

Franciscan Sisters of Mary Immaculate

- We are a congregation founded by Blessed Mother Caritas Brader
- Dedicated to the apostolates of:
 - Education
 - Missions
 - Social Work
 - Pastoral Work



Blessed Mother Caritas Brader

The Identity of our Congregation is:

To live the love of God and of neighbor
according to the Gospel in:

 Chastity

 Poverty

 Obedience

After the example of St. Francis
of Assisi,



following the example of
the crucified Christ.



In a constant attitude of:

CONVERSION

animated by the spirit of:

■ ***CONTEMPLATION***

■ ***POVERTY and***

■ ***HUMILITY,***

lived in

FRATERNITY



Mother Caritas Brader

A Woman of Our Times



Her motto:

“All for the Love of God and as He wills it!”

Focus of her life:

“To love and to work are a gift for others...”

A Country, a Story, a Woman



- Mother Caritas Brader, in company with 6 other Sisters, arrived in Túquerres, Nariño, Colombia, on March 31, 1893, the date which marks the origin of our Congregation.

Túquerres was made the Motherhouse of the new Congregation, which dedicated its efforts to the integral education of young girls, a labor stretching over 34 years in the region and from there spread its apostolate in various parts of northern and southern Colombia and other countries.



Motherhouse in Tuquerres (1893-1927)



- The Motherhouse and Novitiate was moved from Túquerres to Pasto in 1927.
- Mother Caritas obtained the grace of Perpetual Adoration for the Motherhouse in 1928 and since then, Jesus, in the Eucharist has received the homage of Reparation, Love and Confidence .



Motherhouse and Chapel
Pasto, Colombia,

Father Herbrand: Co-founder and Spiritual Guide

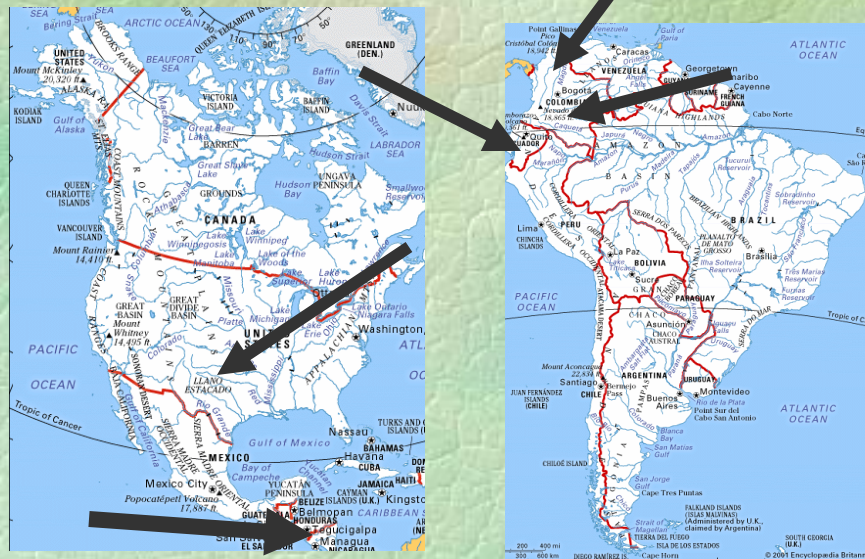
- God gave us a providential gift in Father Reinaldo Herbrand, who guided and affirmed the work of Mother Caritas.
- Originally from Gemund, Germany, he dedicated his apostolate to our Congregation for thirty years, essentially the co-founder.



Division of the Congregation into Provinces

In 1964 the Congregation was divided into Provinces:

- Bogotá
- Pasto
- Central America
- United States
- Switzerland



In 2002, a sixth Province was established in Ecuador and Peru.

Two missions were established in Africa, in Mali and Benín.



History of the Congregation in Amarillo



- In August, 1932, at the request of Bishop Rudolf A. Gerkin, the first bishop of this diocese of Amarillo, six Sisters were sent from Colombia to Amarillo, Texas.
- In September 1932, four more Sisters were sent.
- On February 28, 1933, authorization was granted, permitting the erection of a novitiate.

