

ASSEMBLY 2021

Chat Room Responses following LC Video Presentation

Thursday, July 29, 2021 - Morning

I feel inspired and wonder how we will re-animate our emergent future? What is our deeper call going forward? Perhaps we will need good walking shoes to tread through the "rough terrain" of possibilities of our lives; connection as IHM, Associates, co-workers, and friends of IHM call us to see more deeply the gifts that enrich the whole of IHM and then our connection beyond these ways of identification.

From Joyce Durosko to Everyone: 11:00 AM

Weariness has invaded my spirit

All I can do now is be excessively gentle with myself Until a new joy of the spirit revisits me (us) again.

From Barbara Yugovich to Everyone: 11:00 AM

We need tremendous spiritual stamina to look beyond our comfort zones to new ways of creating deeper connections...intra congregationally, intra-associate, and emerging forms. I feel we are being invited to trust in new ways of relating and expanding beyond what we know.

From MaryAnn Hinsdale IHM to Everyone: 11:04 AM

The video of our leaders showed such individual creativity- we (Sue Sattler and I) loved it. Also, the many common threads: universe story, George Floyd - twin pandemics, "letting go"; opportunity to network, the challenge of the Victory Noll request; looking ahead to 2030, relationships are key, paschal mystery, respectful conversations, the wonderful images...much to ponder!

I wonder if that sense of gentleness of self is what Simone Biles is declaring for all of us to remember. Perhaps these two days together will offer food for self AND joy to move forward.

From MaryAnn Hinsdale IHM to Everyone: 11:08 AM

What God is inviting us to? From M.A. Hinsdale and Sue Sattler: Openness, courage, trust, learning from "the ants"; respectful listening to each other, a spirit of gratitude.

From B J Schlachter to Everyone: 11:09 AM

We are the seeds of the God permeating everywhere throughout the universe. Christ is present in everyone. The liberating mission of Jesus happens in the present. Our mission may be to exemplify new theology and shed the shackles of medieval church.

From Gloria Rivera IHM & Paula Cathcart IHM to Everyone: 11:09 AM

It feels like the beginning of post-pandemic weaving or learnings, call, challenges, blessings etc. I appreciated the sharing, the images and openness.... connecting to the leadership that is in each one of us and in all of us... Joyce I send your weary spirit a loving embrace.. Gloria

From Nancy Sylvester to Everyone: 11:12 AM

Thank you all for your sharing. I so resonate with them. I felt a renewed sense of belonging. So perhaps it is the beginning of the post-pandemic weaving of our lives.

From Judith Coyle to Everyone: 11:13 AM

I'm afraid 'post' pandemic is a relative term.

From Sue Rakoczy to Everyone: 11:14 AM

So much future language--in one sense we shape the future but the unknown (2018: COVID was unknown) shapes us. Creative tension?

From Evelyn Craig to Everyone: 11:17 AM

Vision is a special sense by which the qualities (such as color, luminosity, shape, size, etc.) constituting its appearance are perceived through a process in which light rays entering the eye are transformed by the retina into electrical signals that are transmitted to the brain via the optic nerve. What a design by our Creator!

Breakout Groups Responses to Plenary sessions

Chapter Act

Thursday, July 29, 2021 - Morning session

From your perspective, what is the Spirit asking of us in light of the common good, and our movement into the future?

Group 1

- Movement from an “I” to “We” commitment. Be ready, get going, hold on lightly to the familiar. Don’t hold on ‘just in case we need it’ but make the best decision with what we know at the time
- be aware of our larger place of neighbors, country, world.

Group 2

- Our sharing immediately voiced praise for the Leadership Report for its scope and the many wonderful images that put us in mind and in touch with the world and real life. The images were expansive and energizing. Another voice articulated the presentation as bringing us to “beauty, clarity and desire.”
- We spent most of our remaining time on the notion of the common good. Common Good reaches not only to how each one of us responds, nor even just as being part of IHM Congregation, but it turns us to the needs of the world we are in, the realities around us, and even the planet itself.
- Another member commented how she uses the photo book to be in the community of the whole of IHM, recognizing the faces/persons she sees “my inheritance.” Colloquially put, as we hear voiced many times these days, “I got you.” Time too short to go further...

