

IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022
Reflection and Discussion for Associates #5
We Share in a Life of Radical Interdependence.



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 share our lives with all of creation. None of us comes into the world alone. With God’s grace and protection and the love of others we live our lives in relationship.

“When we are nurtured by our faith we come to realize how all that we are and do is a part of all that God created. All deserves our care and respect, our acknowledgment and consideration whether near or far.”

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 of our dependence on all that God created. In giving our first parents the responsibility for all God made, God gave it to us. Reflect on ways to “share a life of radical interdependence”.

God’s Request for All of Creation - Genesis 1: 28

“God blessed them saying: ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth.’”

At creation, God gave man responsibility for all God had made.

In what ways have men and women failed God’s request to care for the earth and all creation?

How would you describe our lack of interdependence?

Jesus Welcomes All – Mark 9:38-39

“John said to Jesus: ‘Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us.’ Jesus replied, ‘Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.’”

God’s family is open to all and no one or any of creation ought to be separated. All are welcomed. It can be difficult to understand the breadth and depth of God’s creation and to act in a way that recognizes God in everyone, everything and everywhere.

**In what ways does creation foster unity and reliance on God and each other?
How do you live this interdependence?**

Giving of Gifts –1Peter 4:10

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied gifts.”
Our gifts are given to serve others. Together we can grow and expand God’s Kingdom as we care for the earth, all of creation and one another.

When have you experienced times when gifts were shared and amazing things happened?

Reaching Out - Matthew 9:37-38

“Jesus said to His disciples: ‘The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few, so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.’”

Prayer is essential for interdependence. Letting go and allowing God to do what God does best is also essential.

Think of a time when you have gathered together a diverse group of people to accomplish a task. What were your feelings as you “let go”?

How did allowing others outside your comfort zone bring richness to the task at hand?

Attuning to the Spirit:

In what ways do these Scripture passages speak to your heart and spirit of ways to BE and encounter others to share “as life of radical interdependence”?

Our Direction Statement assists us in being attentive and responsible to following God’s demand that we care for all of creation through radical interdependence.

Our world today is filled with examples of injustice and lack of proper caring. We hear daily of the actions of imprudence along with inappropriate use of words. Rather than loving God’s creations, they are taken for granted and perhaps viewed as personal possessions. We are in need of a deepening awareness of our connection to all that is from God.

Reflect and Share:

- ***How has your concept of creation defined interdependence for you?***
- ***How can radical interdependence change and enrich your ways of doing and giving and being?***

Sending Forth

Our prayers and works become life-giving to all of creation when we open our hearts to God's Presence in everyone, everything and everywhere. Let us strive to look, see and interact authentically and honestly with all.

Song: *One Pair of Hands*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjT-r2wUo8o&list=RDmN70R-3ao0U&index=5>