



BP 1: Prayerful Loving Relationships within, among and beyond [God, Self, Others, All Creation]

Essence Statement

Sisters desire to discover ways that will enable them to deepen their prayer and live in a manner that is reverent and loving with other sisters. The sisters express a yearning to be messengers of God's love and presence to one another, living religious life with greater intentionality. These desires suggest that God is inviting IHM Sisters at this time to enter into a deeper friendship with a promise that this friendship will permeate the different aspects of life. By faithfully reflecting this intimacy, God's presence will be brought into our places of ministry, the needs of the Church will be addressed, and new members will be attracted to the heritage we claim.

We will strive to do this as we

- Go deeper in prayer by adopting contemplation as a way of life emanating from fidelity to personal and communal prayer from which flows sacred sharing, enriched community life, and vibrant ministry.
- Appreciate the richness associated with our diversity of gifts and lived history so that each sister experiences a sense of being valued, and community living will be life-giving for each Sister;
- Embrace the future without fear believing in the manifested, providential unfolding of God's plan acquired through contemplation, rooted in the consecrated life, and strengthened by the mutual support of each member;
- Engage in deep, honest, open dialogue about the future of the community and its role in the Church and the world by communicating and collaborating in direction-setting at the congregational and local levels;
- Invite and welcome more women to join us in the mission of creative, faith-filled and joyful service to the Gospel;
- Grow in an intense awareness of each aspect of our lives-prayer life, community life, and our ministries-encouraging and supporting each member to rekindle her sense of loyalty to the congregation and to renew her spirit of mission, her full participation, and her vibrant ministry;
- Make choices that move us to greater consciousness of our responsibility to stand as witnesses to peace, to be ambassadors of respect for all God's creation, and to teach as responsive servants of Gospel values in the world.