

IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022
Reflection and Discussion for Associates #11
We Use... Creativity... To Bring About God's Dream
For Our Beautiful, Yet Wounded World



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 many challenges. Through it we are encouraged to use our imagination to bring about God's dream for our world. With God by our side, there is no stumbling block too difficult, no obstacle too great, no negative or challenging response from others too hard.

"Creativity is a gift! Its use allows us to grow as an individual in all realms and to do so in a way that honors God and strengthens the lives of others."

Song: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RERoQ1biLdE>

Read - Pray - Reflect on these Scripture passages.

The following Scripture passages allows us the opportunity to explore God's creative gifts to each as individuals and as God's own. Our uniqueness ignites the fire of God's love everywhere and offers the possibility for God's dream for the world to become a reality.

The Visit of the Magi– Matthew 2:11

"On entering the house they (the Magi) saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

The Magi offered gifts to Jesus that identified Him as King. Our gifts identify us as God's own and as unique.

Explore the ways that your gifts make you YOU. How are you creative in using these gifts? Identify a time when your unique gift made a contribution to a project or event that was singular to you.

Jesus Grows Up At Home – Luke 2:52

"And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

Jesus was very attentive to the direction of His parents. They knew His gifts, His creativity and nurtured it as he grew physically, mentally and spiritually.

Our gifts and creativity are strengthened by influential people in our lives. In reflecting on others who affirmed and nurtured you, in what ways did you begin to experiment using your uniqueness. As you look back on your life, can you identify times that your creativity took you “outside the box”?

The Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:29

“For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

God’s gifts to us are more than can be imagined. Each gift is given to be used for the good of God’s creation.

What might our world look like if everyone used the gifts given by God to the fullest? Are there situations or projects that need your voice? How can you make yourself heard?

The Mission of the Twelve –Matthew 10:8

“Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give.”

Jesus gave the Twelve special gifts to be used and shared. There was to be no holding back.

Our insecurities or personalities may at times hold us back from using our gifts and creativity. Jesus told the Twelve that was not an option and the same is true for us.

If either fear or lack of courage holds you back, what are some ways to gather the courage needed to use God’s gifts. Who could use your gifts today in order to grow as God intended?

Attuning to the Spirit:

In what ways do these Scripture passages speak to your heart and spirit igniting your sense of creativity as you follow Jesus as disciple?

Our Direction Statement is strong in naming creativity as a means of bringing about God’s dream for our world. It enables our individuality to develop in a way that honors God and strengthens the lives of others.

Our contribution to the world in which we live may differ from that of others. Our care for the earth, our dedication to recycling, our intentional desire to consume only what we need, our daily smiles and greetings and graceful demeanor – each can lighten our corner of the world.

Reflect and Share:

- *What “darkens” the spaces around you? How can your creativity bring a spark of light?*
- *In what ways can IHM Associates work together to encourage one another to use creativity and giftedness to bring about God’s dream for our beautiful yet wounded world?*

Sending Forth

Go forth in creativity to bring a spark of light to everyone, to wipe a tear, to cheer a droopy spirit, to verbalize, “May God bless your day!”.

Song: *Here I Am to Worship*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Pj2P8Bn5WI>

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