



***The plum is symbolic of fidelity.
Think of its significance the next time
you bite into a ripe and juicy plum.***

Dear Mission Partners:

Fidelity is the quality of being faithful or loyal; fidelity means faithfulness. *Fidelity* comes from the Latin root “*fides*” which means faith. Here are some examples of *fidelity*:

- Dogs are famous for their *fidelity*. We have seen movies about dogs who will not leave their owner who is in some danger or distress.
- Marital *fidelity* is faithfulness to your spouse. It is a living out of the marriage vows, “in good times and bad, until death do us part.”
- If you're a journalist, your reports should have *fidelity* to the facts. Fact checking is an important process prior to publishing a report.

As a spiritual concept for Catholics, *fidelity* means that the truths of the faith and the moral teachings of the Church are observed in a resolute manner. This does not mean that we can't question these beliefs. Reflection and conversation in dialogue about what we believe brings a sense of clarity and can strengthen our faith. This can often happen in a theology class or in a parish RCIA program.

Young children often ask their parents to help them understand their parents' beliefs. They observe *fidelity* in their parents, whether to each other or to their spiritual lives and then they learn to emulate it.

Fidelity is a charism of the IHM community. This charism, *fidelity* is a gift given to follow the life to which one has been called. *Fidelity* for IHMs means faithfulness to the vows and the way of life the sisters observe as religious women.

At Immaculata, this IHM charism is also gifted to the IU community. It is a lasting feature of the Immaculata Mission. Do you experience *fidelity* in your life, in your studies, in your family and among friends? If you do, thank God for the charism of *fidelity* and practice it with renewed joy!

Sincerely, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Sister Antoine Therese, IHM

