

**IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022**  
**Reflection and Discussion for Associates #8**  
*Join With Others*



**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 urges us to join with others in bringing light to our world. Drawn by our charism, we are blessed in embracing St. Alphonsus’ thrust of following in the footsteps of Jesus’ redeeming love with Mary as our model.

**“We can find great richness in accompanying others together. We touch the lives of those who are alone, abandoned, poor, hungry. We feel compassion and concern for immigrants. We shed tears for those losing all in fires and hurricanes. We listen with great empathy for the sexually abused.”**

**Song: *Be Born In Me***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsXOP7aQeqQ&feature=youtu.be>

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

The following Scripture passages tell of Jesus as He joined with others and then encouraged others to do likewise.

**Jesus’ Prayer for His Disciples - John 17:17,20**

“Jesus said, ‘Father, consecrate them in the truth...As you sent me into the world, so I send them into the world...I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.’”

**Jesus blessed the disciples and us. He gave us His Word to share with others.**

**What blocks you from taking advantage of opportunities to continue to grow in appreciation and knowledge of the Gospel message? Share a time that you felt affirmed in being sent forth.**

**Jesus Heals the Paralytic – Mark 2:3-5**

“They came bringing a paralytic carried by four men...they opened up the roof...let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

**Jesus blesses our faith and helps others. Are there times when your faith or that of a group brought healing to others? Name some ways that unconditional love can bring light to darkness.**

## **The Wedding Feast –John 2:3-5**

“When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, how does your concern affect me?’ ...His mother said to the waiters, ‘Do whatever He tells you.’”

**Often we cannot provide the necessary assistance to another by ourselves. It is necessary to reach out to others.**

**What were some circumstances in your life that it was necessary to reach out to others for the assistance you were unable to give?**

**What role does faith and confidence play in these circumstances?**

## **The Presence of Jesus - Matthew 18:20**

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’”

**Jesus is never far from us when we gather as companions, either to strengthen our own relationship with Him, or to bring light to others.**

**Share a time when Jesus’ Presence was felt profoundly as you gathered together. Identify the importance of faithfulness to prayer as we “join with others”.**

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

***In what ways do these Scripture passages speak to your heart and spirit in ways to “join with others”?***

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**Our Direction Statement helps us focus on Jesus’ redeeming love. Joining with others makes our commitment to be the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts a lived reality.**

Our “joining” may not be physical but always our hearts are there. Perhaps our present situation is comfortable and safe but our sincere desire to join others can place us in their midst. Finding ourselves as one with others in God’s beautiful world is blessing indeed. Together we form relationships whether tangible or in spirit.

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

- ***How has Associate relationship assisted you in broadening your concept of community?***
- ***How can “join with others” be expanded from your Associate Group to other Associate Groups? To your neighborhood?***

## **Sending Forth**

Go forth to discover the blessing and grace and gift of joining others in being the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts.

**Song: *One Day at a Time***

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBnZ8bmEOTM&list=RDmN70R-3ao0U&index=10>**

Source: Heart of Spirit Weekly Blog – Sr. Nancy Elder IHM