The FMM Associates

Vision

We, the Lay Associates of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, envision a community of equals dedicated to the Gospel way of life as exemplified by Mary, St. Francis and Blessed Mary of the Passion.

Mission

Answering the challenges of our Christian vocation as far as our circumstances as lay persons will allow, we commit ourselves to:

- Prayer and the Eucharist as a mission in itself;
  - Offer ourselves in service to our brothers and sisters, especially those in need, in collaboration with the FMM and/or the local Church;

- Live and work for justice peace and integrity of creation;
  - Live simply in fidelity to the Gospel and proclaim by word and deed the Good News to our families, our neighborhoods, our places of work, etc;

- Walk faithfully with the Blessed Virgin Mary as we live out our call as Lay Associates;
  - To grow in community spirit.

Philippines
Activities and Formation

Basic Formation – Before they are admitted consist of:

- Short Sessions on the Life of St. Francis & Blessed Mary of the Passion – adapted to them;
- On the Charism – different aspects: Eucharistic spirituality; Missionary spirituality with emphasis on the Lay spirituality; Marian spirituality;
- Experience of the FMM apostolates / ministries especially among the poor;
- Session of helping them know themselves and their companions.

Note: The lay associates have option to make their commitment or renew it for one year or more.

Ongoing formation after they are admitted:

- Deepening of what was given in the Basic Formation period;
- Simplified sessions on Church documents.

Activities:

- Involvements in the Church Liturgical & Pastoral Ministry;
  - Prison Visitations;
- Justice & Peace & Ecology Projects’ involvements;
  - Inter-religious Dialogue (Especially between Christians & Muslims);
- Catechetical ministry;
  - Projects for the Indigenous Peoples (with FMMs – we have several communities inserted with the IPs);
- Visit to the Sick;
Assistance to the victims of natural calamities;

- Witness to the Gospel spirit in their places of work and families & neighborhood.

Some Testimonies:

From a Male FMM LA:

“The charism of the FMM is really present in the history of my life particularly the victimhood and missionary. To be an FMM Lay associate, I am guided in my role as a husband and as a father to my three children, and also as a teacher to my pupils. To be an associate is also a great challenge to me in my involvement in the government. I consider it a mission.”
Another Male FMM Lay associate (simple laborer, husband and father):

“In my study of the life of Blessed Mary of the Passion and other FMM saints, I am learning how to live simply and how to be humble, which are qualities of Mary of the Passion.”

From a Mother and wife working as a doctor in a hospital:

“In my formation as an associate, I have grown in the spirit of simplicity and compassion to the least of my brothers and sister. I begin to appreciate and understand the shortcomings of others and know myself better. I was able to forgive and love these people better. My visit to the Blessed Sacrament becomes more often and I feel that my day is complete with this visit. In my visit to the House of the Old and Abandoned, I realized how blessed I am and I am willing now to share my blessings to other.”