

FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF MARY

What's in a Name?

In this we have the contents of a *charism*, its being the gift by which our foundress, Mary of the Passion was endowed by the Holy Spirit in giving birth to our Institute in 1877. This charism commits us to follow Christ as he gave himself up to the Father for the salvation of the world, in the mystery of his Incarnation and his Pasch..."FMM Const.2

Franciscan: "We realize our vocation in the footsteps of the Poverello of Assisi, "living the Gospel in the midst of the world and following in the steps of the *poor and humble* Christ, in simplicity, peace and joy." Christ, in his obedience to the Father, bends low, becoming flesh of our flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary at the Incarnation. What St. Bonaventure, the great Franciscan scholar discovered is that God bends over in love to meet us where we are. God is most high yet mostly intimately related to us. This is the **Poverty** we vow. We are sent to **serve** the poorest of the poor wherever the Church calls us **to be with** and **to minister**



to the marginalised, the sick, children, the elderly and to those who, in spite of possessing material riches, might still be lacking in other ways. It is in this spirit, the Spirit of God whom we believe is within each human being, created in the image and likeness of God, that we go in order to draw those we meet to the Kingdom of our Loving and merciful God. As God in his love was willing to plunge into the darkness of our humanity to bring us to the fullness of life, so do we go in our weakness to help others in their weakness so that the greatness of our God is manifested in our lives. This is our **Poverty**, through which we find strength in the love of God who has called us, and God is faithful and upholds us to the end.

Doris Sammut fmm