



FRANCISCAN FEDERATION

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Felician Sisters
FRANCISCAN
OUR LADY OF HOPE PROVINCE

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and the Felician Franciscan Sisters
whose donations made this printing possible.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Ramona Miller OSF*

They were . . . fervent in spirit, joyful in hope, patient in trials, meek and humble of heart, maintaining peace of spirit, a harmony of manners, kinship of spirits, unity of lifestyle, and a joy of unity. (ScEx 37)

Recalling the report of the Implementation Task Force at the 2009 AFC and their theme "The Circle of Life," the Federation has stepped forth each day into the light realizing that "there's more to see than can ever be seen." The new organizational model and bylaws invited many to step up to new roles and responsibilities. The executive committees of the three new commissions engaged fifteen persons in imaging a new horizon for the members of their commission, and laying the groundwork for further growth. I believe that in the Sacred Exchange we find the naming of virtues required for these times: fervent in spirit, joyful in hope, and patient in trials.

Fervent in Spirit: *Each day's use of the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise develops bonds and joy in unity with others praying from this rich Franciscan legacy, but also deepens our gratitude for those whose labor brought forth this treasure. Consciously living our TOR Rule, article 8, we make a dwelling place and a home for the one who is Lord God. . . . It is this form of life that generates new spirit for each day.*

Joyful in Hope: *Francis' prayer before the crucifix asked for enlightenment that would give him true faith, certain hope and perfect charity. I imagine that he found a "certainty" in God's graciousness that gave him reason each day to continue hoping. The newly elected National Board depended on the certainty of their calling from the assembly and the conviction of the AFC 2009 theme "Mutual Love Generating a Future" to enthusiastically begin their terms of leadership. At the October joint meeting with the Implementation Task Force, the task force empowered the board members to "be the board." Mutual love fueled communication among and between committees and board members enhanced by the electronic skills of our Associate Director, Sr. Margaret Magee, who edits the monthly Musings and monitors the web page.*

Patient in Trials: *The antidote for our tendency toward immediate successful results of our labors can be had by imagining Jesus' patience with the disciples. Our evolution as a Federation is uncertain requiring wisdom in discernment for long range planning. Our Executive Director, Sr. Ann Lyons, offers an example for patience in trials. She patiently developed a grid of information for payment of copyright fees incurred with the publishing of the prayer book. Her administrative qualities are numerous in the daily challenges to pay bills with the unpredictable cash flow, to communicate with the various committees the details for the Annual Federation Conference, and to work with the board for future viability.*

Reflecting on the virtues named, I am humbled by the great witnesses of these virtues with whom I have had contact in the Federation during this past year.

Peace and all that is good,

Your sister, Ramona

“The Gospel way of living that we embrace challenges us to find unity with all things through our unity with our God.” Sr. Claire Andre Gagliardi OSC

GOSPEL LIVING

Francis knew the deep inner secret of living. He taught people on every level of society how to free themselves from conformity and give themselves to Christ. People by the thousands followed Francis because he taught them and by his example he showed them how to come alive. Francis caught the gospel message clearly in the fine-tuned spiritual song of his heart. He absorbed it, lived it and sent it with renewed strength across time into the future. The exuberance and rhythm of his passionate embrace of gospel living is what we as a Federation share with our church and our world.

Each year we, as a Federation, have the opportunity to pause and gain knowledge by looking where we've been, to realize how far we've come, and to plan for the future. As we assess the past year, it is helpful to look at the blessings that have strengthened and enriched us and to recognize those situations that challenged and tested us.

PSALMS OF PRAISE

Our *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* provides us with the opportunity to connect without interruption with God's presence within. It beckons, calls, leads and expands the potential our lives have to show forth the beauty of the Gospel. It is more than just part of our personal relationship with God. It is the thread that connects us to all creation. It moves us beyond what we know; it beckons us to trust, to allow ourselves to be led. It has power for greater good than any of us can imagine.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement at the AFC 2009 in Cincinnati when we announced that the *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* was ready for shipment. This news gave us pause for celebration, a celebration of gratitude, and act of thanksgiving for Sister Ellen Lamberjack, the Prayer Book Committee and all those who contributed and worked on the prayer book throughout the years. We thank them for all the time, energy and creativity as well as the gift of self that they shared with the Franciscan Federation. Special thanks goes to the Tiffin Franciscans for all they did to see the

project to completion and to the Franciscan Sisters of Philadelphia who helped in the shipping process.

