



Big Picture #3 - Collaboration with and for Mission.

Essence Statement

Animated by a rich tradition of mission, Sisters see a need for future possibilities as they search for a new vision of service and action. They recognize the Holy Spirit's invitation to surrender any impediments which may limit Divine Providence's guidance toward shared mission and collaboration. This call to openness, trust, humility and courage motivates Sisters to see collaboration as a fresh way of living out the mission of joyfully bearing God's redeeming love to all. Trusting in this call Sisters seek ways to welcome the diverse gifts, expertise and good will of lay colleagues and others who share this role in the Church.

O Holy Spirit, we ask for Your gifts of

- **Love**, that we may participate in deep conversations calling us to embrace God's vision for all, especially the most abandoned poor and the emerging needs of the Church, while reverencing the diversity of gifts within and among God's people.
- **Joy**, that we may respond to the new voices, new places, new needs, new cries for help in areas in which we have worked and support those voices and populations that invite us to consider different ministries and types of service.
- **Faithfulness**, that we may recognize in this new time a need for collaboration with others, both lay and religious, individuals and groups, well known and newly discovered, that by connecting the giftedness of others with the vision and hope of our tradition we may live in the belief that we are "richer together."
- **Peace**, that we may let go of fears, prejudices, control and resistance recognizing that everyone holds "a piece of the truth" in bringing God's mission to others as we affirm, support and collaborate with Sisters in our local communities.
- **Wisdom**, that we may empower our lay colleagues for collaboration through education and embrace a mindset of hospitality as we join other groups in witnessing to the gospel while remaining faithful to our unique charism.
- **Trust**, that we may collaborate with other congregations to support and enrich the spiritual and social development of our younger members in a manner that will strengthen their growth in religious life and in our own IHM charism.