



Retreat

17–24 August 2017

FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE DIVINE MOTHERHOOD FMDM Charism



Thirty-three FMDM Sisters from England, Ireland, Rome, Nigeria and Zambia gathered in Ladywell Convent for the **Charism Retreat** on 17-24 August 2017. The retreat was led by Sisters Monica Weedon and Jane Bertelsen.

In **AFRICA**, our young sisters were gathered in **ZAMBIA** who were sharing the **same retreat** led by Sisters Helen Doyle and Helena McEvilly.

This beautiful poster was in the main Chapel throughout the Retreat Week.

The PRAYER SPACE. As FMDMs we have a rich heritage. This was captured in our 'prayer space' - a beautiful display of the many resources we already have – our Franciscan Sources, Rule and Constitutions, Formation programmes, Chapter documents, books by our own sisters on *The Divine Motherhood* (Assumpta Williams FMDM) and *The Motherhood of*



In the centre of the prayer space we had a rolling photo slideshow depicting all our sisters who had gone before us and on whose shoulders we stand today.

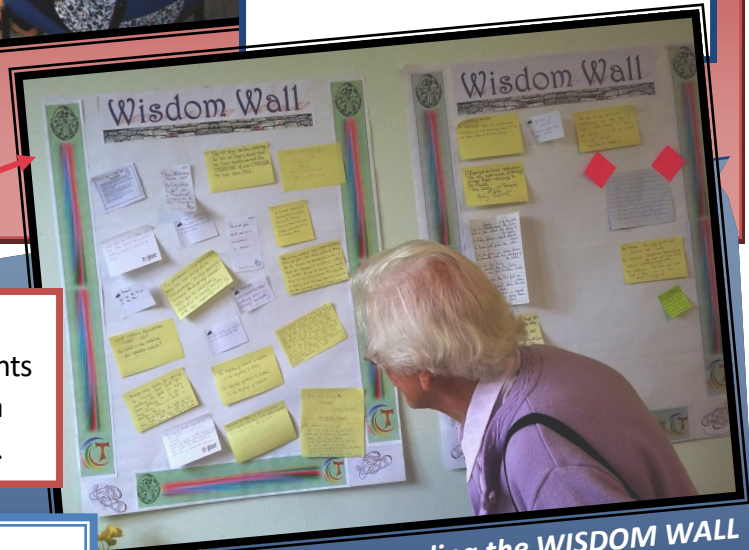


Retreat participants

During the retreat a companionable silence was kept throughout the day as the group explored the richness of our FMDM charism.

The group sharing resonated in each one's heart and this created an energy and a joy of its own.

the
WISDOM WALL



Sister Bridget Veale reading the WISDOM WALL

As this was a 'silent retreat', the sisters were invited to share any thoughts or insights on our Wisdom Wall. This proved to be a source of great *inspiration* for the retreatants.

The retreat took us on a journey through the following themes;

- ◆ **Charism:** Entering the Mystery - God's gift to each of us when we were called
- ◆ Living our Charism through the lens of a deeper understanding of Evolutionary Consciousness.
- ◆ Our Franciscan experience of God.
- ◆ Modelling Fraternity / Fraternitas *and being 'sister' to one another and all of creation*
- ◆ Our gift of Divine Motherhood
- ◆ Living our charism in Mission for our world today.

Some quotes from our Sisters

- ◆ We have a wonderful title —**FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE DIVINE MOTHERHOOD.**
- ◆ I now see our charism in a whole new light!
- ◆ A life-giving experience.
- ◆ A wonderful renewal and deepening of all that we have.

