



BECOMING A DISTURBING PRESENCE
IN TODAY'S WORLD:
CHRIST, THROUGH FRANCIS,
CLARE AND... ME!

ASSISI, ITALY
16 - 22 May 2009

IFC-TOR General Assembly

Assisi, 16 – 21 May 2009

*Becoming a Disturbing Presence in Today's World:
Christ, Through Francis, Clare and... ME!*

The Spirit of God has led us, the sisters and brothers of the Third Order Regular, to Assisi where we have gazed together upon the world as we know and experience it today. We are disturbed by the range of social, economic, ecclesial, technological, political and legal challenges as well as those within our religious congregations. We desire to respond to these challenges in faith, walking with Francis and Clare in the footprints of Jesus.

We are called to become a “disturbing presence” in our world today, as Jesus was in his day.

- We will embrace the call to ongoing conversion in our lives.
- We will respond to the marginalized with compassion; we will raise our voices against injustice, inequality, inequity, intolerance and oppression and help the voiceless find their voice.
- We will cross boundaries and undertake prophetic actions.
- We will choose a non-violent response to violence.
- We will seek creative responses to the new expressions of poverty, illness and violence afflicting our world today.

We are called to become a “disturbing presence” in our world today, as Francis and Clare were in their day.

- We will nourish in ourselves and others a life of contemplation in action that acknowledges the primacy of God’s love.
- We will seek new and radical ways of living the Gospel.
- We will promote in our fraternities and within the Franciscan family relationships that en flesh Francis and Clare’s fundamental insight of the interrelatedness of creation.
- We will live our *forma vitae* in a manner that awakens a new ecclesial and social consciousness and fosters dialogue in the midst of diverse cultures, peoples and religions.
- We will embrace our world, extending our reach beyond our planet to the whole cosmos, caring for it to the best of our ability.
- We will adopt a life-style that disturbs ourselves and others from complacency.
- We will seek and promote what is good and life-giving in our world.
- We will remain faithful to Christ’s Church while being a “disturbing presence” within it.

*Praise to you, O God for those who, by their disturbing presence,
respond to your call to rebuild our Church and our world.*