

I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Resolutions Log Sheet

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Referred	Committee / Ofc Referred	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	Date Adopted
199-33 (COR)	FRANK B. AGUON, JR.	Relative to recognizing and commending the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on the special occasion of its One Hundredth (100th) Year Anniversary – “Celebrating 100 Years of Catholicism and Catholic Service in Yona” (1915-2015); and to further extending Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'âse' to the Saint Francis Church for the tremendous public service that it provides for the people of the beautiful village of Yona and the island community.	09/30/15 4:32 p.m.	10/03/15 4:00 p.m.					10/02/15

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2015 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 199-33 (COR)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON, JR.

R. J. Respicio

T. C. Ada

V. Anthony Ada

Frank F. Blas, Jr.

B. J.F. Cruz

James V. Espaldon

Brant T. McCreadie

Tommy Morrison

T. R. Muña Barnes

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Mary Camacho Torres

N. B. Underwood, Ph.D.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and commending the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on the special occasion of its One Hundredth (100th) Year Anniversary – “Celebrating 100 Years of Catholicism and Catholic Service in *Yona*” (1915-2015); and to further extending *Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Saint Francis Church for the tremendous public service that it provides for the people of the beautiful village of *Yona* and the island community.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** from 1915 to 1941, the Navarran Capuchins oversaw an
4 admirable period of expansion of the Guam Catholic Mission. One of the highlights

1 of their success included the extension of the Mission's personnel, churches, and
2 religious organizations; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in the early 1900s, only twenty (20) families, consisting of about
4 one hundred (100) people resided in the village of *Yona*, which was known to be a
5 farming community. In 1914, *Pale Luis De Leon* felt a chapel in *Yona* was necessary,
6 so that the small community could celebrate Mass at least once a month; and

7 **WHEREAS**, by 1915, occasional services were held in this modest chapel,
8 which was made of wood and pandanas, unfortunately no photo exists of this chapel;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, as it was built by the Capuchins, the *Yona* chapel was named after
11 their founder, Saint Francis of Assisi; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the village started to grow as the residents of *Hagåtña* who owned
13 farms in *Yona* decided to reside there permanently. In 1924, the old chapel was
14 replaced with a chapel made of stone and tin roofing; and Masses were still held there
15 only once a month by one of the *Hagåtña* priests, *Pale Javier*; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in the 1930s, the village population grew to about seven hundred
17 (700) residents; and in 1938, a new concrete church was built which most of us have
18 seen because it survived World War II; and in 1941, the statue of Saint Francis of
19 Assisi above the front door of the Church was made on Guam by the late Father
20 Marcian Pelett; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Spanish Capuchins in *Hagåtña* increased the number of
22 Masses held in *Yona* to every Sunday, and also held classes with the *Eskuelan Pale*.
23 During the war, the Masses were suspended because of the absence of the
24 Missionaries; but thankfully, the *Yona* Church survived the war; and

1 **WHEREAS**, after the war, Father Cyril Langheim was the first American
2 Capuchin assigned to the Church; and during that time the chapel needed some fixing
3 up, but it was still usable for most Church services; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the real story of how the parish grew from a small provincial
5 chapel to a complete parish complex began with Father Alvin La Feir. Father Alvin
6 was a dynamic spirited priest who had big dreams for his parish. He saw that the ever
7 growing community needed a larger Church and its own parochial school; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Father Alvin was an expert at getting donations of money and
9 supplies from the local people, the military, and friends from his hometown of Detroit;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, a new larger Church, a school, and a convent for the teaching
12 sisters were planned. A typhoon in 1958 delayed the construction, but Father Alvin
13 and his parishioners were persistent and moved ahead, and they never gave up; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the parishioners of *Yona* raised funds in every possible way and
15 they volunteered their time and energy in the completion of the Church; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in February 1962, the new Church which we still use today was
17 finally dedicated to the delight and pride of the hardworking parishioners of *Yona*; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the famous paintings found on the walls of the Church which
19 depict the life of Saint Francis of Assisi were done by Father Marcian Pelett. Those
20 paintings were finished and dedicated in the church right before one of the worst
21 typhoons to hit Guam. Supertyphoon Karen blew the roof off the church in November
22 1962, exposing the interior to wind and rain. The village and the Church went under
23 extensive development and picked up again; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 1966, Father Alvin La Feir died, and his funeral was attended
25 by thousands of residents. He was the first American Capuchin Priest to be buried on
26 Guam. He is known to have laid the foundation for everything that the Saint Francis

