A.; Kathleen Moffatt OSF; Dorothy McCormack OSF; (Board), Arlene McGowan SFP (Chair); Kathy Warren OSF (Board)

During the 2010–2011 year the Executive Committee had two meetings (one at AFC and a 2.5 day meeting in Cincinnati) in addition to 5 conference calls and a conference call with the National Board. Our first task was to collate and organize the input we received from our CCS Business Meetings so that we could plan the work of the year.

Communication Plan

- Updated our Communication Plan and had it posted to our CCS webpage

Speaker's Bureau

- Solicited names for a Franciscan Speaker's Bureau and received 25 responses.
- Filed the list at the National Office.

Facilitator's List

- Solicited additional names to add to the list at the National Office.

Ministry Groups

- Established additional ministry groups as requested by the membership. These groups have not been well populated so please check out the list and sign up for your appropriate group.
- Assigned contact persons for each Ministry group. Some of the groups are rather large and a contact person can better determine their interest in networking and sharing of ministry information.

CCS Logo

- Developed a pictorial representation of CCS with all the ministry groups.
- Designed a logo naming all the Ministry Groups and use it on our webpage and in our communications.

Musings

- Researched sending *Musings* to all the CCS members. The 2009 and 2010 CCS membership lists were consolidated into one list at the National Office and all members on the list are receiving *Musings*.

Future AFC's

- Submitted suggestions to the National Board for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 AFC.

Transitus Materials

- Collected and continue to ask for transitus services for both Francis and Clare that will be posted to the FranFed Website. Copyright permission of the authors must be included when you send the transitus service. The last issue of *Musings* indicates where to send them.

Networking Seminar

- Assisted in planning the very successful Networking Seminar on **Spiritual Direction from a Franciscan Perspective**. Seventy-four members of the Federation, representing twenty-two congregations, attended the seminar. A special "thank you" to Sr. Kathleen Moffatt who coordinated the seminar — some of the reviews: "*The presenters were phenomenal*"; "*Franciscan Moment is now*"; "*Chiara Center is beautiful*"; "*I couldn't get enough.*"

We are looking forward to another exciting year.
Thank you.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Marge Wissman OSF

1 John 3:8: "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

The resolution presented here for the 2011 Franciscan Federation Conference was created by the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Standing Committee, Franciscan Communities' JPIC coordinators and the Federation Region Chairs. The resolution will be presented at the conference for approval by all members.

The JPIC Standing Committee will prepare a gathering of all JPIC coordinators before the Conference. All are invited to gather on Wednesday, July 27 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. The room will be announced at a later date.

Trafficking of Human Beings: Our Response as Franciscans

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 pledge to work for the elimination of human trafficking and its causes; to advocate for rescue, safety and justice for trafficked persons; and to demand prosecution of perpetrators.

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, 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. Care must also be taken that trade agreements include enforcement of strict labor standards and anti-trafficking laws.
- 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 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. Careful research into products and corporations is required.

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 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 commit ourselves to prayer and advocacy for an end to human trafficking and for respect and justice for all victims.

Call to Respond

Let us, as Members of the Franciscan Federation 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 beyond. Therefore, members are encouraged to:

- respond prayerfully, engaging in prayer services, remembrances and offering intercessions during liturgies and on other such occasions.
- become better educated about the issues related to Human Trafficking in the U.S. and abroad.

- 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.
- engage in specific education and advocacy efforts concerning trafficked women 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.
- become aware of our purchasing practices and the use of our investment power by researching the companies we support and the products we consume.
- collaborate with appropriate organizations working against human trafficking, by engaging in networking meetings, collective actions, advocacy efforts, and by financial support when possible.
- keep records of our responses and activities during the year of this resolution on Trafficking, and share them with the entire Federation at the next Annual Federation Conference.

Resources for 2011 Resolution: Human Trafficking

WEB SITES:

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.

<http://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

U.S. State Department — for press releases, reports and up-to-date information on foreign affairs
<http://www.state.gov>

National Human Trafficking Resource Center of the U.S. 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.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

— Bishops' statement of response to human trafficking, and resources related to the topic.

<http://www.usccb.org/mrs/trafficking>

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Working for a more just and peaceful world is an integral component of LCWR's vision and goals. While many member congregations are actively engaged in efforts promoting social, economic, and earth justice, LCWR provides opportunities for addressing issues of concern with a corporate voice by taking action on resolutions approved at the national assembly.

<http://www.lcwr.org/lcwr/socialjustice/socialjusticeoverview.htm>

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

***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.

***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* (www.stolenchildhood.net)**

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.

***Friends of Orphans: Healing the Wounds of War* (www.friendsoftheorphans.org)**

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.

***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, not just for them but also for victims of slavery worldwide.

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL:

JPIC COORDINATORS AND REGION CHAIRS

Names of Those Affirming the Resolution:

Bernadine Franciscan Sisters, Sisters Judy Chiodo, Glenna Czachor, Francis Marie Duncan, Diane Frederick, Karen Hartman, Maureen Irvin, Janice Jolin, Betty Kane, John Kerr, Bea Leising, Sandra Lyons, Maryann Mueller, Marilyn Renninger, Julie Ann Sheahan, Margaret Sikora, Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, Jean Marie Toriskie, Marge Wissman, Jeff Odendahl, Irene Senn and Katie Varatta.

Tribute to Margaret Wick

Franciscan Federation Vice President 2009 – 2011

Two years ago Margaret was moved to respond to an invitation to serve the Franciscan Federation. Over this time, she exhibited the freedom to engage in mutual exchange about our deep love of our Franciscan charism. From discussions at Board Meetings as well as from personal sharing it was evident that Margaret made a conscious commitment to affirm, implement and participate in the new structure of the Federation.

To concretize this commitment the following emerged:

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY: Margaret has a personal sense of courage that leads her to make new discoveries and deepen the knowledge and experience she already has. The rich background that she brought to the Board included serving in congregational leadership, and as academic dean and president of Briar Cliff College as well as a member of various boards.

COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT: Combined with her independent spirit, Margaret has the innate ability to work well with others. All members of the Board respect her leadership skills and recognize her unique ability to attend to details with ease. She has been visionary in the Board discussion to move the Franciscan Federation to places and accomplishments in the past we have not dared to go.

PROFOUND SPIRITUALITY: Margaret recognizes that as Franciscans we are not defined by our institutions or the Federation but rather by our Gospel Living that is the heart of who we are. She knows we cannot live in the past; we must live in the present bonded by Francis' rule that "... we may observe the poverty and the humility and the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which we have firmly promised."

Margaret, you have truly gifted the Franciscan Federation with hope and have reaffirmed that God will not deny us the graces we need in "**Becoming a Sacred Flame**" for our church and our world.



FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

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