

## Chapter Reflections from sharing of gathered work of Writing Group

### General essence

Sisters speak about role and work of Leadership of the future based on what they heard from Council.

### Summary:

*Sisters see the leader of the future as one who lives fully and deeply her commitment to God and the Church as an IHM, who serves selflessly and unconditionally, who invites participation and collaboration, who exercises wisdom and vision, who engages the uncertain future with caring boldness and fearless caution, who knows herself as a servant of God and acts in prayerful loving response.*

The sisters want leaders who profess that our work is that of God's spirit and that it is completed with humility, risk-taking, and wisdom in the light of God's grace, aware of being co-creators with God.

The leader of the future needs to:

- Realize that the work requires servant leadership, with a full and generous heart in sacrificial love and service (a total self-gift)
- Realize that both vision and practicality must inform and guide decision making (organizational skills and transparency, challenge and encourage us to growth, plan practically)
- Realize that the sisters are the stakeholders and need to have voice in the dialogue and processes which affect the community at all levels and in all aspects of congregational life (local and central)
- Realize that characteristics of all good leadership include team-building, flexibility, inclusivity, listening, transparency, openness, courage, confidentiality, grit, awareness of internal and external factors, ability to balance tensions, adaptable to changing elements.
- Realize that the work of God demands new partners and new collaborators who understand and share the vision of the congregation and its charism.
- Realize the role of God in their life, and love the community intensely, live spiritually with compassion, own and create trust, offer respect, balance selflessness with self-care, act generously, offer kindness, elicit corporate wisdom, accompany others, welcome the giftedness of each individual.
- Realize that the past guides and informs, the present offers opportunities for presence in our world, and the future draws us into new works, new ways of doing and being, and new hope.