

IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022
Reflection and Discussion for Associates #6
On Fire with the Passion to Love Unconditionally



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 reminds us to be like Theresa Maxis and hold onto that flame that is often shown in her picture. It reflects the fire of her passion to love as Jesus did when she carried out her mission.

“St. Paul reminded us that Jesus came to set the world on fire with flames of LOVE, the kind that embraces not just those close to us but all of humanity. Throughout His life, Jesus taught and healed and reached out and looked tenderly into the eyes of others. He fed the crowds with bread and fish as well as with God’s Word that brought comfort and peace and forgiveness.”

Song: *Mary Did You Know*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN70R-3ao0U>

Read - Pray - Reflect on these Scripture passages.

The following Scripture passages speak to our heart and spirit as we consider examples of the passionate love of Jesus and of a disciple. Let us reflect and share how we can do likewise.

Jesus: A Cause of Division - Luke 12:49

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”

Jesus came to set the earth on fire with the flame of his unconditional love for all.

That was his desire, but many people could not accept him.

When are you “on fire” in trying to love people unconditionally as Jesus did? Share examples of acceptance and rejection.

Jesus Leaves Capernaum - Mark 1: 38

He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

Jesus often expressed his unconditional love through preaching. He was creative and passionate in teaching numerous people in many towns.

When, where, how, to whom do you try to “preach” the message of Jesus?

The Samaritan Woman - John 4:39

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman* who testified, “He told me everything I have done.”

Jesus engaged in a lengthy conversation with an alienated woman. Through this encounter honesty, compassion and conversion occurred. Through this encounter, the woman returned to her people with a passion to proclaim the unconditional love of Jesus.

To whom do you share God’s unconditional love with a passion?

Commissioning of the Disciples - Matthew 28: 19-20

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

These final words of Jesus: Go - make disciples - baptize - teach – each speak of his passionate, unconditional love for all people. He also reminds us of his on-going presence with us.

In what ways do you strive to carry out some aspect of this mandate?

Attuning to the Spirit:

As you reflected and shared insights about passionate love, perhaps Jesus provided a helpful example. His Presence was filled with the kind of hope that calmed and challenged others to ponder and renew their lives. His passion was contagious!

Our Direction Statement assists us in being disciples of Jesus who are called to this passionate love that touches the lives of all we meet.

It is easy to make choices of those who are recipients of our smile or our morning greeting. Likewise, it is part of our humanity to ignore or perhaps be too busy. We can convince ourselves that our opinion is of value and then perhaps speak in a way that can be defensive or full of anger or superiority. Speaking and acting with the on-fire passion of Jesus is a challenge worth striving to acquire. Doing so with unconditional love is a blessing indeed.

Reflect and Share:

- *Times this week when your words or actions reflect your passion of imitating Jesus.*
- *When have you been “on fire with the passion to love someone unconditionally?”*

Sending Forth

Praise and thank God for the life of Jesus living and burning within you!

Song: *The Summons*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0aAkOe87mo>

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