

## INTRODUCTION TO BIG PICTURE CONVERSATION #3

### COLLABORATION WITH AND FOR MISSION

Our lives as Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary continue to be animated by a rich tradition of mission. We stand on the shoulders of faithful sisters who trusted the Holy Spirit's invitation to take risks and overcome obstacles that tried but failed to impede Divine Providence. Right now, right here, we are called to answer that same invitation to collaborate in new and renewed ways. We are called to see collaboration as a fresh way of living our mission as joyful bearers of God's redeeming love. By trusting the Holy Spirit, we can embrace the diverse and beautiful gifts that others share with us.

These new ways of collaboration are not yet clear to us, but we enter this Chapter conversation with the wisdom that has been gathered over these past months. We have entered into prayerful dialogue to imagine and claim a future that embraces collaboration in its many forms. Let us consider the desires of our hearts as expressed in the essence statement:

How can collaboration help us to:

- Embrace the emerging needs of the church?
- Recognize the necessary gifts of both lay and religious individuals/groups?
- Let go of fears, prejudices, control, and resistance as we affirm, support, and collaborate with Sisters in our local communities?
- Empower our lay colleagues as collaborators in our ministries?
- Support and enrich the spiritual and social development of our younger members?

As we continue these conversations, we pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit's gifts of love, joy, faithfulness, peace, wisdom, and trust. May God grant us an abundance of each gift as we move into our future.