

**IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022**  
**Reflection and Discussion for Associates #1**  
*Being the Presence of Love to One Another*



**IHM Direction Statement**

We, Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Associates, rooted in God and the Gospel, search for prophetic ways to live our vowed and committed life in a world hungering for justice and meaning. We steep ourselves in prayer and contemplation, delve deeply into our brokenness and shadow, and embrace our giftedness and vulnerability, as we share in a life of radical interdependence. On fire with the passion to love unconditionally, we desire to be in the midst of the pain of our world and join with others in seeing and being the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts. We use imagination, creativity, and fresh thinking to bring about God's dream for our beautiful, yet wounded world.

Our IHM Direction Statement presents numerous challenges. It calls us to enter into present realities and future hopes together as we embrace and embody God's redeeming love in fulfilling the mission of Jesus and IHM.

*“We commit to building relationships with love, trust and forgiveness in which we assume and draw forth the best of one another.”*

**Song: *I Am For You***

<https://youtu.be/0cMxLCOmwMw>

**Read - Pray - Reflect on these Scripture passages.**

The following Scripture passages show how disciples of Jesus's day listened and followed.

**Martha and Mary - Luke 10: 38-42**

As they continued their journey, he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.” The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

*Martha was busy. Mary listened. How can both doing and being respond to Jesus' call to discipleship?*

**Conditions of Discipleship – Mark 8: 34-35**

He summoned the crowds with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

*There is a cost to discipleship. What most challenges me today?*

### **Poor Widow's Contribution – Mark 12: 41- 44**

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

*Often responsibilities in family can drain creativity and resources. When this happens, how can you continue the journey of discipleship?*

### **Healing of Blind Men – Matthew 20: 29-34**

As they left Jericho, a great crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, "[Lord,] Son of David, have pity on us!" The crowd warned them to be silent, but they called out all the more, "Lord, Son of David, have pity on us!" Jesus stopped and called them and said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They answered him, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." Moved with pity, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

*Prayer is essential to discipleship. What challenges me? What affirms me? What provides encouragement?*

### ***Attuning to the Spirit:***

*In what ways do these Scripture passages speak to your heart and spirit about how they can apply to your encounters of "Being the Presence of Love to One Another"?*

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**Our Direction Statement assists us in being disciples today by listening and following Jesus as we seek to understand the importance of being the presence of love to one another.**

It's easy to love, trust and forgive those who do the same for us. It is difficult when we encounter diversity in thinking and living; or, when we encounter others who are dealing with feelings of loneliness, rejection or helplessness. This IHM commitment involves risk-taking and moving beyond our comfort zone.

### ***Reflect and Share:***

- *How have my relationships blessed me with love, trust and forgiveness?*
- *How do I lovingly respond to those who are different and difficult?*

### **Sending Forth**

Our prayers become life-giving to others when we open our hearts to God's grace and transformation. Let us strive to interact authentically and honestly with others, respecting diverse opinions.

**Song: *You're the Only Jesus***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDDgv7nOS8o>