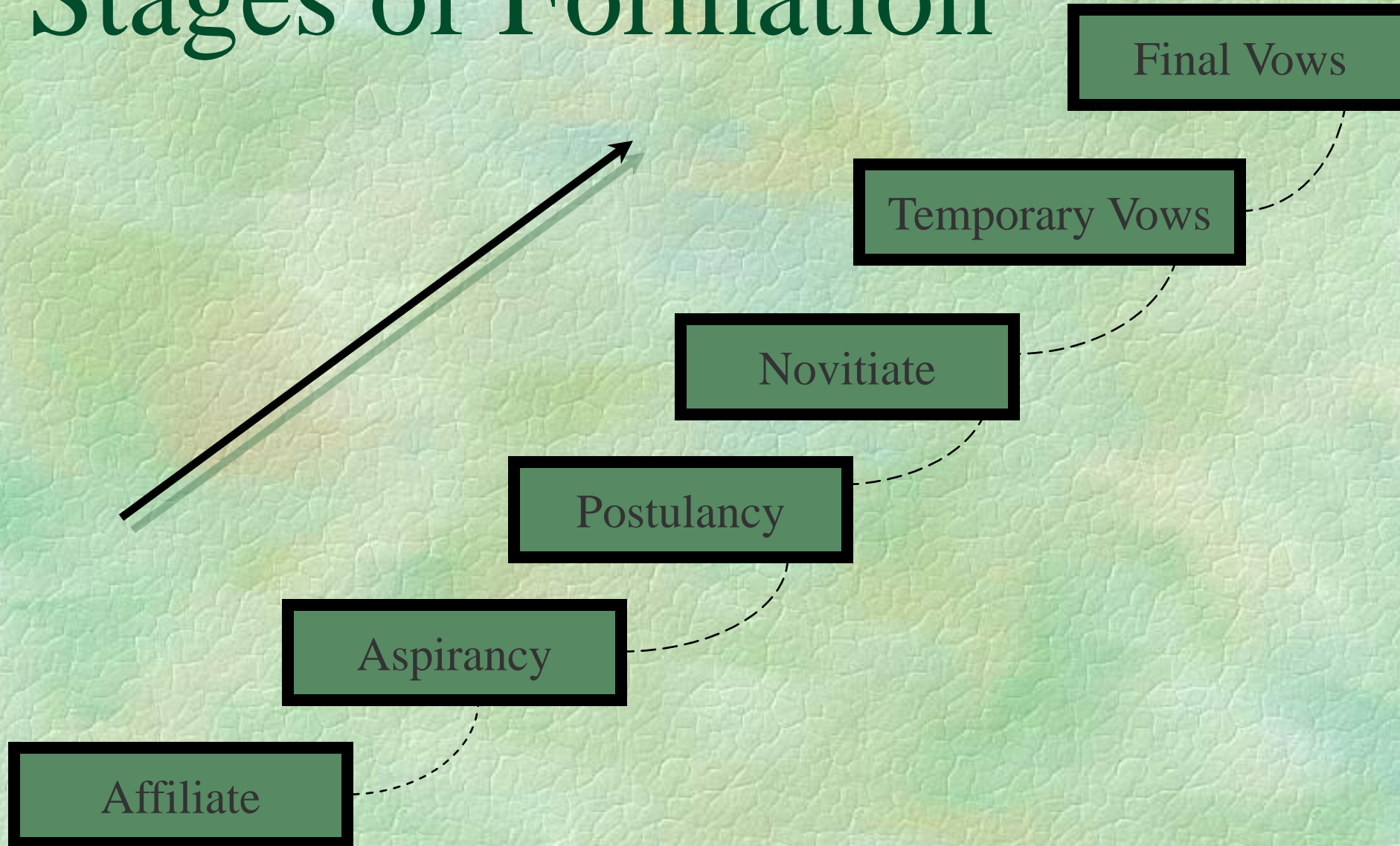


The community in
Amarillo grew and
flourished, establishing
schools and houses in:

The Texas Panhandle
California
New Mexico
Mexico



Stages of Formation



Affiliate

The period of formation in which the candidate will:

- *Clarify vocational choices.*
- *Grow spiritually.*
- *Learn to live in community, and participate in an apostolate.*
- *Live at home while meeting regularly with the vocation directress.*

Affiliate



Aspirancy

The period of formation in which the candidate will:

- *Continue to clarify her vocational choices, specifically her call to be a member of our community.*
- *Begin to learn about different forms of prayer.*
- *Learn the fundamentals of our Franciscan spirituality as lived by Mother Caritas.*
- *Live in community with the vocation directress, and participate in the apostolates of the community.*

Aspirancy



Postulancy

The stage of initial formation in which the candidate continues with her personal and religious formation, living her experience in community.

