



## **Big Picture #2 – Responsible Membership**

### **Essence Statement**

God's Providence continues to create local communities that revitalize and respond to the mission of the Church. As a community we are invited to a prayerful presence that will foster support, care, and concern for our sisters and inspire us to take part in shared leadership. As women religious, we deepen our relationship with one another as we live the vows. Through Gospel values and our IHM charism we choose to strengthen our local community life which in turn gives blessing to the larger community. Out of this belief and fortified with the trust that God's grace is enough for us in our uncertain times, we treasure our life in common, and serve as faithful witnesses.

This belief calls us to:

- Reflect together as a local community on the meaning of responsible membership in our daily living.
- Prioritize personal presence, build positive relationships and develop communication skills that foster honesty and respectful dialogue.
- Be a peaceful presence in our interactions with each other, that we may be joyful witnesses as we love, forgive, and support one another.
- Participate openly and honestly in community faith sharing and daily conversations while actively listening to sisters. Address conflicts if they arise in a spirit of charity. Regularly discuss congregational communications to help each other stay engaged.
- Respect and celebrate the diversity of gifts of each sister with whom we live and minister, trusting that God's providence will use all our gifts for the greater good.
- Promote a spirit of hospitality that provides an atmosphere of inclusion and intentionally support, pray for, and show genuine care for each sister with her ministry, family, and community life.
- Take personal initiative for inviting and fostering vocations by seeking planned and spontaneous encounters with young women with whom we worship and minister.
- Enliven our commitment to fidelity in prayer and celebrating the Eucharist, striving to be a leaven of holiness to one another.