Word of mouth has been the best advertising tool in our sale of the remaining prayer books. We have shipped the *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* to Canada, England, Ireland, Australia and India. Sales to our sisters and brothers in the Secular Franciscan Order have increased. We have approximately a thousand books to sell and new orders are filled almost daily. We are deeply grateful to Margaret Magee OSF who has ably and efficiently handled the sales and shipping.

The glorious moment when we held the *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* in our hands has been long in coming and our celebration of its completion did not end abruptly. Our celebration continues each day as we join together in opening our prayer books to praise our God.

Arrangements have been made to recycle the prayer books stored at St. Bonaventure University. This is the first printing that did not meet the standards set by the Prayer Book Committee. We are grateful to Margaret Carney OSF, President of St. Bonaventure University, for providing the storage needed and for her patience in giving us the time we needed to decide on a course of action. We are also grateful to Noel Riggs, Executive Administrative Assistant, who oversaw the recycling project.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP

As a Federation, I know that one of our strong resources is our membership. It is that inner resource that fuels our energies as we “passionately embrace gospel living.” Material resources are finite but are an essential element in the operation of any organization. We are deeply grateful to our membership for their financial support of the Franciscan Federation.

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the National Board the dues for this year were substantially increased from \$14.00 to \$20.00 per person for member congregations. I am conscious

that these are difficult financial times that have a profound impact on your lives and your ministries and I am deeply grateful for your positive and generous response. Your dues greatly assisted in the operation of the Federation.

Having been entrusted by my sisters and brothers with the stewardship of the Federation's resources I am mindful that I must give an accounting of their use. At the National Office we continue to be as fiscally conservative as possible.

Payments of copyright permissions have been made in a timely fashion. We will continue to pay for copyrights until all of the prayer books are sold. The good news, however, is that the amount of the payments will be significantly lower as the number of books decreases.

Last year in the annual report, I listed as a goal for the future the repayment of various loans given to the Federation in times of need. I am happy to report that we have completed the repayment of \$28,000.00 to the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee. Half the loans have been repaid to four other communities and a repayment plan with the first payment having been met to an additional four congregations. Hopefully, we will be debt free by 2012.

Upon the suggestion of the Finance Committee and under the direction of the National Board we continue to investigate various options to be put in place for cash flow in the coming years. Planning for our financial future is key to our viability as a Federation.

INTERDEPENDENCE

The interdependence of all people is a part of the great fabric on our planet earth. Francis eloquently echoed this sentiment and reminded us to revere all creation. One cannot come under the influence of Francis without growing spiritually. One cannot live the Gospel Way without expanding in empathy and commitment to all our sisters and brothers. Francis' ideals have added a deep love of all creation to our lives and a new dimension to our living. It is because we need to share these gifts that we join together as a Federation to sponsor conference resolutions dealing with various justice and peace issues. Throughout the years, our resolutions have guided us in our efforts to: help the homeless, advocate for prisoners and immigrants, teach the unlearned and promote care and concern for all God's creation. Living the Gospel Way, we believe our purpose is to bring joy, peace, harmony and love to our world.

The world of the 21st century is ripe for encouraging this sense of sisterhood/brotherhood and care for creation that Francis sought and for which so many people are hungering. To keep us abreast of various key issues, the decision was made, upon the suggestion of the Implementation Task Force and after consulting with the Commissions, to establish a Justice and Peace Committee. The committee whose members are: Marge Wissman OSF, chairperson, Maureen Irvin OSF and Glenna Czachor OSF will consult with the regions and prepare a report for the AFC 2010 of the actions initiated by the 2009 AFC Resolution. Through joint collaboration this committee will also bring forth the Justice and Peace Resolution for 2010. As disciples of Jesus and servants of the Gospel and neighbors to all may we continue to share generously and serve humbly as we proclaim the good news that God's love embraces all.

