



**Sr Fidelma Archer**

### **What is unique?**

We make annual vows. There is a positive psychology in this as every year is new, like the first time, each year is a new opportunity to say 'yes' to God. We were the very first Society of Apostolic Life.

- Apostolic points immediately to the apostles and the work of Jesus.
- Life points to something that is alive and new.
- Apostolic life is a life lived like Jesus, at the service of others for the sake of God's Kingdom.

We are aware of God in the chapel, at prayer, reading scripture, but we are also aware of God in the people we meet and serve, particularly poor people. This makes our lifestyle a bit different from other religious orders. Not better, just different.

### **What kind of work / ministry do you do?**

I am involved in pastoral ministry within a residential facility for those who are blind or partially sighted. I visit the elderly residents and as well as listening to them and supporting them, I offer hand massage, which is deeply appreciated. For those too ill to come to the chapel for mass I take Holy Communion to them and we pray for all the sick.

### **Do you get paid for the work that you do?**

I receive a small stipend which goes directly to the central fund

### **Why do you live in communities?**

In our life in common I find support and encouragement. Through our prayer times together I am enabled to go out and minister to the people in our care with love and compassion

### **How did you know you were called?**

I worked for 4 years in the civil service where I was very happy and I loved my work. In my spare time I worked with very poor people in Dublin with an organisation called the Legion of Mary. Even though I was quite content in my work I felt drawn to the Daughters of Charity because of all the various types of social work that they were involved in