



From Raphael

**NEW ADOPTIONS
FROM
NATIONAL
FRATERNITY
COUNCIL
MEETING
OCTOBER 2007**

The following MOTIONS were carried at the October 2007 NAFRA meeting:

1. that the National Fraternity (NAFRA) join Franciscans Action Network (FAN)
2. to accept the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on the Commissions to restructure the Apostolic Commissions to one Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee.
3. to give a total of \$1500 to this year's Peace Award recipient, Dr. Tony Lazarro, made up of voluntary donations and money from the NAFRA treasury
4. to add a line item of \$2000 to the Peace Award to be funded by the Fair Share Contributions
5. to add a line item to the 2008 budget for FAN of \$4000 to be funded by the Fair Share contributions
6. to increase the Fair Share contribution in 2009 from \$10 to \$12 per person

**FRANCICAN ACTION NETWORK
(FAN)**

This RESOLUTION regarding our contribution to FAN was unanimously adopted on October 6, 2007: Be it resolved: The National Fraternity of the SFO seeks to raise at least \$15,000 through the voluntary donations of our regional brothers and sisters as our first year's contribution as we join the Franciscan Action Network. The suggested minimum donation is \$1 per member to be sent to the National Treasurer.

**CHANGE FROM:
APOSTOLIC COMMISSIONS
(FAMILY, WORK, PEACE & JUSTICE,
AND ECOLOGY) TO:
JUSTICE, PEACE, AND INTEGRITY OF
CREATION (JPIC) COMMITTEE**

This is the **PROPOSAL** of the ad hoc committee on the Commissions, as revised and approved on October 5, 2007: The structure of the Apostolic Commissions will cease in its current form. In its place will be a Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) team (up to 4 persons) with a keen awareness of Articles 14-19 of the SFO Rule and of the social issues before the USCCB.

NEC expects regional fraternities to collaborate with the JPIC team and to disseminate information to the local fraternities.

NEC expects the regional fraternities to consider a JPIC person or team focus.

Appointments: JPIC team members will be appointed by the NEC after the review of resumes. The term of service is three years with a second three-year term possible. (Same as the current Commission process.) One of the team members will be appointed as chair.

See page 11 for a presentation of the process of the findings of the Ad-Hoc committee, and the committee recommendation statement offered to the National Fraternity Council for approval.



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From the Apostolic Commission Model

To the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Model

By Pat Brandwein-Ball, SFO
National Councilor

In the mid 1980's, many parishes formed commissions to encourage responsibility and greater participation of the laity (liturgy, family, peace and justice, etc). The Apostolic Commissions of the SFO formed as a natural outflow from the parish. You may recall that our formation program is based on the RCIA model. The Apostolic Commission format emphasizing Articles 14-19 of the SFO Rule was championed by Fr. Matthew Gaskin, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant of Holy Name Province, National Spiritual Assistant, and Spiritual Assistant to the National Formation Commission. During that time the National Directive Board (now NAFRA council) voted to accept his proposal. The Apostolic Commissions were established.

Over time the "structure" of commission teams overshadowed the spirituality; each article (14-19) stood on its own without the underpinning of the entirety of the Rule. Apostolic works are certainly a vital aspect of life for SFO members. However, after two All Commission Conferences, living those articles of the Rule still was not understood as flowing out of conversion, as worthy fruits of penance, or of our becoming "united more intimately with the life and missions of the Church" (Rule and Constitution). We had difficulty integrating the meaning of those Articles into our Way of Life and, by and large, the Apostolic Commissions became a burden of structure upon the fraternities. This was not for lack of effort on the part of the commission chairs. We thank them for their many years of dedication and work.

Apostolic Commission issues were discussed for many years. At the NAFRA annual meeting in October 2006, the Regional Ministers and NEC passed a motion to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to Re-vision the Apostolic Commissions.

Our task was not simply to create a new structure but rather to re-integrate Articles 14-19 into our lived expression of the Rule. Article 3 states that the current Rule "adapts the Secular Franciscan Order to the needs and expectations of the Holy Church in the conditions of changing times." This is the mandate to re-evaluate our efforts and structures in order to serve the Church and all people as fully as possible.

Through prayer and study, the Ad Hoc Committee discerned that a Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) model, would, at this time, best serve the SFO in fostering greater understanding and living of the Gospel. The proposal was accepted by all voting members at the NAFRA Chapter, October 2007. JPIC encompasses family, work, ecology, peace & justice.

To quote a portion of the proposal document, *"While remaining autonomous, this change in title and structure will give the SFO, a closer partnering with other entities in the Franciscan family and the Church. Team appointees may be members of broader organizations, able to participate in discussions/setting priorities as appropriate, and obtain feedback from NAFRA to help formulate participation in those other organizations."*

Team members will serve as resource persons to all SFO's in the US, responding to questions/concerns and clarifying the Franciscan response to societal issues. "Living By Faith" and Catholic Charities Action Alerts are examples of the resources and information that would continue to be available.

The current mission and vision statements will be rewritten into one statement giving a deeper understanding of our apostolic life. There will be one web site."

Now the greater challenge begins. We are not taking the work of many and giving it to a few. The intention is to renew the vision of who we are called to be. "In the spirit of conversion, they should live out their love for the renewal of the Church, which should be accompanied by personal and communal renewal. The fruits of conversion, which is a response to the love of God, as works of charity are the interactions with the brothers and sisters" General Constitution, Article 13.2.