In this stage the Postulant will come to:

- *Know and integrate her personal history, gifts, potential and weaknesses.*
- *Develop interpersonal skills while living in community. Learn to practice the virtues and skills of mutual support, dialog, respect and joy.*
- *Learn to act responsibly.*
- *Be sensitive to the needs, culture and reality of all people.*

Postulancy

- *In the postulancy, the candidate will come to:*
- *Value her own culture and learn to appreciate the value of other cultures.*
- *Deepen her knowledge of basic Christian concepts and of the Word of God.*
- *Learn and live our Franciscan and Eucharistic spirituality and charism, as lived by Mother Caritas.*
- *Begin to identify with the missionary spirit of Mother Caritas and our Congregation.*
- *Recognize that her vocation is a gift of God, and develop a sense of belonging, committing her self to serving the Church.*

Postulancy



Novitiate

In the novitiate, the candidate will come to:

- *Live the consecrated life which our Congregation offers.*
- *Intensify her experience of God, integrate herself in community life, and practice the evangelical counsels.*
- *Continue with the discernment process, in the light of the Word of God.*
- *Strengthen her sense of belonging to our Congregation.*

Novitiate

In the novitiate, the candidate will come to:

- *Cultivate critical thinking skills, take responsibilities and accept the consequences for her actions, work to make decisions.*
- *Enrich our Franciscan Spirit with her own unique talents, and values of social responsibility, welcoming, mutual and support and friendship.*
- *Strengthen her understanding of the Evangelical Counsels with a solid theological base.*
- *Acquire a missionary conscience and express it in concrete experiences.*

Novitiate



Temporary Vows

- *In this stage the young sister pronounces temporary vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.*
- *In this stage the Sister will:*
 - *Grow in her experience of God.*
 - *Continue to increase her sense of belonging to the community.*
 - *Receive theological and spiritual training to help her adapt to the demands of religious life today.*

Temporary Vows

- *In this stage the Sister will:*
 - *Continue to study about our community and about the Church.*
 - *Achieve a healthy balance between community life, study, and apostolate.*
 - *Assume and live the evangelical counsels as an expression of her consecration.*

