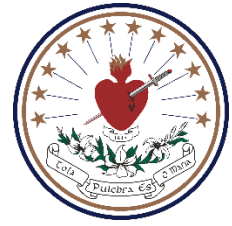**Villa Maria Board**

Mission Moment

December 2024

This year we are focusing on our community virtues: Humility, Simplicity, Self-Abnegation and Devoted Charity. We spoke of Humility n September. Tonight, we will focus on Simplicity.

The definition of Simplicity is: the quality of being easy to understand or do, with minimal complexity or complications. It focuses on the essential elements, avoiding unnecessary details or distractions. Simplicity often brings clarity and elegance, making things more efficient and accessible.

When we talk about elegance, I immediately think of Mary…and soon we will celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception…the major feast of our congregation.

The Blessed Mother is often seen as a model of simplicity in life and faith. Her life was marked by humility, obedience, and a deep trust in God's will, even when facing difficult circumstances. She lived simply, without seeking attention or worldly wealth, focusing instead on her role as a mother and servant of God. Mary's simple yet profound "yes" to God during the Annunciation reflects her openness to God's plan without needing full understanding or control.

Her simplicity is further shown in her quiet presence at key moments of Christ's life, from His birth in a humble manger to his death on the cross. She teaches us that true simplicity comes from focusing on love, faith, and serving others, rather than being caught up in material desires or complicated ambitions.

This makes her an enduring symbol of a life centered on God, free from unnecessary distractions….truly a model of simplicity.

For those who are new, it is our IHM custom at Christmas time to choose what we call a "Court of the King". This represents a person or figure present at the birth of Jesus. This custom comes from the spirituality of St. Alphonsus, our community patron. We've done this here for the past 2 years, so I wanted to continue the tradition. You'll notice on your card the person or figure at the manger and a corresponding prayer.