For Francis what was essential in life was how one cared. Sheila Kinsey OSF inspired by the exuberance and rhythm of Francis' Gospel Way shared with the Federation her enthusiasm for bringing about justice and peace in our world. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sheila for coordinating the selection and implementation of the Justice and Peace Resolutions over the last several years. Last year Sheila was elected to the General Council of the Franciscan Sisters, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Wheaton) and now resides in Rome. Thank you, Sheila, for your years of dedicated service to the Federation.

ONGOING REVITALIZATION

Francis' living of the Gospel is of the utmost relevance to our time. His was a lifestyle grounded in Jesus' instruction to his disciples and this pure vision of the Gospel attracted followers from the 13th century to the present day. Francis was a man of ideals, compassion and extraordinary love. His life imprinted a new design on the world of his time.

In our desire to deepen and celebrate our understanding of our Franciscan Evangelical Life and in our efforts to effectively live out our charism we felt the need to reorganize the structure of the Federation. It was time for us to clear our vision, to take stock of our various resources and to refresh our dreams as we look to the future.

Our efforts to internalize the new structure was a result of the work and confidence of the Implementation Task Force and the creative vision of the Transformation Task Force. Much of what has

been done in the Commission of Elected Leaders, the Commission of Regions and the Commission of Charism Services was possible because of the hours of work and dedication of the Executive Committees of each of the commissions. There has been a sensitive sharing that helped us speak the truth based upon our experience. Transformed by the infusion of enthusiasm of our membership we will create new possibilities as we position ourselves for the future. How we come together as a Federation can light up the world.

Our charism is the Gospel Way and its founder the irrepressible singer of life's wonder and urgency, the poor man, Francis of Assisi. The commission of Charism Services was instrumental in securing a grant for \$10,000.00 from the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. The grant was given in memory of the 20th anniversary of the death of Thaddeus Horgan SA — April 19, 2010. "Rev. Thaddeus Horgan lived, studied, taught, tended and told 'The Story' of our life and mission as Third Order Regular Franciscans with great enthusiasm." This project touches deeply on our need as a Federation to keep expressing our distinctive identity. We are deeply grateful to the Friars for their generosity and the gift of hope that it engendered.

As a result of this grant each member congregation received a DVD and packet "Our Evangelical Option: the Logic of the Gift" prepared by the Commission

of Charism Services Executive Committee. It is a valuable resource for general use, now and into the future. Members were encouraged to use it as preparation for the AFC 2010 in Buffalo in the hope that it would enliven and ready us for the exchange that awaits us on "Passionately Embracing Gospel Living." Our gratitude also goes to the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for making this presentation available from their own celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Origins of the Franciscan Movement, August 2009.

OUR LEGACY

The practical demonstration of the Gospel Way of Life may prove to be the greatest gift which Francis of Assisi made to the world. Each individual member of the Federation must assume personal responsibility to engage the grace of the Spirit and undertake to discover and embrace Francis' contagious gladness of heart that will enable us to give life to his vision. We can go forward in trust because we have the assurance that God goes with us. "Be firm and steadfast. Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go." (Jos 1:9) We trust that there will be enough strength, commitment and support to urge us forward. We trust that we will come to greater wholeness and transformation as we **"PASSIONATELY EMBRACE GOSPEL LIVING."**

TREASURER'S REPORT *Susan Ernster FSPA*

2009 was a year of rejoicing. The *Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise* went to print and we sold many copies. Sales continue as we look for new venues for customers. Printing and selling the prayer books helped increase our income this year to \$119,770. However, we still incur costs with the books, which include shipping and copyright fees that will continue until all the prayer books are sold.

Trying to be the best stewards of our resources we have utilized technology as much as possible. We have put as much online and on the website as possible such as the registration for this year's AFC.

We continue to keep expenses in line with our cash flow which has helped immensely. The office staff has picked up more work which was previously outsourced such as some of the webpage design and

the accounting. An outside consultant is still used, but much of the background work is done by staff.

One of the many reasons we have to rejoice is that we are current with our expenses and have no Accounts Payable. Another reason is that many congregations assisted us in difficult times by responding to the Executive Director's suggestion at the 2008 AFC that each congregation donate \$2,000 toward the printing of the prayer books. In 2009 we received \$22,500 in prayer book grants. Several congregations forgave the obligation of repaying loans to them. This amounted to around \$50,000.

