

**I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2008 (SECOND) Regular Session**

Executive  
Resolution No. *263*

Introduced by:

Edward J.B. Calvo *EC*  
James V. Espaldon *JVE*  
Frank F. Blas, Jr. *FFB*

Relative to recognizing the accomplishments of the Saint Francis Children's Choir and to further recognizing the faculty staff, choir director, travel organizer of the *Journey of Peace* to the birthplace of Saint Francis of Assisi, and their families and for their continued contributions through the gift of songs for the betterment of our Island community.

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:**

**WHEREAS,** the Saint Francis Children's Choir has been performing throughout the island since 1982 and consists of fifty (50) students ranging from ages nine (9) to fourteen (14); and

**WHEREAS,** the Saint Francis Children's Choir schedule includes a grueling practice schedule, twice a week for two and a half (2 ½) hours each day as well as maintaining their academic grade is required for all members; and

**WHEREAS,** the success of the Saint Francis Children's Choir could not be possible without the direction of Ms. Catherine Calvo Cruz, who has been

the Saint Francis School faculty for more than twenty (20) years. Ms. Cruz, having no formal music education has managed to bring this choir to a level of professionalism that even the most acclimated music directors have hope to strive for; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Cruz received her piano education from Mr. Albert Hoffman, an Austrian pianist and from Mrs. Carmen Dela Cruz with the Guam Academy of Music and Arts and is the music director of several church choirs throughout the island and is a part-time piano instructor; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Catherine Calvo Cruz was a lyricist and composer of songs – *“It’s Christmas on Guam”*, *“The Island Rhythm”*, and *“Peace”* - on the two (2) compact discs recorded by the Saint Francis Children’s Choir which successfully raised funds to help defray the school’s financial burdens in 1994 and 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Francis Children’s Choir performances range from weddings and funeral masses, caroling for the sick and elderly, and singing for various private companies and non-profit organizations. Ms. Catherine Calvo Cruz constantly strives to bring the passion and love for music out of the children of the choir; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Francis Children’s Choir has been featured performers at the Sand Castle during their holiday shows and most recently had the opportunity to travel to Saipan to spread their “gift of song”. The choir has also been recipients of numerous first place awards and they were

selected to study and perform under the direction of several nationally acclaimed music conductors including Dr. Scott Anderson, guest conductor for the 2000 “Voices in Praise Concert” held on Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, a dream of the Saint Francis Children’s Choir to travel to the town of Assisi – the birthplace of Saint Francis, the school’s patron saint. Mr. Bryan Joseph Chennaux Quinata, the schools Theology and Computer teacher, prepared fundraising efforts and coordinated the travel arrangements to enable the choir members on a *Journey of Peace*. The school’s faculty, staff, choir members and their families assisted Mr. Quinata to make the *Journey of Peace* become a reality; and

**WHEREAS**, the thirty (30) member Saint Francis Children’s Choir, Ms. Catherine Calvo Cruz, Mr. Brian Quinata, and family members realized their dream traveling to Assisi, a tour of the Vatican City in Rome and an audience with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI from October 17 – 29, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Francis Children’s Choir shared their gift of song during the celebration of Mass at the Basilica of San Francisco, the *Journey of Peace* afforded the delegation an opportunity to receive a spiritual, educational and cultural experience they will treasure and remember for the rest of their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Francis Children’s Choir learned and brought back to their island a gift that will enable them to make their island community a better place to grow and live in. Conversely, the Saint Francis Children’s Choir left behind in Italy a taste of the Chamorro culture and the