

Objectives of this formation:

- To give the candidate and the animator or the one who is responsible for fmm formation a privileged occasion to understand each other better.
- To permit the candidates to express their faith and to encourage a reflection on the subjects that touch on the vocation of all baptized.
- To complement the knowledge acquired on the subjects: the New Testament, Francis of Assisi, Mary of the Passion and particularly on the characteristics of fmm spirituality.
- To prepare the candidates for their commitment as fmm associates.

Modality or format:

It is necessary to have a preliminary individualized meeting followed by five meetings on the themes announced. These meetings could be adapted to each candidate or take place in a group provided the persons have the same level of understanding. It would be preferable to have these meetings once a week or every two weeks to allow the candidates to participate in the statutory meetings of the afmm. To become associates all candidates without exception should attend the preliminary meeting plus the five meetings based on the themes announced.

Following these meetings the person in charge should be able to accept or refuse the admittance of a candidate. She

should also be able to judge if the person needs an additional follow up.

Remember that these meetings are to give the candidates all the space necessary to express themselves. We consider this objective more important than the acquisition of theoretical knowledge.

Meetings:

The preliminary meeting:

- Ask the candidate to briefly present herself/himself, talk about her/his life, the commitments undertaken until now.
- Have you known the Institute or any one of the fmm sisters? What did you appreciate in them?
- What has drawn you to associate yourself to the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary? Has it been a long time since you desired to join the Associates of the Institute of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary? What made you decide to come?

Content:

The formation program should include what we consider as essential of the charism of Mary of the Passion transmitted to the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. To facilitate the comprehension of the word

“charism”, it is better to speak of the FMM spirit rather than of the charism?

Meetings based on the theme:

(The title of the meeting corresponds to what is given in the italics.)

1. *A call that is addressed to all:* Holiness, a path that is opened to all those of good will. Baptismal vocation.
2. *Christ among us:* Incarnation, Eucharist.
3. Clarify or reflect on the title “Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.” First of all **Franciscan:** Franciscan way, Francis, the privileged witness of the Gospel.
4. **Franciscan Missionary: Franciscan way, throughout the world.** The mission, a baptismal responsibility.
5. **Franciscan Missionaries of Mary: Marian way, Mary a way within the way.**

The unfolding of a meeting:

To be done in a very spontaneous and open way. Hopefully, the animator or the formator has a good mastery of the subjects that are being discussed so that she can speak from the fullness of her heart.

1. Announce the theme without elaborating.

2. A call for their experience of the subject on the theme announced.

What does this theme mean to you?

Have you already lived such experiences or has the theme ever been questioned?

In your life up to now, have you discussed this theme with some one? With whom? What have you retained?

3. What witnesses say (suggested readings) :

Jesus or the Gospel (Choose a passage from Scriptures based on this theme.)

Francis of Assisi (Take a passage from his life as it is written or make a reflection on the Franciscan spirituality.)

Mary of the Passion (A short life of Mary of the Passion)

4. Reactions of the candidates on these different passages. Explanation if necessary is given by the animator.

5. Practical application in everyday life.

6. An appropriate prayer or song.

References:

The animator and the candidate should have at their disposition the following books:

The Bible or at least the New Testament.

The life of St. Francis, the one with which they are most familiar.

PP. DESBONNETS Théophile et VORREUX Damien. *Saint François d'Assise, documents.* Paris : ef. 2002.

P. VORREUX Damien. *Sainte Claire d'Assise, documents.* Paris : ef, 2002.
Eloi Leclerc: The wisdom of the Poverello.

THE GOSPEL TODAY: *The Franciscan Spirituality.* Paris, 2002.
Marie-Thérèse de Maleyssié, *A short life of Mary of the Passion.*

FMM *Un seul amour, bienheureuse Maria Assunta Pallotta.* Ottawa.

JEAN-PAUL 11. Apostolic Exhortation post-synodal Christi fideles Laici (on the vocation of laity in the church and in the world.) Ottawa: conference of the Catholic Bishops of Canada. 1988.

Prayer

Lord,

through a true sharing of all that we are,
you want us to be enriched by our mutual love;
enlighten and guide our sharing.
All that we have, you gave it to us, Father,
not just for us, but also for others
with whom we want to share.

You who have asked us to welcome the message,
make us receptive to each other's message,
capable of grasping its depth.

In the exchanges, make us appreciate one another
in thought and speech.

May we have for each one
more esteem, more admiration.

May our fraternal ties be strengthened
by a deeper dialogue

which will make the communion of spirit
and the openness of our hearts bloom.

Amen!

Basic Formation of the FMM Candidates and Associates



**Let us, then,
make it our aim
to work for peace
and to strengthen
one another.**
(Rom 14:19)

