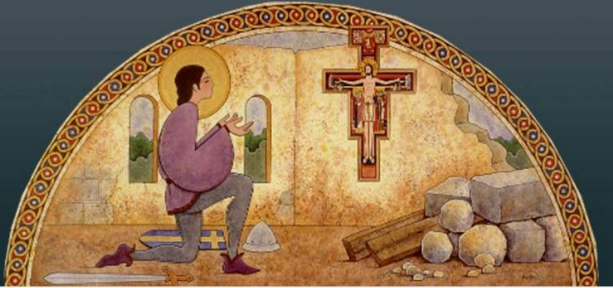


Without one another in fraternity [sisterhood] naming together the *experience of God*, the “external evangelical mission would be silenced.”

Walter Viviani



“We feel very blessed that we were not founded to do anything in particular. St. Francis of Assisi's **call to live the gospel** leaves us free to respond to the signs of the times and the particular situations we find ourselves in.”

Sister Jane Bertelsen—Congregational Leader

Our primary and fundamental ministry is that of being ‘sister’ to one another in community, to the sisters and brothers in our global family and to the whole of creation. In recent years this has become central to our understanding of ourselves as missionaries and how we minister in the many and varied places we find ourselves in.

We feel very blessed that we were not founded to do anything in particular. St. Francis of Assisi's **call to live the gospel** leaves us free to respond to the signs of the times and the particular situations we find ourselves in. That is not to say that in the past we, like most congregations, did not have a particular focus.

For us this was certainly in the medical world – the vast majority of our sisters would have been involved in hospitals or clinics. The **Divine Motherhood** aspect of our title was expressed through many of our sisters being involved in maternity work, children in care or with unmarried mothers and babies. Although such a specific focus would not be evident today, care for women, children and families are very central in many of our ministries.

