



SEVERINO TUMBE CHISANGA

Sr Shirley Mills, an FMDM Sister, once distributed a brief leaflet on the Associates of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood at my Parish one day. I got it and afterwards read a copy. It made an instant spiritual impression on me so much that after a few days of reflection on the contents, I felt the desire to become one and immediately put it on paper and submitted it as required.

It was most humbling when I was one of the six persons to undertake an orientation process that was essentially a reflection on being an Associate of a deeply religious organization, most of whom, if not all, are women and I am the only male. My conviction was, and still is, that we are ALL God's creation, made in His image, and we should adore Him and Him alone. So, I have committed myself to being an Associate and so far my experience has been profoundly enriching and has graciously enhanced my faith.

The reflections and the sharing that I have had so far have helped to raise my consciousness about God's Presence in life even in those instances and situations where I have been gripped with sorrow and grief.

As someone who had celebrated his 70th birthday on Good Friday, 18th April 2014, lost his first wife at the age of 31 and first granddaughter at the age of 16 on Christmas Eve when she had ostensibly come "to celebrate Christmas with you", I draw a lot of strength these days from my belief in God as I celebrate all these occasions, thanks to being an Associate.

Further, being an Associate has drawn me to the Gospel passage "whatever you do to the least of my brothers"...and I constantly pray that this be my regular disposition.

May the Good Lord Bless everyone who spends their time reading this reflection.