

IHM COMMITMENT

Each year the IHM Sisters renew their vows and Associates renew their commitment. Perhaps, at some time during November, it may be beneficial to gather together to celebrate our IHM Discipleship. We could do this to commemorate our IHM heritage, begun by Theresa Maxis and Louis Gillet. Below are the Renewal of Vows, Purpose of the Associate Program and a version of the Associate Re-Commitment that may be worth pondering and sharing.

Renewal of Vows - Sisters of IHM



“At my profession I made a lifelong commitment to this IHM community of disciples. Together we search for prophetic ways to live our vowed life in a world hungering for justice and meaning. Our lives are rooted in God and in the gospel and steeped in prayer and contemplation. We constantly search for ever deeper and more meaningful ways to live our vowed life. We desire to encourage others to join us in proclaiming God’s universal, redeeming love for the beautiful, yet wounded, world and its people.”

1. Return of the Twelve & Feeding of the Five Thousand

- Luke 9: 10-17

When the apostles returned, they explained to him what they had done. He took them and withdrew in private to a town called Bethsaida. The crowds, meanwhile, learned of this and followed him. He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured. As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, “Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here.”

He said to them, “Give them some food yourselves.” They replied, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people.” Now the men there numbered about five thousand. Then he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of [about] fifty.” They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.

- *What word, phrase, or insight struck you in this passage?*
- *How does this passage relate to the mission of IHM Sisters today?*
- *In what ways do you see Associates sharing in this mission?*
- *How is our Charism or Core Values evident in this passage?*
- *In what ways are you fed by disciples, or do you feed others as disciples?*

2. Vine and Branches John 15: 1-5

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

- *What word, phrase, or insight struck you in this passage?*
- *What message does this passage have for IHM Sisters and Associates today?*
- *What kind of fruit are Sisters and Associates bearing today?*
- *What part of the vine is not bearing fruit?*

3. Words of Mother Theresa Maxis

“A vine you transplanted, O Lord...You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. How incomprehensible are the ways of God. How great the power of prayer.”

- *Mother Theresa was “transplanted” in many ways and places during her lifetime. Where and how is the IHM vine being transplanted in our beautiful, yet wounded world and its people.*
- *What would Mother Theresa say to us about the IHM Associates?*



Commissioning - IHM Associates

As a response to Jesus' call to follow him as a disciple, we commit to unite with the Sisters of IHM. We desire to embrace the challenges of their Mission, Charism and Core Values. We are grateful for the opportunity to experience community, prayer, faith sharing and service as, together, we seek to re-create the face of the earth.

4. First Disciples

John 1: 37-39

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see."

- *What word, phrase, or insight struck you in this passage?*
- *As a disciple, how would you answer Jesus' question today as an individual disciple?*
- *How would you answer it as a member of the IHM community of disciples?*
- *What have you discovered, as an IHM Associate, in response to "Come, and you will see"?*

5. The New Commandment

John 13: 34-35 - John 15: 16

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

- *What word, phrase, or insight struck you in this passage?*
- *In what ways have you experienced and shared the discipleship love Jesus described as an Associate?*
- *What kind of love was Jesus referring to in reference to himself?*
- *As an Associate, in what ways were you "chosen" to go and bear fruit as a member of a community of disciples?*
- *What have you asked for and received from the Father?*

Challenges of IHM & Associate Discipleship

As we continue to walk the path of discipleship as IHM Sisters and Associates, may we discern and develop this unique relationship. We hope to keep exploring ways to encounter one another in community and share our prayer and faith together. We value opportunities to engage in service for those in need. As we age and withdraw from places where we have been able to connect with each other, may we use our “imagination, creativity and fresh thinking” to bring about God’s dream for our beautiful, yet wounded world. May our lives continue to be rooted in God and the gospel, as we encourage one another to proclaim the redeeming love of Jesus, and embrace Mary, our model and first disciple.