Many members continue to donate their services which helps keep us afloat as well as able to thrive. During this past year, there was \$13,600 in donated services, which included room, airfare,

food, transportation and phone calls but which did not include the hours spent working to ensure the viability of the Federation.

Increasing dues from \$14/member to \$20/member increased our income this year. With this influx of cash, we have been able to set up a payment plan to repay congregations from whom we borrowed to pay expenses in previous years. We made the first set of five installments and will make installments until 2011 to repay these loans. We have completed

payment on a loan from the Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee in 2008.

We have much to be grateful for and realize the need to plan for our future viability as we are not financially out of the woods yet. The Finance Committee and the Board have discussed this matter and will keep you posted as developments occur.

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

2009 Annual Financial Report of the Franciscan Federation

ASSETS	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Cash and Checking/Savings	\$119,048	\$135,862
Trust Fund	136,033	118,291
Accounts Receivable	6,851	133
Prepaid Expenses and Inventory	61,766	68,203
Fixed Assets	8,532	8,532
Total Assets	\$332,230	\$331,021
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Accounts Payable	\$-0-	\$ 1,465
Trust & Loan Fund	229,000	301,000
Deferred Revenues	104,450	150,546
Equity	(2,220)	(121,990)
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$332,230	\$ 331,021
INCOME		
	2009	2008
Membership	\$113,304	\$107,379
Sales/Service	12,483	5,495
Conference	132,396	140,068
Prayer book sales	121,790	0
Gifts & Donations	77,025	81,572
Investment Income	4,683	8,523
Other	14,458	10,429
Total Income	\$ 476,139	\$386,081
USE OF INCOME		
	2009	2008
Administration	\$ 34,468	\$ 39,746
Conference	95,644	109,002
Organizational Expense	1,972	4,555
Payroll Expense	104,245	133,823
Printing	124,616	(10,788)
Services/Programs	4,743	6,818
Other	(9,319)	6,280
Total Use of Income	\$ 356,369	\$ 289,436
Net Income	\$ 119,770	\$ 64,030

COMMISSION REPORTS

COMMISSION OF ELECTED

Dorothy Pagosa SSJ-TOSF

The Commission of Elected Leaders met during the Annual Federation Meeting 2009. At that time they reviewed the Annual Report and discussed the finances of the Franciscan Federation. At this meeting the CEL elected five members to serve as an Executive Committee to carry out the duties of the CEL until the next Annual Federation Meeting. Srs. Celine Goessl SCSC, Louise Hembrecht OSF, Dorothy Pagosa SSJ-TOSF, Jomary Trstensky OSF and Mary Hroscikoski OSF were elected. The committee chose Mary Hroscikoski OSF as chair. Giles Schinelli TOR joined the Executive Committee of the Commission of Elected Leaders (ECCEL) as liaison to the Implementation Task Force.

The ECCEL met five times during the past year. They accomplished the following:

- The key responsibilities for the CEL and ECCEL and its chair were gleaned from the bylaws and used to determine decisions for the rest of the year.
- A nomination and election process was developed to fill the two vacant seats that will arise on the ECCEL due to two members leaving office.
- Communication about a Franciscan Response to the Apostolic Visitation Survey as a resource for the CEL was made available on September 18, 2009 through the efforts of Srs. Elise Saggau, Mary Elizabeth Imler and Louise Hembrecht.
- The national office responded to our inquiry as to how the membership roster is kept current. This is done through the dues notices sent out each year.
- CEL webpage content was developed.
- Financial reports were reviewed to help determine what information and needs should come before the CEL at the 2010 AFC. To help steward the financial viability of the Federation, the ECCEL has also decided to review financial reports semi-annually with the treasurer.

- Provided information about the ECCEL meetings to the CEL through Musings.
- A process was developed to provide two members to the Reconciliation Committee.
- Worked with facilitator, Lynn Patrice Lavin OSF, to prepare for the CEL meetings during the Annual Federation Conference.

Now that the CEL structure is in place and functioning reasonably well, the ECCEL plans to support elected leaders in tending the Franciscan charism in their congregations.