1 Parish eventually became, and a bust in his memory, that was built by the parish, sits
2 in the front of the Church; and

3 **WHEREAS**, after Father Alvin came Father Fulgence Petri, then Father Daniel
4 Cristobal who started the Religious Goods Store that *Yona* was known for, as this was
5 the place to buy the *Chamorro* novena books; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1975, Father Paul L. Minchak was assigned for a year as
7 associate pastor and then returned to the Mainland to be novice master and superior of
8 Capuchin communities in Massachusetts and New York; and

9 **WHEREAS**, then came Father George Maddock who famously changed the
10 altar boy cassocks to brown like the Patron Saint of the parish; and

11 **WHEREAS**, later, Father Michael Dalton was assigned to minister in *Yona*,
12 and he continued the development of the parish, enhancing the parish council and
13 religious education programs; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Father Felixberto Leon Guerrero, who had to deal with multiple
15 natural disasters that damaged the Church, also did what he had to do to continue on
16 with Church services and programs; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in 1994, Father Patrick Castro joined the parish and addressed the
18 structural damage caused by past natural disasters. The Church was then renovated
19 and air-condition was installed for the first time; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after Father Patrick left, Father Joseph English presided and kept
21 the parish life strong and vibrant; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Father Jose Villagomez became the next pastor and he continued
23 the spiritual care of the parish until his retirement; and Father Andre Eduvala most
24 recently began his ministry with the parish; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church remains a spiritual
26 source of blessing for the people of *Yona* and the island community, something that

1 can be appreciated for many years to come. *Biba Saint Francis! Biba Yona!*; now
2 therefore, be it

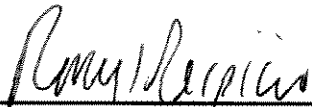
3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Tres Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
5 of Guam, recognize and commend the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on the
6 special occasion of its One Hundredth (100th) Year Anniversary – “Celebrating 100
7 Years of Catholicism and Catholic Service in *Yona*” (1915-2015); and does further
8 extend *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Saint Francis Church for the
9 tremendous public service that it provides for the people of the beautiful village of
10 *Yona* and the island community; and be it further

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
12 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
13 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
14 Parish; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'låhen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 2ND DAY OF
OCTOBER 2015.**



BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Acting Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary



COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Tres na Libeslaturan Guåhan • 33RD Guam Legislature
 www.guamlegislature.com • 155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 www.roryforguam.com • email: cor@guamlegislature.org • Tel: (671)472-7679 • Fax: (671)472-3547

COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

Resolution No. 199-33 (COR) - FRANK B. AGUON, JR. - "Relative to recognizing and commending the Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church on the special occasion of its One Hundredth (100th) Year Anniversary – "Celebrating 100 Years of Catholicism and Catholic Service in Yona" (1915-2015); and to further extending *Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Saint Francis Church for the tremendous public service that it provides for the people of the beautiful village of Yona and the island community."

	SIGNATURE	DATE	TO ADOPT	TO NOT ADOPT	TO ABSTAIN
Senator Rory J. Respicio Chairperson	<i>Emailed</i>	10/1/15	✓		
Senator Thomas C. Ada Vice-Chairperson					
Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Member					
Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz Member	<i>Emailed</i>	10/1/15	✓		
Legislative Secretary Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member					
Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. Member	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/1/15	✓		
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Member	<i>Emailed</i>	10/1/15	✓		
Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas Member	<i>Emailed</i>	10/1/15	✓		
Senator Nerissa B. Underwood, Ph.D. Member					
Senator V. Anthony Ada Minority Leader	<i>Emailed</i>	10/1/15	✓		
Senator Mary Camacho Torres Minority Member					

2015 OCT - 7 AM 9:09

For Sponsor's Office Use Only

Sponsor Signature: *[Signature]*

Staff Contact Person: *Theresa Lawrence*

For COR/Clerk's Office Use Only

6 Certified _____ Returned _____

Name: *E. Winston M. Ilcito*

Date: *10/02/15*

Notes: _____