

**RESOLUTIONS and PLEDGES of ACTION
FRANCISCAN FEDERATION
1994 – 2004**

**1994: The Prophetic Heart: Evangelical Life as Third Order Regular Franciscans
(Chicago, IL)**

Actions:

- **Adjustment to by-laws**
- **Acceptance of Vision and Mission Statements**

**1995: Give New Signs and Work New Wonders
Joint Assembly with Friars and Sisters (Anaheim, CA)**

Actions:

**1996: Violence Unveiled
(Atlanta, GA)**

Actions:

**1997: Encountering the Human Face of God: Franciscans: Everywhere at Home, Everywhere
Connected (Rochester, NY)**

Pledged Actions:

- **Increase the Franciscan Federation's collaboration with Franciscans International**
- **Encourage member communities to develop a companion relationship with a Franciscan congregation in a developing country**
- **Actively promote and support those working for the closing of the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, GA**
- **Facilitate greater communication and collaboration using the internet**

**1998: On Fire with the Spirit: Following in the Footprints of Jesus
Franciscan Family Joint Conference (Milwaukee, WI)**

Pledged Actions:

- **Continue to actively promote and work for the closure of the School of the Americas**
- **To find ways to more effectively collaborate and communicate as brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Family**

**1999: The Universe: Discovering the Heart of God
(Columbus, OH)**

Actions:

- **A Statement was endorsed regarding the notification of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, on the situation of Sister Jeannine Gramick, SSND and Father**

- Robert Nugent, SDS, offering prayerful support of Jeannine and Robert and committing ourselves to healing and reconciling
- Continued the commitment to actively promote and work for the closing of the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, GA
 - Supported the nomination of Fr. Javier Giraldo, SJ of Bogota, Colombia for the Nobel Peace Prize

**2000: Overflowing Goodness: The Gift of the Trinity
(Albuquerque, NM)**

Resolutions/Actions:

1) Vision Statement

The wording of the Federation's Vision Statement was changed to include "in our lives" thus reading: "The Vision of the Franciscan Federation is to deepen the understanding of the Third Order Regular Tradition in our lives so as to share this gift in the Church and Society."

2) Franciscan Family Council

The Franciscan Family Council was established, and will meet yearly to discuss issues that concern us as Franciscans following the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3) Abolition of the Death Penalty

Holding that each human being is created by a God whose mercy extends to the most errant behavior, the Federation called for an immediate end to the death penalty. As an interim step only, the Federation called for an immediate implementation of a moratorium on the death penalty. In addition, the Federation committed itself to stand in support of families of victims as well as families of those who face execution.

4) Sacred Site at the Petroglyph National Monument

A public statement from the Federation was issued affirming the efforts of the SAGE Council (formerly the Petroglyph Monument Protection Coalition) to stop a road extension through a Native American sacred site, the Petroglyph National Monument.

5) Human Rights in Colombia

The assembly was invited to join in solidarity with the work of human rights in Colombia by signing as a supporter of the criminal complaint against Colombia's ex-president Ernesto Samper and some direct and indirect agents of his government, for their active and passive responsibility for more than 200 crimes against humanity perpetrated in the Uraba region in 1997 and 1998. The Federation became a sponsor of the criminal complaint and encouraged its members to become educated on the situation in Colombia.

6) Closure of the School of the Americas

The Federation affirmed the call to continue our three-year efforts to close the School of the Americas (renamed the Defense Institute for Hemispheric Cooperation) by encouraging member congregations to pray, write letters, participate in campaigns and rallies, and do all in our power to close the SOA, collaborating with other groups wherever possible.

**2001: The Vowed Life: To Act Justly, to Love Tenderly, and to Walk Humbly with Your God
(Baltimore, MD)**

Resolutions/Actions:

1) Alternatives to War

The Federation supporting the development of a third party nonviolent intervention in areas of conflict, endorsed the Global Nonviolent Peace Force (GNPF) effort. In addition to endorsing the GNPF, its efforts will be supported through education and spreading the word to others and encouraging member congregations to become involved.

2) Human Rights Abuses in Colombia

To address the grave issues of human rights abuses continuing in Colombia, the Federation committed itself to action through a variety of strategies, including prayer, education, advocacy on US policy toward Colombia, solidarity and accompaniment. The focus of these strategies is on the Black African communities of Esperanza en Dios (Hope in God) and Nueva Vida (New Life).

2002: Being Franciscan Peacemakers in a Chaotic World (St Louis, MO)

Resolutions/Actions:

1) Global Warming

Acknowledging the serious threats of global warming and the need for Franciscan responses, the Franciscan Federation agreed to encourage its members to become further educated about and to take action on global warming. Initial actions included a public statement on this issue and letters to President Bush and elected officials. Members are encouraged to engage in activities to deepen their awareness and to move toward action.

2) Housing Trust Fund

The Federation endorsed the creation of a permanent national (federal) housing fund that would build, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million units of rental housing for the lowest income families, over the next 10 years. Member congregations were encouraged to also join this campaign by endorsing the National Housing Trust Fund.

3) Human Rights Abuses in Colombia

The Federation reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to support nonviolent strategies to address the grave human rights abuses in Colombia.

2003: Harmony of Goodness: Reconciling as Franciscan Peacemakers (Detroit, MI)

Resolutions/Actions:

1) Campaign for Secure Dwellings

The Federation affirmed the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) Campaign for Secure Dwellings (CSD) project in Hebron. It further invited its members to consider forming partner groups within their congregations and to form a delegation, through CPT, to travel to Hebron and bring their findings and recommendations back to the Federation at its 2004 Conference.

2) Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

The Federation made a public statement opposing the FTAA. Representing the Federation, the Board wrote a letter to President Bush opposing this trade agreement. Members are encouraged to engage in activities to deepen their awareness of this agreement and its impact on those who are poor, and to take action wherever possible.

3) Reluctant Saint: The Life of St Francis of Assisi Movie

The Federation sent a letter to Hallmark commending them on their sponsorship of the movie "The Reluctant Saint" on the life of St Francis of Assisi.

4) Following the War on Iraq

The Federation declared its intent to stand for justice, peace and the integrity of creation and to work to bring these ideals to reality in local, national and global communities.

**2004: Common Bread and Blessing: The Currency of Our Franciscan Lives
(Fort Worth, TX)**

Resolutions/Actions:

1) Advocate for Global Funding HIV/AIDS

The Federation supported the resolution that included several actions, such as:

- That the members of the Franciscan Federation prayerfully remember the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa as well as other countries, especially by observing World AIDS Day on December 1.
- That the members become educated about the global HIV/AIDS crisis and learn how they might alleviate the stigma that people living with HIV/AIDS face.
- That the members of international religious communities encourage their governments to increase funding to fight HIV/AIDS and live up to commitments made, especially the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS passed at the UN General Assembly Special Session in 2001 and the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003.
- That the members advocate for full funding of Global HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, and increased research into vaccines and prevention methods such as microbicides.
- That the members participate in Franciscans International's work on the HIV/AIDS crisis and utilize their international connections to encourage others to become involved in this advocacy effort wherever possible.

2) Advocate for the Night Commuters: Uganda

Realizing that we are in solidarity with the People of Africa, and have a special concern for the children in northern Uganda, members of the Federation commit themselves to prayerful support, to education about the condition of the night commuters, and to advocacy for legislation that addresses this crisis. The Federation approved the resolution with such actions as:

- That the members of the Franciscan Federation prayerfully remember the plight of the people of northern Uganda, especially the children.
- That the members, become educated about this crisis and learn ways that they might participate in actions that would alleviate the suffering of the people, especially the children of northern Uganda.