



## Opening Prayer ~ Mary in the Easter Season

*Appropriate for Board, Staff, and Faculty Meetings*

**Call to Prayer:** St. Alphonsus, patron of the IHM Congregation, had a deep devotion and passionate love for Mary, the Mother of God. He believed that the graces and spiritual insights received throughout his life came to him through the hands of Mary. Through preaching and prayer, through music, art, and poetry, St. Alphonsus sought to proclaim the Glories of Mary. He found in her a reflection of God's beauty and a channel of God's hope. Mary's hope comes from her trust in God and her ability to see beyond life's situations into the presence and promise of God. Let us go to Jesus through Mary as we pray together this evening.

**Reading:** In the darkness of Holy Saturday Mary's faith bore the certitude of hope as she made her way towards Easter morning. The joy of the Resurrection touched her heart and united her in a new way to the disciples, destined to become the family of Jesus through faith. In this way she was in the midst of the community of believers, who in the days following the Ascension prayed with one voice for the gift of the Holy Spirit and then received that gift on the day of Pentecost. Thus she remained in the midst of the disciples as their Mother, as the Mother of hope.

**And so we pray....**

**Mary, Queen of Light**

*Enlighten us and bring us to the heart of Jesus.*

**Mary, Mother of God**

*Be our Mother and teacher on life's journey.*

**Mary, Reflection of God's Compassion**

*Show us how to be compassion for others.*

**Mary, Instrument of Plentiful Redemption**

*Intercede for each of us so that we may be a redeeming presence in our world.*

**Mary, Mother of the Redeemer**

*Pray for us now and at the hour of our death.*

**Mary, our Hope**

*Teach us to believe, to hope, and to love with you.*

**Closing Prayer:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for the great things you have accomplished in Mary, the Virgin Mother of your Son. By the power of the Holy Spirit she is for us a model of faith, hope and love. Help us to imitate her virtues in all the events of our lives and to be faithful to all that you ask of us. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**