

The unfolding of the program

Welcome

Greetings! News! Sharing of what has been lived in different activities of your life since the last meeting, with reference to the theme “The Franciscan Way”.

1. Proclamation of the theme:

The Missionary Way: To the ends of the world.

The association to which I want to belong is that of the Franciscan **Missionaries** of Mary. During the course of this meeting, we will reflect on the word mission and what it means to be a missionary.

Everyone who is baptized, whatever the state of life they have chosen, is called to fulfill a mission in the church and in the world.

2. A call to the experience of this theme:

- You have heard that a person in military service, a diplomat or a member of an international movement is given a mission, is sent on a mission... what is the meaning of mission? What are the expectations of the one who sends?
- In your life you have without doubt received a mission, carried out a mission. Did it require of you a special attitude or a special preparation?

- What comes to your mind when you hear of missionaries? Have you already met some missionaries - lay, brothers or sisters? What have you retained from these meetings?

3. What do our witnesses say:

The Scriptures:

“Christ was haunted in some way by the others...by those he had not already met...“ *Let us go elsewhere!*”, “*on the other side of the lake*”, “*on the other shore*”. In accompanying Christ everywhere, day after day, the disciples discover their missionary vocation... Christ sends them on mission... It will be their first missionary experience. After the resurrection, Jesus renews this missionary vocation: “*As my Father has sent me, I also send you.*” Lastly, at the time of his ascension, this solemn sending: “*Go to the ends of the world!*”

“...Their lack of faith distressed him. Instead, he travelled through the neighboring villages, and spent his time teaching. Jesus summoned the twelve and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing on the journey but a walking stick- no food, no travelling bag, not a coin. They were, however, to wear sandals. “Do not bring a second tunic,” he said. Mk 6:6-10

“Finally, as they were at table, Jesus revealed himself to the Eleven. He took them to task for their disbelief and their stubbornness, since they had put no faith in those who had seen him after he had been raised. Then he told

them: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes in it and accepts baptism will be saved; the one who refuses to believe in it will be condemned.” Mc 16:15-17.

Francis of Assisi :

“But when on a certain day the Gospel was read in a church, how the Lord sent his disciples out to preach, the holy man of God, present there, understood somewhat the words of the Gospel; after Mass he humbly asked the priest to explain the Gospel to him more fully. When he had set forth for him all these things, Saint Francis, hearing that the disciples of Christ should not possess gold or silver or money; nor carry along the way script, or wallet, or bread, or a staff; that they should not have shoes or two tunics; but that they should preach the kingdom of God and penance, he immediately cried out exultingly, “*This is what I wish, this is what I seek, this is what I long to do with all my heart!*”
(Thomas de Celano’s *First Life* #22 St. Francis of Assisi, Omnibus p.246-247)

For Francis, the “discovery of a missionary vocation coincides with the revelation of the Gospel. For him it is part of the same intuition, and all his life Francis will keep this conviction: one cannot be a man of the Gospel if he does not have an apostolic soul” and vice versa...
(Gérard Guitton in ÉVANGILE AUJOURD’HUI. *La spiritualité franciscaine*. Paris, 2002, p128-139)

Mary of the Passion: The Eucharist is the centre of our lives. “The Christ whom we contemplate sends us out to our brothers and sisters in whom we discover his hidden presence. And our brothers and sisters send us back to the contemplation of Christ. ... To continue the mission

of Christ ... to bring the good news to the poor is the missionary vocation of all the people of God. ” “Sent in our turn and dedicated to universal mission we realize our vocation within the Franciscan wayfollowing in the steps of the poor, humble Christ in simplicity, peace and joy. ”

(Constitutions 3,35, 36, 5)

4. Reactions to these different passages:

- ❑ What do these different passages tell you about the mission?
- ❑ It is said that everyone who is baptized receives a mission. What is your mission?
- ❑ Can lay people be missionaries?
- ❑ How can you, as associates, called to live the missionary vocation of the fmm, realize this call as desired by Mary of the Passion?

5. Practical applications in our daily life:

- As a baptized Christian, how do you fulfil your mission of an afmm candidate?
- How can you be a missionary in your own milieu, at work, etc.?
- Let us identify some of the ways in which you can realize your mission.

Now, take time to enunciate or write a practical application that you intend to do after this reflection on the mission.

6. Prayer or an appropriate Song :

Spontaneous prayer

Or

Lord, you confide to us your mission of love,
but you do not leave us in the dark.
You open the heart of the world and ours
to fill it with strength,
and the tenderness of your spirit..
Your breath is like the wind in an open space;
no one knows where it comes from or where it goes.
Help us to listen to its voice
and allow us to be led by it,
so that your word will be born in the
shifting sands of our present moment.

May it open our heart to compassion,
fill it with hope for the future.
And may your Spirit bring us back to the essential,
in a relationship of love with you and with
our brothers and sisters of the world. Amen.

Hymn: (According to your choice)

The missionary way



“To the ends of the world”

Basic Formation.

Leaflet 4