COMMISSION OF REGIONS

Betty Kane OSF

With the support and encouragement of Sr. Marlene Kline OSF (ITF liaison), and in a series of meetings both face-to-face and by phone conferences, the Commission of Regions Executive Committee: Betty Kane OSF, chair, Wilma Kramer OSF, Karen Lanigan OSF, Pat Larkin OSF and Mary Malone SFP were able to meet and accomplish the following:

- Communicated with congregational ministers through a survey and follow-up.
- Developed a communication plan for:
 - Communication within the COR Executive Committee
 - Communication with the Federation President, Executive Director, CEL, and CCS,
 - Communication with Franciscan Federation office,
 - Communication with Region Steering Committee chairpersons.
- Established that one of the COR Executive Committee would be responsible for writing the brief articles for Musings.
- Set monthly meetings and determined a "rolling agenda" for the year.

- Generated topics and possible speakers for AFC 2011.
- Developed speaking points on reconfiguration for discussion with region chair persons.
- Established that the rotating secretary would not only be responsible for the minutes of the meeting but also for the executive summary which will be posted on the Federation web page.
- Reviewed the Federation by-laws specific to the commissions and regions and made comments and suggestions for clarification.
- With our AFC facilitator, we planned our commission meeting for the AFC.

COMMISSION OF CHARISM SERVICES

Arlene McGowan SFP

The Executive Committee of the Commission of Charism Services: Elias Mallon SA, Kathleen Moffatt OSF, Dorothy McCormack OSF, Arlene McGowan SFP (Chair), Kathy Warren OSF, Candice Tucci OSF (Liaison to ITF) met throughout the year face to face and via regularly scheduled conference calls. The CCS accomplished the following:

- Developed a Communication Plan presented to the National Board for approval. The Plan will be submitted to the membership at the 2010 AFC.
- Addressed input and questions from the 2009 AFC Commission session through our monthly Musings update.
- Continued to develop and organize special interest groups from the members to network on projects. We added to the lists and have extended invitations to others.
- Networked with the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. The Executive Committee met with Sr. Pat Hutchison OSF (Editor of the *AFCU Journal*) and discussed how the CCS and AFCU can work with and support each other.

- Discussed future AFC topics and presenters. A proposal was made to the National Board that they consider building upon the 2010 AFC theme of Evangelical Life using Christology and Scripture as the basis of our Franciscan Evangelical Life. We recommended the use of a three year cycle to deepen our knowledge of the topic. Suggestions were made for keynote speakers.
- Secured Mary Elizabeth Imler OSF to facilitate the CCS session at 2010 AFC.
- Developed a DVD resource on Evangelical Life. The basis of this project was a DVD recorded by the Aston Franciscans as part of their 800th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Franciscan Order. It was edited several times and made into two discs. The packet included printed materials that would assist the membership in preparation for the 2010 AFC.
- Worked with Margaret Magee OSF to better understand the Federation's integrated unified database and how we might use it in the future. Margaret provided lists for ten Networking Groups. A request has been made through Musings for additional members.
- Investigated grant resources to assist in the work of CCS. A grant for \$10,000.00 in memory of the 20th anniversary of the death of Thaddeus Horgan SA was requested from the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement to assist in the development and distribution of the DVD "Our Evangelical Life: the Logic of the Gift" and the resource materials. We received the grant which allowed us to produce and distribute free copies of the DVD and packet of material to the National Board, the Executive Committees of the three Commissions, the Regional Chairpersons and the AFC Steering Committee and each Leader of a member congregation.
- Developed plans for a 2011 networking seminar with Renita Brummer OSF for those giving spiritual direction in the Franciscan Tradition: April 5 – 8, 2011 at the Chiara Center and a 2012 networking seminar for directors and staff of Franciscan sponsored retreat and renewal centers (presently in the planning stages).

IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE *Beatrice Eichten OSF*

Coming off our enthusiastic presentation in August 2009 of the work we did in Year One to give shape to the creative idea of the new model for the Franciscan Federation, we deliberately moved into a background role, meeting twice in person and once on a Skype call. We handed the responsibility for the Federation to the National Board and the Commissions and stayed close to support and resource them as they moved through their first year of operation. Bea Eichten served as liaison to the National Board and Candice Tucci, Marlene Kline, and Giles Schinelli served as liaisons to each commission. Our role was to guide development and to help them understand their unique role and function within the Federation, to remind them of specific tasks such as developing a communication plan and developing a nomination/election process and of what needed to be in place by AFC 2010. We worked with the National Board to address questions related to standing committees and the role of the Reconciliation Committee. Janet Gardner took the lead on bylaws follow-through and Jeanne Bessette was our efficient and creative secretary. Ann Lyons, Executive Director, and Ramona Miller, Board Chair, were invaluable resources to us as we carried out our task. We had a great time working together and appreciated the diversity of gifts within the Implementation Task Force.

