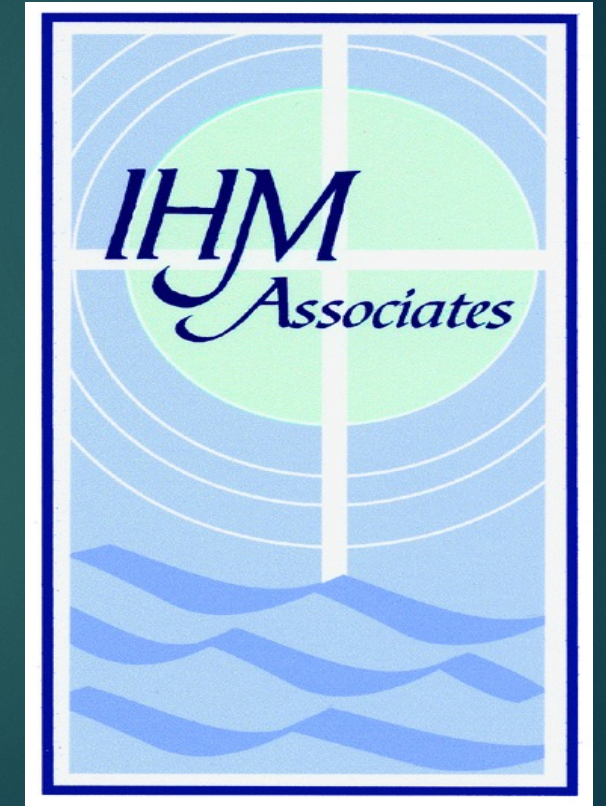


LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

with Sister Ann Parker, IHM



Living as Missionary Disciples

Resource for Evangelization USCCB 2017

Developed in response to Pope Francis “Joy of the Gospel” – effort to move Church mindset of: **MAINTENANCE to MISSION**

FOCUS: How the faith community can lead & engage people in the call to witness and discipleship. *“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,”* John 15:16

Challenge to all the baptized to move beyond a dull/mechanical way of living our faith to open the doors of our lives and go out in search of others to bring them the joy of our faith in Christ.

Begins with on-going renewal and exploring ways we live our faith in today’s world.

ALL the BAPTIZED are called to evangelize! Live out the mandate to **“keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.”**

ASCENSIONCHALLENGE: “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe that I have commanded you. And, behold I am with you always, until the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

MAKE DISCIPLES - HOW???

New Evangelization – a call to a deeper encounter with Christ

Gospel Accounts – consider how Jesus initiated formation of disciples

Bartimaeus – Zacchaeus – Mary Magdalene – Boy with loaves

Missionary Disciples – foreign countries as well as outreach in daily encounters with other.

DIMENSIONS OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

1. *ENCOUNTER* - Prayer – Sacraments – Scripture – Awareness of Real Presence, etc.)

a moving knowledge of faith to a heart relationship; desire to follow and experience God's on-going presence in our lives and a desire to encounter Him in the people and events in our lives. E.g. Woman at the Well

2. *ACCOMPANY* - Missionary disciples called to:

announce the Gospel in Word & deed

to love & respect all people in a way that invites others to explore a deeper relationship with Christ

Ways to accompany others (esp. those struggling) – slow down – see – listen – be present – walk with those in difficult situations – help them take gradual steps (often back to the faith)

Disciples need one another to share benefits & graces of encountering Jesus. Need to know they will be trusted, accepted, and supported when sharing joys, sorrows and struggles. (Associates in Circles of Grace)

3. COMMUNITY

Embarking on our mission in today's world TOGETHER – community brought together by work of Holy Spirit – variety of gifts – UNITY IHM Sisters & Associates – working, praying, sharing with each other.

4. SEND

Evangelization leads disciples to accept God's desire to send them on mission. It is carried out in different ways, depending on one's vocation.

Calls for personal involvement of the baptized. Mass (Word & Eucharist)
Dismissal Rite “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.”

Church needs fire in her heart – words on her lips – prophecy in her outlook.

Scriptural Reflection on Missionary Discipleship

Parable of the Sower Mt 13:3-8

Highlights importance of tending and nourishing the soil in which the seeds of discipleship are to be planted. Each person receives God's Word differently. As disciples, we need to be attentive to needs of those to whom we minister.

Prayer & reflection should accompany our outreach efforts in order to ensure that the soil receives nourishment for the seeds of discipleship to bear fruit in today's world.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you experience and share your “encounter” relationship with Jesus?

2. In what ways are you “accompanied” on your faith journey?
Who accompanies you? How do you accompany others?

3. In what ways and with whom do you feel the support of “community” in your efforts to live as a Missionary Disciple?

4. What are the areas of missionary discipleship that you feel are the most challenging? In what ways? Which are the most enriching?

ADDITIONAL INPUT - IHM DISCIPLESHIP

MISSION – Our mission is to follow Jesus as a community of disciples...aware that we are sent to be a clear and understandable prophetic witness to the presence of God in the world.

CHARISM – We embrace Mary, the first disciple as our model of a life rooted in God.

CORE VALUE – Embracing a spirituality of discipleship and intimacy with God nourished and sustained by Eucharist.

RENEWAL OF VOWS – At my profession, I made a lifelong commitment to this IHM community of disciples.

AMEN.

IHM DIRECTION STATEMENT 2022-2026

“JOURNEYING TOGETHER...

LET THIS BE THE TIME WE COMMIT TO:

LIVING BOLDLY THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP.”

