

## **NEW COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) DEEMED “COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE”**

At the October annual gathering of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in Scottsdale, Arizona, there was unanimous support for Justice, Peace & the Integrity of Creation embarking on “courageous initiatives.”

During his presentation, newly appointed JPIC Chair, Kent Ferris, SFO, cited the Order’s rule, particularly Chapter 2, section 15: “Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.”

Ferris continued by citing the commentary that accompanies this part of the Rule: “The first particular aspect of the Secular Franciscans’ evangelical action is social justice, both on the individual level and on the level of community participation. They must show justice themselves and motivate justice in others, not just in their private lives, but also in the public forum of politics, business, economics and the like.

This mandate for advancing social justice as an organized group overturns previous prohibitions against a common expression of rights when it is carried out as a means of demonstrating the convictions of faith.”

In addition to the many JPIC efforts being undertaken by Secular Franciscans at the local and regional levels, Ferris shared a “courageous initiative,” whereby which NAFRA would collaborate with *Catholic Relief Services*, specifically on their *Catholics Confront Global Poverty Campaign*.

“The project will be courageous because the effort will be in addition to the work already occurring with and in support of *Franciscan Mission Services* and the *Franciscan Action Network*, and others. And it requires initiative, the type that only a handful of religious orders are demonstrating at this time.

We will follow the CRS model of Praying, Learning, Acting/Advocating and Giving. The project will enable us to learn and respond to present JPIC issues abroad and will build our order’s capacity for future efforts wherever they are needed,” Ferris stated.

**Catholic Relief Services is excited about the collaboration with the Secular Franciscan Order’s Courageous Initiative as part of the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty Campaign*. This collaboration will boost our joint efforts to speak out against injustice and poverty in solidarity with our brothers and sisters worldwide.**

**Joan Rosenhauer**  
**Executive Vice President**  
**U.S. Operations, *Catholic Relief Services***

The project with CRS began immediately with first information session slated for January, 2011, and the next scheduled for February 12, 2011. Ferris noted that the ramp-up time will be shorter because many of the prayer and learning tools are already in place as part of the *Catholics Confront Global Poverty Campaign*.

“I am very excited about this project. I have seen firsthand the impact CRS has on communities in developing countries. It is all about promoting peace and justice by way of respect and dignity, serving with rather than doing for. CRS efforts stand to benefit with the infusion of energy that an order comprised of 14,000 active members can bring. Our Order will benefit by embarking on this project because we will learn that confronting global poverty requires much creativity and passion, both of which we possess. And in so doing we will do as Pope Benedict XVI charges us all to do, “...end the marginalization of the world’s poor.”

# Resolution on Migration

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED AND  
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT THE NAFRA GATHERING:

WE, THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, are gathered for our annual meeting at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona from October 26 to 31, 2010. After study and consideration, the representatives of thirty national regions with over 14,000 members find intolerable some current harsh attitudes towards migration and deplore the fear and anxiety paralyzing our immigrant brothers and sisters.

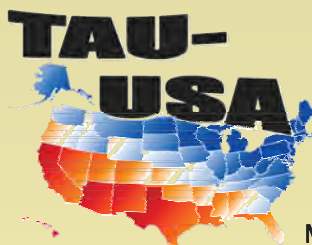
As Franciscans, we intentionally chose to come to Arizona to stand in solidarity with the migrants in our midst.

Regardless of the result of the upcoming election, The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order wishes to express the following points:

We endorse the United States Catholic Bishops' urgent call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, including their strong support for the DREAM act.

We support and encourage all the humanitarian efforts to assist immigrants who are struggling to survive.

We pray for peace and harmony, and we always remember in prayer families who are being torn apart.



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