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The Franciscan Legionnaire

Newsletter of the Friars Legion of St. Peter's Church in the Loop
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Franciscans International

World Day of Prayer for Peace! -January 1

We begin the year with prayer and hope, for a world that will look much different by December 31. Let's look at some quotes of challenge and inspiration as we begin a new year and then look at one response to the world's problems that is making a difference: *Franciscans International*.

Cost of War:

The Military spends \$1.9 million every minute.
The Center for Defense Information notes that the 2008 official budget for military spending was drastically understated and that the real figure was over 900 billion dollars when all war expenses were included. Rounded off, what that means is that this nation, which cannot decide whether basic health care is a human right, is spending on kill-power:
77 billion dollars a month
19 billion dollars a week
Over 2 ½ billion dollars a day
Over 100 million dollars an hour
Almost 2 million dollars a minute
And over 31 thousand dollars a second.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower 1953

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers,

the genius of its scientists,
the hopes of its children...
This is not a way of life at all,
in any true sense.
Under the cloud of threatening war,
it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady

For it isn't enough to talk about peace.
One must believe in it.
And it isn't enough to believe in it.
One must work at it."

Robert Fulghum, American Writer

Peace is not something you wish for;
It's something you make,
Something you do,
Something you are,
And something you give away.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights

Through violence you may murder a murderer,
but you can't murder murder.

Through violence you may murder a liar,
but you can't establish truth.

Through violence you may murder a hater,
but you can't murder hate.

Darkness cannot put out darkness.
Only light can do that...

Peter Weiss

Once and for all the idea of glorious victories won by the glorious army must be wiped out. Neither side is glorious.

On either side they're just frightened men messing their pants and they all want the same thing - not to lie under the earth, but to walk up on it - without crutches.

Mahatma Gandhi

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty and democracy?

If we are to teach real peace in this world, if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower 34th President of USA

After my experience, I have come to hate war.
War settles nothing.

George McGovern US Senator

I'm fed up to the ears with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in.

Louis Lecoin, French Anarchist

If it were proved to me that in making war, my ideal had a chance of being realized, I would still say "no" to war. For one does not create a human society on mounds of corpses.

Robert E. Lee, Confederate General

What a cruel thing is war: to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness God has granted us in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world.

Ernest Hemingway, American Author

Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.

Blessed Mother Teresa

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

What is your response to the experience of war?

Do we take war for granted? Is War part of our life together on this tiny planet? Are there options to dealing with injustice against human rights...? What are your thoughts? Email me: cfaso@earthlink.net. www.frchuckofm.org

We pray and sing, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...where there is hatred, let me sow love, injury-pardon....”

One of the many Franciscan efforts to deal with the injustices and evil in our world began in 1982: Franciscans International. I heard of this Franciscan Organization through the years. I knew they were/we were at the United Nations in New York, headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and recently a center was opened in Bangkok, Thailand.

It was not until March 2009, when I was preaching to the Franciscan Friars in Singapore, that I learned so much about FI – Franciscans International. Franciscan Sister Denise Boyle, FMDM, originally from Dublin, Ireland, and now is the Executive Director of FI, spoke to the Secular Franciscans and to the Friars at the Franciscan Church in Singapore. I attended both of her presentations. I was amazed at the vision and dedication of this Franciscan effort to bring hope to those in despair, to be light for those in darkness. Fr. John Doctor OFM, our former Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province is the President of the Board of Directors for FI.

I asked Sr Denise, who works at the Office in Geneva, Switzerland, if her work brings her to Chicago. Six weeks later, I met Sr Denise at O'Hare Airport and drove her to six different Franciscan Motherhouses in Manitowoc WI, Joliet IL, Wheaton IL and others in Chicago. These Franciscan Sisters have been committed to FI financially and in support of their many efforts. This is what I learned:

History of FI

The seedlings of Franciscans International (FI) sprouted in 1982 when two Franciscans, a sister from the United States and a brother from Malta, saw the potential for effective Franciscan input at the United Nations (UN). Aware of the indispensable role of NGOs in UN decision-making, the two suggested the idea to their respective Justice and Peace Committees. The idea of Franciscans at the UN was met with approval and excitement. It quickly grew into a common project of the Franciscan Family and an interfamilial Preparatory Committee was organized for this future ministry. This Committee prepared the FI Vision Statement centered on three main goals:

- 1) Raising awareness of the interconnectedness of all creation, and thus stressing the need to **care for creation** – both human and environmental;
- 2) Promoting **peace**;
- 3) Voicing concern for the world's **poor**.