We received great support and cooperation from the members of the National Board and the Executive Committees of the Commissions and were impressed with their energy and enthusiasm for shaping a new way of living our Franciscan charism in this creative organizational mode.

Our main education effort to the membership was at the 2009 AFC; following that, we provided regular updates in Musings.

Special thanks to those who hosted our meetings during these past two years — the Felician Sisters of Chicago who hosted several of our meetings, donating housing and meeting space, as did the Whitehall Franciscans and the Stella Niagara Franciscans.

Many thanks to our Franciscan congregations for their personal and financial support as we carried out this important task for the Federation:

- Beatrice Eichten
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN
- Candice Tucci
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Holy Name Province, Stella Niagara, NY
- Giles Schinelli TOR
Franciscan Friars, Immaculate Conception Province
- Janet Gardner
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, Whitehall, PA
- Jeanne Bessette
Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, Joliet, IL
- Marlene Kline
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities

And to all our members for entering into this new time of hope as we live out our Franciscan charism in this transformational model of the Franciscan Federation, thank you.

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Marge Wissman OSF

“The simplicity and humility of the Franciscan vision offer a vivid contrast to the greed and ambition that have harmed so many in our society.” Br. Bill Short OFM

According to the current provisional by-laws of the Franciscan Federation approved July 12, 2009, a JPIC Standing Committee was to be established. Accordingly the National Board appointed Srs. Marge Wissman, JPIC Coordinator for the Oldenburg Franciscans; Maureen Irvin, JPIC Coordinator of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, Springfield, IL; and Glenna Czachor, JPIC Coordinator for the Wheaton Franciscans.

Sr. Marge is appointed chairperson for two years; Sr. Maureen is appointed for three years; Sr. Glenna is appointed for four years and will take over as chair after two years. As each goes off the committee, a successor will be appointed by the National Board at the suggestion of the JPIC Coordinators.

The major focus of this committee is to coordinate the creation of the resolution for the Franciscan Federation Conference. This is accomplished by getting input from all JPIC Coordinators. The resolution will be presented at the conference for approval by all the members.

The committee will prepare a gathering of JPIC Coordinators before the conference. We will discuss how we can collaborate with each other throughout the year. This year’s gathering is on Wednesday, July 28 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The room will be announced at a later date.

Immigration: As Franciscan Pilgrims and Strangers, We Stand in Solidarity with Migrants

Statement of Resolution: Be it resolved that the members of the Franciscan Federation, recognizing that we ourselves are pilgrims and strangers, stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are migrants by promoting federally legislated comprehensive immigration reform by prayer and action to change attitudes and procedures that discriminate or violate human rights and dignity.

Background: We live in a nation founded by immigrants; many of the founders of our congregations were themselves immigrants, dedicated to building a nation and serving all of God’s people. Immigrant peoples continue to serve this country, by offering their skills, talents, labors and values. Many of these immigrants are compelled to leave their own homes out of economic necessity in order to provide even the most basic of needs for themselves and their families. St. Francis often reminded his followers that we are all aliens and exiles, pilgrims and strangers on Earth. As followers of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, we stand especially in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are poor, marginalized, looked down upon or mistreated.

Serious issues regarding immigration continue to escalate, yet the United States Congress has failed to adequately address these issues and pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Since 2008, the Franciscan Federation has addressed the issue of immigration, in our

annual resolutions. As the Franciscan Federation, we support comprehensive immigration reform legislation that:

- keeps immigrant families together;
- adopts effective and humane enforcement policies;
- allows alternatives to detention and/or detention policies that comply with International Law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- ensures due process protections;
- recognizes the demand for unskilled labor and protects all workers' rights;
- ensures that immigrants without legal status have a path toward citizenship.

Many of our members live, minister, and advocate with immigrant communities. We experience existing US immigration laws and procedures as outdated and inadequate. The need for comprehensive immigration reform is urgent.

