



ANN EDWARDS

My journey to becoming an Associate began on the 2nd October 2004 on a Women's day at the Chertsey based Cor Lumen Christi community. I asked what the lay-commitment to joining their community was, and the response seemed feasible. On Sunday 3rd I had an 'ah ha' moment realising it was the Feast of St. Francis on Monday, was that the community I was to be with?

Following a beautiful reflection on St. Francis at Mass (*St. Josephs Aldershot, the home until recently of FMDM's*), I was prompted to find the Associate leaflet, I was given by an FMDM sister in 2002 at Mount Alvernia, which just appeared! I phoned Ladywell with a sense that I was supposed to be there, interrupting Sr. Anne Connor's lunch!

Of course my journey towards becoming an Associate did not begin on that day but, I reflected in 1998. Our first visit to Rome, given contact details of a Franciscan convent near St. Peter's. (my first experience of Franciscan hospitality). Visiting a souvenir shop to buy a cross, the only ones available were Tau Cross.

As a Unitarian on retreat at Maryvale, I bumped into Sr. Marie O'Mahoney FMDM, who pops into our family life's journey at intervals. I even shared a flight to Zambia with her! -- Friday 28th 2002 after another unbeknown to me 8 year journey.

I have a beautiful conversion experience in the Mount Alvernia Hospital chapel (then run by the FMDM's) during my first week as an agency nurse. This prompted my yes, to seek admission into the Catholic Church at Easter 2003. An amazing journey, the Lord's great plan saying my "yes" first to become a Catholic then, on an almost parallel journey, saying my "yes" to becoming an Associate in November 2007.