
HOW DO I SEE MYSELF WITNESSING TO THE TOR CHARISM?

By Sister Monica Weedon FMDM, Australian
Congregational Leadership Team in England
Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood

Recently the words of the following song have come to mean a great deal to myself as a Franciscan sister and to our congregation as a whole as we continue to evolve in our understanding of our charism and mission:

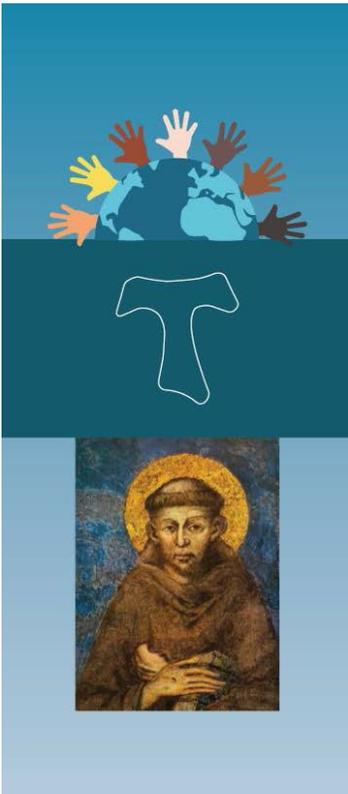
The Presence You Are

It's not what you do, but how you do it.

It's not what you see, but how you see.

*It's not what you say, what you know or achieve,
but it's the Presence, the Presence you are.*

©2006 by Jan Novotka's Music LLC (ASCAP). All rights reserved.



Sister Monica Weedon (1st left)



As we, as a congregation, have explored and discerned what it means to live the Franciscan Evangelical Life through our Third Order Charism, we have come to a much deeper understanding that our primary 'mission' is to be 'sister' to one another and to all creation. The word is not a title or a symbol of prestige or power but is about living in right relationship – about being a presence which radiates the love and joy of the Gospel and which incarnates The Christ Presence here and now.

Giving witness to our Third Order Charism, I believe, does not depend on what I am 'doing', 'achieving' or 'accomplishing' – but on the quality of my presence in whatever community or ministry I am called to at this time.

And if I find my reality is that I am aged, infirmed or not able to participate in 'active' ministry I am still just as much on 'mission' as any other sister if by my presence with others I am bringing the Risen Christ to birth in my particular circumstances.

To live in this spirit of 'right relationship' is a daily challenge to each one of us, it is also a great source of hope as it does not matter whether we as a Congregation are big or small, young or old, vulnerable or strong – we are on mission and witnessing to our Third Order charism by the very nature of our daily living.

My present 'circumstances' find me on our Congregational Leadership team. I can sometimes feel caught up in the hectic day- to-day tasks that come with this role and feel that I am not contributing much at 'grass roots' level. However, if I truly embrace the spirit of mission as being 'sister' and a Christ Presence to all, then I can be confident that I am also witnessing to our beautiful Third Order Charism to observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.