While gathering strength and momentum within the Franciscan Family between 1982 and 1989, Franciscans International was officially recognized as a non-governmental organization (NGO) by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) in 1989. After further organizational work, smoothing out a membership plan, and opening an office in New York, FI was approved for NGO Category 1 Status. This was a major step for Franciscans International.

Because FI has General Consultative Status (Category 1) with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) FI is able to participate in all activities of the Council through written and

oral statements. This means that FI is able to be present at UN World Conferences and their Preparatory Committees, General Assembly special sessions, the UN Commission and Sub-Commission on Human Rights, and the committees that monitor States' compliance with specific international treaties. Furthermore, this status gives FI a critical responsibility to provide technical expertise and advice to governments and the UN Secretariat. Thus, FI was challenged to strengthen ties with Franciscan brothers and sisters in the field, often in developing countries, to enable meaningful contributions to UN forums.

In 1997, FI expanded to Geneva, Switzerland, where the concentration is on the promotion and protection of human rights and their civil, cultural, economic, political, and social manifestations.

A key shift in FI's short history took place in 1999 when the Conference of Franciscan Family (CFF) redefined the notion of membership for FI. As opposed to maintaining select membership in which individuals or groups choose to become members of FI through contributions, the CFF approved a more inclusive membership policy. All Franciscans within the jurisdiction of the CFF are automatically members of FI. Therefore, **FI provides a service to all Franciscans based on their need for access to the international community, research, or advocacy to address a local challenge.** This membership change has implications for funding – FI is funded by voluntary contributions from members of the Franciscan Family. Often, those who need services the most cannot help support FI financially.

Though FI's history remains brief, FI has made great strides in the growth and are reaching a peak of effectiveness, attaining a strong reputation both in NY and Geneva, and strengthening their visibility as a service within the Franciscan Family.

To know what FI stands for and is committed to is summed up in the Mission-Vision Statements:

MISSION STATEMENT OF FI

Franciscans International works at the UN and international organizations to influence decision makers on behalf of the most vulnerable.

VISION STATEMENT

We are men and women who are committed to the ideals of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. As St. Francis once addressed the social leaders of his time with the challenge of peace, so today we are called to engage policy makers and world leaders at the United Nations for the work of justice, peace, the care of creation, and the promotion of human rights.

--For further information about FI and to learn how you can be involved in bringing hope and healing, justice and peace to our troubled world, check FI's website:

www.FranciscansInternational.org.

What is your Mission and Vision Statement for 2010? How can you make a difference in our world as an instrument of the Lord's **Peace**? – **Pax** (Latin), **Pace** (Italian), **Paz** (Spanish), **Salam** (Arabic), **Shalom** (Hebrew), **Paix** (French), **Frieden** (German), **Santipab** (Thai), **Ereine** (Greek), **Ursalama** (Swahili), **Hoa Binh** (Vietnamese), **Baris** (Turkish), **Shanti** (Hindi), **Beke** (Hungarian), **Heiwa** (Japanese), **Pyoung-Hwa** (Korean), **Wookeyeh** (Sioux), **Mir** (Russia), **Pokoj** (Polish), **Filemu** (Samoan), **Nimuhore** (Ruanda) –

Fr Chuck Faso OFM

APPLICATION FOR YEAR-LONG MEMORIAL CANDLE

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

To be lit in honor of:

Living _____ Deceased _____

Requested by:

Date candle is to be lit: Immediately _____
 Specific
 Date _____

The offering for the Memorial Candle is \$150.00. Please enclose a check for the full amount with this form.

APPLICATION FOR PERPETUAL ENROLLMENT IN THE FRIARS LEGION

(Please print, leaving a space between each word.)

Please Enroll:

as a Perpetual Member of the Saint Peter's Friars Legion.

Living _____ Deceased _____

Your Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

OFFERING: Individual, \$25.00 _____
 Family, \$100.00 _____ *(Immediate family, parents and children)*