

THE NEW FMDM SECRETARIAT IN NIGERIA

The FMDM in Nigeria is 70 this year (2020) and what better way to celebrate than to have a secretariat to go with this memorial year. The secretariat named **St Francis Secretariat** was opened on the 29th September 2020, and is located close to our community house at Rantya, State Low-cost, in Jos, Plateau State.



The Eucharistic celebration marking the opening was officiated by the Provincial Superior of the Augustinian Order, Fr. John Abubakar along with Fr. Patrick Sheyi and Fr. Raymond Hickey. Also, in attendance were our Associates and lay partners.



Fr. Abubakar in his homily urged the FMDM community to use the secretariat as a place for healing, reconciliation and all the values that Saint Francis stood for. He expressed joy at the establishment of the secretariat as according to him, it will help the FMDM in Nigeria in its mission. The establishment of St. Francis Secretariat in Nigeria will bring about positive transformation and innovations in the activities of the FMDM sisters in Nigeria.

The secretariat was conceived as a result of fewer number of sisters in Nigeria. The objectives of the secretariat are:

- To coordinate the missionary activities of the sisters
- To lessen the burden of work on Sisters, so that they can concentrate more on the spiritual aspect of their mission.
- For the smooth running of FMDM Nigeria.



Mission statement of FMDM Secretariat

As Franciscan missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM), we are called to proclaim with our lives the joy and freedom of the Gospel in the same spirit of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. Our charism encourages us to conceive, birth, and nurture the life of love in our society. We are one in our mission although our ministries are diverse.

Ethical Values

- **Right Relationship:** lies at the heart of our Franciscan charism. We rejoice in our gift of family, simplicity and joy that permeate our communities, society at large and our life-style.
- **Care for creation:** as Franciscans, we are called to express our love for God through caring for everything that was created by God including our environment just as Saint Francis did.
- **Integrity:** as Franciscans, we are called to cultivate the habit of being honest, showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles.
- **Transparency:** through our activities as Franciscans, people see through us the love of God and love for creation
- **Loyalty:** as Franciscans, we have a strong feeling of love, support, and allegiance to the spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi.
- **Self-motivation:** our self- motivation as Franciscans is what pushes us to go further even when we think we are ready to quit. We are motivated to do what we do, because we love God.
- **Responsible:** as Franciscans, we are accountable and have the moral obligation to behave correctly towards those we come in contact with.

The secretariat also has a management team which coordinates the activities of the secretariat. This secretariat is not like any other secretariat: the focus of Saint Francis secretariat is to bring peace, healing and reconciliation, in response to the need of our society today.

At the Secretariat we have various departments that provides the following services:

- **Project department:** writes projects, implements projects and give reports to at the appropriate time.
- **Human resource/coordinator:** makes sure that FMDM procedures, practices and operations go right on time and on budget.
- **Communication department:** for information dissemination to all concern in sharing our stories and those who are searching with us in a new creative way.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** to monitor, evaluate and report project implementation on specification determined in liaison with authorities to ensure project success.
- **Finance department:** this department keeps financial records of projects and the day to day expenses of the various convent communities in Nigeria.

Other services available at the secretariat

E.Q body work Therapy: This offers therapy for emotional intelligence and aid clients to process their emotions for healthy and positive living.

Counselling: we offer spiritual direction, psycho- spiritual counselling, trauma counselling, group facilitation, vocational discernment to marriage and religious life for young people and marriage counselling.