

IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022
Reflection and Discussion for Associates #12
Use...Fresh Thinking...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 numerous challenges. We strive to envision what God's dream for our beautiful, yet wounded world would look like. As we consider global, local and personal possibilities, it can seem overwhelming. Yet these possibilities can take shape as God's dream unfolds when we approach this task with "fresh thinking".

"What a delight to have a conversation with someone with new ideas or a different way of looking at things. What a blessing to look at the world all around and to wonder. A blessing as well to dream beyond the rules and ordinary parameters and explore possibilities.

Mother Theresa Maxis did that. She went above and beyond what the structure of the day dictated. She was so dedicated to being a disciple, to sharing the Good News. No obstacle could prevent her from living and spreading the Gospel."

Song: Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

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

Read - Pray - Reflect on these Scripture passages.

The following Scripture passages provide some insight about "fresh thinking" as we become rooted in the Gospel. Allow the Spirit to guide you as you ponder words and actions that indicate new ways of discovering something different.

John the Baptist - Matthew 3:11

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me...He "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire".

John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of the Savior. Jesus came to ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit within us.

When have you been "on fire" in trying to promote God's kingdom as Jesus did? How have you paved the way for others to live their baptismal faith in today's world? Who has done that for you?

Blind Man - Mark 8:22-25

"He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, "Do you see anything?" Looking up he replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking." He laid his hands on him a second time and he saw clearly."

Jesus used a slow, messy process to heal the blind man. Fresh thinking can often be difficult and time-consuming in order to be perceived clearly. Patience and faith are often needed.

What “fresh thinking” or new ways of doing something have you experienced as a result of a slow and difficult process?

New Cloak, New Wine - Luke 5: 36-38

“No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one.... Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. New wine must be poured into fresh wineskins.”

Jesus taught in parables, using examples the people could relate to in order to present new ideas or lessons. The cloak and wine are examples.

How can you relate to this parable in relation to our world, church or personal endeavor?

Washing of Feet -John 13: 12-15

“When he had washed their feet....He said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master’...for indeed I am. If I therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow.”

At the Last Supper Jesus broke tradition and taught his disciples, and all of us a lesson in humility and service. He did this by his example, not by preaching.

How do you engage in outreach and service to others? What have you learned from putting this aspect of your faith into action?

Attuning to the Spirit:

As you reflected on these “fresh-thinking” Scripture quotes and questions, what new insights have you received? We are never too old or set in our ways to limit God’s on-going dream for our world, near and far. What “fresh thinking” are you trying to embrace at this time in your life?

Our Direction Statement calls us to “search - steep - delve - embrace - desire - use imagination, creativity and fresh thinking to bring about the changes that are needed in our beautiful, wounded world. It can seem overwhelming for us as individuals, but fresh thinking can be possible when we embrace it together.

Perhaps this is a good time to ponder like Mary, the first disciple. We could also dream like Theresa Maxis, as she struggled and rejoiced in the founding of the IHM’s. If they were present with us today, what would they say? What would they do? What would they encourage?”

Reflect and Share:

- *Times when you thought of a new idea and received affirmation from others.*
- *What is currently within your realm of responsibility that is in need of fresh thinking?*

Sending Forth

Ask the Spirit to be with you as you strive to use “fresh thinking” in order to make a difference in our beautiful, yet wounded world.

Song: Canticle of the Sun

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IE_Ei6JRI1o