

**IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022**  
**Reflection and Discussion for Associates #10**  
***We Use... Imagination... 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.

***“Our imagination can take us places where God is waiting to join with us. There is no imagining too small if it leads to God's dream, to God's plan, to the heart of God. An encounter that provides listening, a caring hand that holds another, gentle words that bring comfort – each can bring faith and hope to ourselves and others.”***

**Song: *Holy Is His Name***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TEL\\_7TS5FE&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TEL_7TS5FE&feature=youtu.be)

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

The following Scripture passages explore Jesus' use of imagination to heal, to comfort, to teach. Jesus invites us to join Him in our own imagination to be present, to hear, to share.

**Mary Prays Her Magnificat– Luke 1:51-53**

“Mary said, ‘He has shown might with His arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart...thrown down rulers from their thrones and lifted the lowly. The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich He has sent away empty.’”

***Mary imagines a world where ALL believe and live the words and actions of Jesus.***

***What are some obstacles to allowing Mary's imagination to take root in your family, your workplace, your neighborhood? Who most needs your gifts and imagination to be shared?***

**Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind – John 9:1,6-7**

“Jesus saw a man born blind from birth...He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva and smeared the clay on his eyes. He said, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam.” So he went and washed and came back able to see.”

***Jesus used what was at hand - the dirt of the earth, spittle and water to bring sight to the blind man.***

*Often our imagination can lead us to use the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. Name a time when a simple solution solved a big problem. Give examples of people who are never stumped by the impossible.*

### **The Strength of St. Paul –Philippians 4:13**

“I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.”

*We may feel at times that our imaginative energy has dried up. We may not be able to think in new ways. St. Paul tells us that God’s help is always near at hand.*

*Describe some times when the fruit of your prayer was overwhelming as you found God by your side. What are ways to pray with greater confidence in the creative imagination that God has given as gift?*

### **King David Gives the Throne to Solomon – 1Chronicles 28:9**

“As for you, Solomon, my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a perfect heart and willing soul, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the mind’s thoughts. If you seek him, he will let himself be found by you.”

*God will never leave us alone in our imaginings. He accompanies us in our desire to use our gifts to the fullest.*

*Who are people in your midst who provide encouragement and assist you in imagining something new? How does their encouragement remind you of the Presence of God?*

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

*In what ways do these Scripture passages speak to your heart and spirit about the use of imagination in companioning others?*

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**Our Direction Statement encourages a focus on the power of our imagination. Sister Theresa Maxis and Father Louis Gillet imagined a religious congregation devoted to Mary and centered on the redeeming love of Jesus.**

How can we as followers of Theresa Maxis and Louis Gillet not imagine as well? How can we listen to the nightly news, hear conversations in our local circles, see the obvious needs around us, and not imagine what could be?

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

- *What is possible in your own realm of Associate relationship to address obvious needs?*
- *Imagine the future of IHM Associate relationship in keeping the dream of Theresa and Louis alive. Share your imaginings.*

### **Sending Forth**

Go forth to imagine a world today where the vision of Theresa and Louis is lived in a new and dynamic way through your IHM Association.

**Song: *Our God is An Awesome God***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PP9BjKnDaFk>

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