



## Conference of the Franciscan Family

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,  
May the Lord give you peace.

We, the Ministers of the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF), wrote to you on October 23, 2012, regarding the financial situation of Franciscans International (FI), and asking for your assistance. It is with joy that we write once again, this time with good news about the organization and its work.

As you know, the last two years have been a challenging time of downsizing and restructuring for FI. As part of this process, issues of management and stewardship were high on the agenda. The roles and interactions of the CFF, the FI Board of Directors (IBD) and FI staff were all carefully reviewed and clarified. Monthly and quarterly financial reports were enhanced so that accurate and clear financial statements of income and expenses could be monitored by the IBD and CFF on a regular and ongoing basis. Two audits were completed during this time of restructuring, with no material difficulties flagged by the auditors. Professional internal controls were also put in place to assure proper use of funds; in this regard, it should be noted that funds are allocated and used strictly according to the intentions of the donor. The practice of securing loans has been strongly discouraged and past loans have all been paid off. Throughout these challenging times, the IBD has exercised its function of due diligence and support with the backing of the CFF and with the full cooperation of the FI staff. The result has been that FI ended Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 on a positive note with all debts paid and sufficient carry-forward resources to begin the 2014 fiscal year in a sustainable manner.

During these days of heightened financial scrutiny and management, FI has continued to strengthen its advocacy activity and to sharpen its engagement in both New York and Geneva. Priority themes during 2013 included birth registration and women's and children's rights, extreme poverty, human trafficking and mining. The decision to pursue these particular issues is due in no small part to the work of our Franciscan Family at the grassroots level. Your contact with the poor and the oppressed throughout the world has motivated FI to bring these concerns to the United Nations. FI's approach is rights-based, and seeks to promote sustainable development that will support the dignity and wellbeing of all people.

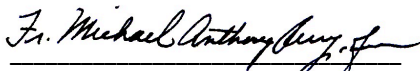
We are also happy to report that FI has established effective and productive relationships with the JPIC structures of the Franciscan Family. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Franciscan Family's Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee

(Romans VI) which represents the six branches of our family. During the immediate future, the Romans VI team will focus its attention on environment and environmental justice while FI will focus its attention on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a relatively new mechanism used by the United Nations to monitor the Human Rights record of member states. More recently, both organizations have been collaborating on the celebration, this year, of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Francis being named Patron of Ecology.

The year 2014 also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the recognition of Franciscans International as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) at the United Nations. What FI is today is a direct result of the work of many Franciscan sisters and brothers who laid the foundation and built on it over the past 25 years. The financial and moral support that you have provided over the years has been essential to FI's success, and we are extremely thankful for your continued trust in FI, our Franciscan Voice at the United Nations. We are indeed thankful for all that Franciscans throughout the world have done to maintain and strengthen our common presence at the UN. We count on your continued future support, and on your collaboration with FI programs.

May God bless the efforts of the Franciscan Family at the United Nations and throughout the world to promote life with dignity for all our sisters and brothers and to defend our Sister Mother Earth!

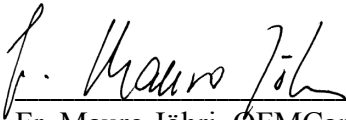
Rome, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014, Feast of All the Franciscan Saints.



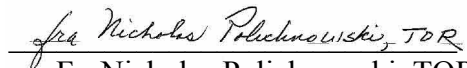
Fr. Michael Anthony Perry, OFM  
*Minister General*



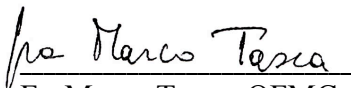
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