

Chapter Resolution:  
To Establish Jubilee Communities in the Province in Support of  
our Sisters and Brothers in Africa

WHEREAS our Brother Capuchins in Africa at the 2000 General Chapter asked for the Order's support relative to the various social ills through which they and the people suffer on a daily basis (*Analecta, O.F.M.Cap.*, vol 116, n. 3, pp 830ff ), and

WHEREAS our North American Capuchin Conference committed itself to responding to this fraternal plea of our Brothers in Africa while meeting at a seminar in the Bronx, April 30-May 2, 2004, and

WHEREAS one of the specific suggestions by our Brothers was to support debt relief as proposed by the worldwide **Jubilee** movement in order that the governments and people of the given nations could devote more funds to education, health and other social needs of their countries (*Analecta O.F.M.Cap.*, vol 116, n. 3, pp. 831-832), and

WHEREAS debt relief where it has been implemented has enabled nations to raise health and education spending by 40-90 percent (handout at **Ecumenical Advocacy Days**, March 11-14, 2005), and

WHEREAS the original debts incurred "have been paid already many times over through the unusually high interest rates" with "a considerable part of the borrowed funds... expended on dangerous and wasteful armaments or on projects and programs benefiting the elites," (*Relieving Third World Debt*, USCCB, pp 18-19) and "much of it illegitimately accumulated by undemocratic and corrupt governments and lenders who served as willing accomplices" ("Justice Platform for Global Development" statement, 2005), and

WHEREAS Pope John Paul II strongly supported thorough-going debt relief stating in 1998 that "the heavy burden of external debt...compromises the economies of whole peoples and hinders their social and political progress", and

WHEREAS the G 7 or the "Rich" or "Industrialized" Nations (Canada, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States) have in principle agreed to substantial relief, even 100% cancellation, for the "highly indebted poor countries" or HIPC nations, and

WHEREAS the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have the resources to cancel the debts of the poorest countries, and

WHEREAS the worldwide movement advocating for debt relief, even cancellation, holds along with Pope John Paul II when he exclaims that "we can no longer tolerate a world in which there live side by side the immensely rich and the miserably poor, the have-nots deprived even of essentials and people who thoughtlessly waste what others so desperately need...[which] contrasts are an affront to the dignity of the human person,"  
be it

**RESOLVED that the Province join with the worldwide faith inspired Jubilee movement to advocate for the greater debt relief for the poorest nations, of which 27 are in Sub Saharan Africa.**

**ACTION REQUESTED:** That we become **three Jubilee Communities**—one made up of friars in Southeastern Michigan, the Saginaw area and Indiana, a second including the friars of the Chicago/Milwaukee area, and a third made up of the friars living in Mt Calvary, the rest of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Montana—committing ourselves

- to **pray** for Jubilee justice,
- to **educate** ourselves about the debt issue facilitated by the Provincial Justice, Peace and Ecology Office/Commission,
- to **donate** five dollars a year per friar to support the mission of Jubilee USA, and
- to **advocate**—contact appropriate official(s) or Congressional representative(s)—as alerts for actions relative to meetings of the various International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and/or legislation are received from the Jubilee USA Office in Washington DC as directed by the Provincial Justice, Peace and Ecology Office/Commission.

[The list of friars and non-Cap Commission members supporting the bringing of this resolution to the chapter capitulars is on a separate sheet.]