Temporary Vows

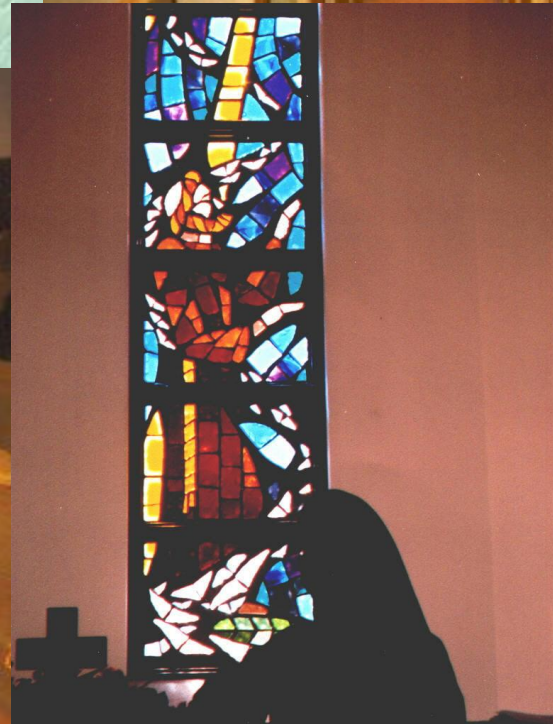


Perpetual Vows

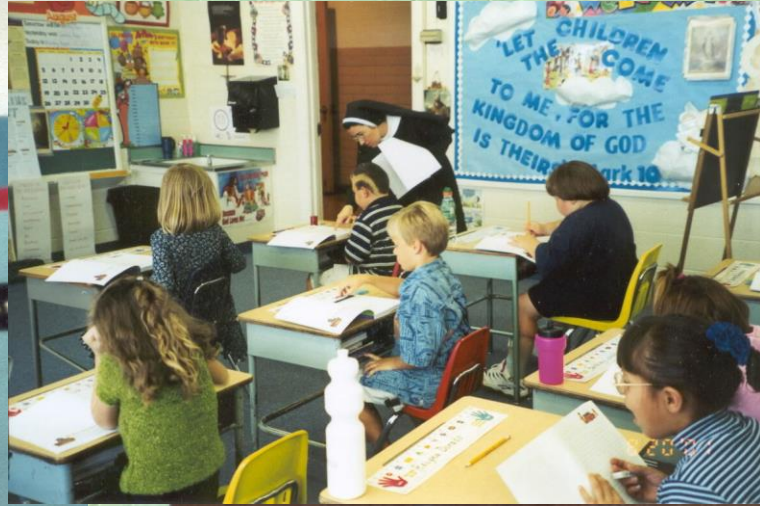
- *In this stage the Sister makes a permanent commitment to God by pronouncing perpetual vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.*



Prayer: the Center of our Life



Education



Mission Work



Retreats

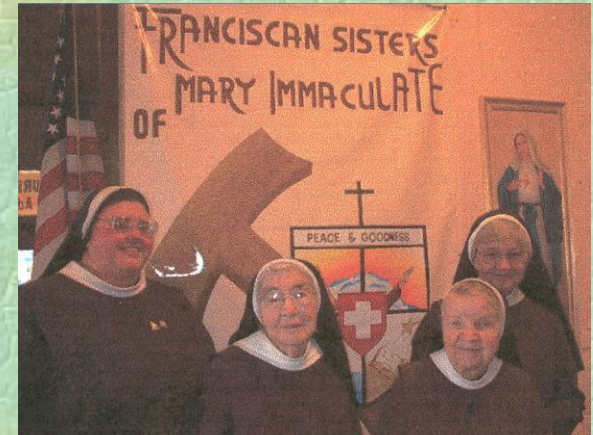


Making hosts



Special Celebrations

Beatification of our Beloved Foundress





Professions and Jubilees

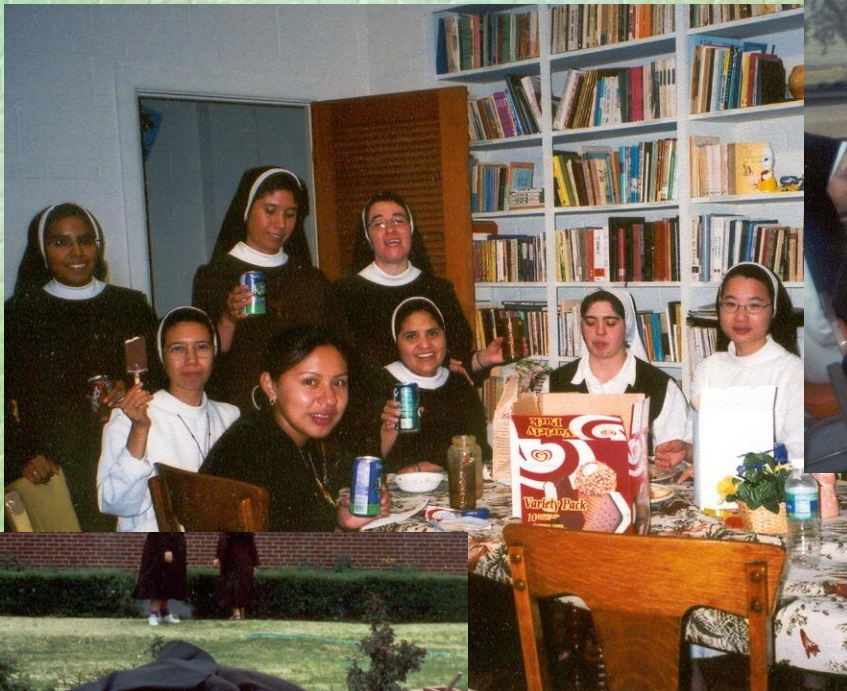
Annual Retreat





Housewarming for Our Chaplain

Recreation





Chores



Are You Interested?

Call our
Vocation Directress:
806-383-5769

Fax:
806-383-6545

Write to:
Vocation Directress
St. Francis Convent
4301 NE 18th Ave
Amarillo, Texas 79107
USA

Website: <http://www.members.cox.net/fsfmi>

E-mail: franomi@peoplepc.com or: francpro@worldnet.att.net