

Celebrating Our IHM Charism with our Lay Colleagues

Monday, August 17, 2026



Call to Prayer

An IHM sister's life and ministry has never been possible without the support and encouragement of the laity who faithfully work side by side with us each day. As IHM's have touched and changed the life of the Church, so we have been touched and changed by the people with whom and for whom we have been called to minister and work. In this third century of our Congregations' life, we continue to explore new ways of joining with laywomen and laymen like you, in the mission to bring the good news of plentiful redemption to those most in need of God's love and mercy. We celebrate the ways in which IHM's and the laity have collaborated throughout our one-hundredth and eighty-one years, and we pray that the Spirit of God guide our steps into a new and vibrant future together. Today in a special way we pray through the intercession of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and we ask all this through Jesus Christ your Son and our Redeemer. Amen.

Opening Song: Gather Your People (Bob Hurd)

Refrain

Gather your people, O Lord, Gather your people, O Lord.
One bread, one body, one spirit of love. Gather your people, O Lord.

Draw us forth to the table of life: brothers and sisters, each of us called to walk in your light.

We are parts of the body of Christ, needing each other, each of the gifts the Spirit provides.

No more harm on the mountain of God: swords into plowshares. Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart.

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life; waters of mercy, waters of hope that flow from your side.

Scripture - Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reflect – What word or phrase in the reading speaks to you? Please take a minute to share it with someone sitting beside you.

Closing Prayer - Together

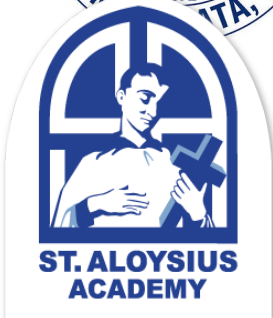
Spirit of Jesus the Redeemer, open us to your call as we begin a new school year. Teach us how to collaborate more effectively in whole, new and glorious ways, so that your kingdom may be proclaimed for your honor and glory. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



VILLA MARIA ACADEMY
LOWER SCHOOL

IHM Mission

Advancement



Question for Discussion – How would you ask Our Mother of Perpetual Help to intercede for you and your school this year.

