

The New Monasticism

The image of the monk or nun is still powerful in our collective imagination. In continuing faithfulness to this integral part of the church's witness to Christ, people still respond to the call to leave all and follow him. But in our day this response is often taking new and exciting forms that complement the traditional patterns of religious life. This issue of franciscan hears from groups of people committing themselves to follow a simple rule of life, keep a pattern of daily prayer, have a concern for the poor and marginalised, and share a form of extended community. Their experience is surely a sign of the vitality of the church, and of the continuing relevance of the religious life today.