RATIONALE: As Franciscans, we aim to transform hatred to love, despair to hope, sadness to joy, and darkness to light for all our brothers and sisters. Therefore, we call for and support a federal immigration policy that is compassionate, comprehensive and just. We need this policy to insure that our immigrant brothers and sisters (minoritas) will be treated with respect.

Without a federal policy, states will make their own laws which may not show compassion for individuals trying to support their families. There are 11 million undocumented immigrants in this country. They are hard working people who need a legalization program whereby, without fear, they will register with the federal government, pay fees and taxes, and positively blend in with our society. We need a federal policy that creates safe borders where people can cross legally and not die on the way or be sent to detention centers where they may be mistreated, housed alongside persons convicted of a criminal offense, and/or kept indefinitely. The backlog of family based petitions needs to be expedited, so that people do not have to enter the country without documents

in order to be reunited with their loved ones. As Franciscans, we commit our lives to serving the poor, especially those marginalized by society. It follows that we express our solidarity with immigrants through our work, our prayer and our actions.

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 *Comprehensive Immigration Reform in the United States of America*. Be it resolved that:

- the Members respond prayerfully, engaging in prayer services, remembrances and intercessions during liturgies and other such occasions;
- the Members become better educated about the issues related to Comprehensive Immigration Reform through newsletters, internet searches and email alerts, and other informational sources deemed appropriate; that members will share with their communities, parishes, family members and others, what they have learned;
- the members commit to appropriately responding to prejudices, inaccurate information, misconceptions and the like, when faced with opportunities to do so;
- the Members 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, and other advocacy opportunities as they arise;
- the Members engage in specific advocacy efforts so that Comprehensive Immigration Reform includes:
 - protection of undocumented workers from exploitation, discrimination, detention and deportation; and legal accountability for those who perpetrate these abuses
 - efforts to keep families together
 - effective and humane enforcement policies and due legal processes
 - alternatives to immigrant detention

- the Members are encouraged to collaborate with appropriate organizations working toward Comprehensive Immigration Reform, by engaging in networking meetings, collective actions, and other such advocacy efforts, and financially support these organizations when possible;
- the Members, Communities, and Region Chairs keep records of their activities in order to make them known to the entire Federation at the subsequent Annual Federation Conference.

Franciscan Action Network members and advocates are invited to join with the efforts of the **USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Coalition** and other supporters of immigrants to let our Members of Congress know that we support just, humane, fair, and comprehensive immigration reform.

<http://www.franciscanaction.org/>
<http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>

The Campaign to Reform Immigration for America is a united national effort that brings together individuals and grassroots organizations with the mission to build support for workable comprehensive immigration reform. The Campaign to Reform Immigration for America is, in part, a project of the Tides Advocacy Fund.

<http://reformimmigrationforamerica.org/>

America's Voice speaks directly to key audiences through the mainstream, new, and Spanish-language media, conducts cutting edge public opinion research, communications, and online campaigns, and supports courageous leaders from all walks of life who are standing up for workable comprehensive immigration reform now.

<http://americasvoiceonline.org/>

NETWORK, a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace — educates, organizes and lobbies for economic and social transformation.

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

Since 1910, **Catholic Charities USA** has served as a national advocate for the most vulnerable in our nation, including children, the elderly, the disabled, immigrants, and those who live in both rural and urban communities.

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

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/lcwrsocialjustice/socialjusticeoverview.htm>

For a detailed list of other local and national organizations working towards comprehensive immigration reform, please visit:

<http://reformimmigrationforamerica.org/blog/about/organizations/>

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL

JPIC COORDINATORS AND REGION CHAIRS:
 Srs. Amalia Vivian, Joan Brown, Glenna Czachor, Diane Marie Collins, Elizabeth Deligio, Francis Marie Duncan, Marilyn Geiger, Grace Golata, Kathleen Grace, Karen Hartman, Mary Jeanine Heath, Maureen Irvin, Betty Kane, Janet Kramer, Mary Kuhlman, Patricia Larkin, Bea Leising, Mary Ann Mueller, Marilyn Renninger, Julie Ann Sheahan, Margaret Sikora, Jane Tobin, Jeanne Marie Toriskie, Marge Wissman, and Irene Senn.
 National Office: Ann Lyons and Margaret Magee.