

NEWS

NATIONAL FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
IN THE UNITED STATES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 9, 2011

U.S. Secular Franciscan Order Calls On 'Super Committee' to Keep Poor in Mind

The U.S. Secular Franciscan Order, with 13,500 members nationwide, is calling on the Congressional Super Committee to avoid penalizing the poor and marginalized in its mission to cut the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion over ten years.

The Order issued a statement, approved at its recent national chapter in San Juan Bautista, CA, saying it is essential for the committee to not only reach a decision by its Nov. 23rd deadline, but also "understand the impact each decision may have."

"It is morally irresponsible for this committee to delay a decision and default to the automatic cuts that are applied at a fixed percentage, doing further injustice to the poor here and abroad," the statement said.

Kent Ferris, SFO, who chairs the Order's Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, said the statement was based on the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, chapter 2, article 13 that Franciscans "place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ." Secular Franciscans include men and women, single and married, who profess to bring the Gospel to life in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

The full text of the statement to the Super Committee follows:

Do not further oppress and penalize those who are poor and those who are already most vulnerable, here and around the world.

We realize the moment of decision is rapidly approaching, and in this critical time it is essential that you understand the impact each decision may have. Justice for all requires that we pursue the common good.

It is essential that the "Super Committee" reach a decision by November 23rd. It is morally irresponsible for this committee to delay a decision and default to the automatic cuts that are applied at a fixed percentage, doing further injustice to the poor here and abroad.

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