Group 3

- We have general commitment to the common good. The challenge lies in varied understandings of the term and what a commitment to the common good mean for us individually and as a community. How [can we] iron out the differences to proceed with a common understanding?
- We are challenged by the call to keep judgement out of our commitment to the common good. Ex. Why does she get a new car and I don’t? Thought we committed to the common good, and I do not think that someone else’s behavior fits my understanding!
- Common good is much bigger than us. We challenge ourselves to reach out to those on the periphery. Feel “urged” as our mission statement

Group 4

- Struck [by] today's sharings that we are caring more about the Common Good rather than just IHM. Moving from “Me to We.” Common good is so much more than us.
- We don't know the future but Trust in God.
- We are at a turning point with all that is happening in our world where the ball is in our ballpark in being called to LET GO in big ways and that can be scary.
- We are in this together!
- The image of the dolls imaged the different layers of our lives...self, IHM, citizen, etc.

- Important to see that we need to ask if we are ready for diversity we want...we have not always been good
- at times in our past...means changes
- We are having a less institutionalized identity.
- We have risked in the past and we can do it again.
- Important not to only focus on the elder generation but the youth also
- The drop of small ways to make a difference begins with each of us.
- So appreciated the creativity of Leadership's reflections!
- Gave us the big picture while also the day-to-day tasks, challenges.
- Who Gives A Crap (Toilet paper) We do!
- It is where God is calling us... and will bring LIFE!

Group 5

- It is important to continue grounding our individual mission within IHM Mission of the liberating Jesus by the sharing of our stories, synchronizing our movement with the congregational movement.
- Also relevant is looking at the common good with a broader view than simply material "things." We need to consider mental, physical, psychological aspects of self that feed the sense of our congregational self.

Group 6

- TRUST: Spirit is calling us to trust in Providence, in Community
- VOICE: Calling us to realize the power of our public voice as religious community women and use it.
- VISION: All presentations by LC and Common Good panel show how hugely expanded our vision of life and belonging has become: we are Earthlings needing a discussion of what is our mission for the Common Good, not living for money and profits.

Group 7

- Stay steady in the work before us, as we live the paschal mystery, and witness to the truth of where Jesus is.
- Recognize the intersection of ism's and the subtle/not so subtle methods of systemic marginalization...lack of equity.
- Support each other through the uncomfortable moments that we will experience as we navigate the shifts before us.

Group 8

- We need to navigate into the future with trust, courage and intentionality, realizing that the Common Good encompasses not only ourselves and IHM Community, but also the whole world.
- We are called to listen in new ways to hear the cry of the poor and our planet.
- We all have the responsibility to make the choices and to engage in the conversations that will help us move forward into the future. We can do this because we have each other!

Group 9

- In relationship to the Common Good and our movement into the future we feel called to remember the one we are following in every aspect of our lives - the everyday and the larger world we live in. We are called to be attentive and involved in the global upheaval that we are in the midst of.

Group 10

- We all have individual sense of common good but need to discuss communal common good.
- Since post Vatican, two members have had a more individualistic attitude towards the vow of poverty. Need to discuss balance of 'lock-step' mentality of pre-Vatican II vs. individual sense of post Vatican II.
- Since the pandemic began, we felt a sense that the common good has broadened to the homeless, poor, and the earth community.
- We need to not be afraid to have hard discussions over the common good. We need to ask ourselves if we have the strength grace and courage to move forward.
- The possibility of selling the Motherhouse was a shock.
- A sense of grief calls us to look [to] our ancestors for how they dealt with hard times.

Group 11 (On the Chapter Act...)

- Broadly, we need to recover from indoctrination in the Capitalistic society.
- Different ways to say: move ahead in trust/confidence in our deeper desires and values, to BE who we are at THIS time - conscious that what we do, each drop- affects all. We have done such letting go throughout our history, we did it together, so we know how not only to do it, but to live into it in taking well-discerned action.
- Questions remain in the details and we look forward to probe further with deeper conversations of our different understandings of Common Good.

Group 12 Spanish speaking outstanding.

Group 13

- The invitation is to focus not on who I am but on how I am. How am I with others? How am I in relation to issues etc.?
- Referred to the Wheel of Tension graphic and the comment was that we just scratched the surface regarding some of the questions. We have a good starting point to continue toward understanding Common Good - moving from personal, to IHM to global.
- Move forward and deeper with the Chapter Act. We have grown into seeing that what I do affects others. Need to go deeper in this understanding.
- The call is moving from direct service (as good and important as this is) toward systemic change. Three examples were shared: (a) as we decide the future of the Motherhouse consider donating part of our land back to the original Native communities who first inhabited it (b) our commitment to move toward a living wage for all those employed by us -- this has already started (c) accepting people who cannot afford to pay into our nursing home on campus as many nursing homes limit who they accept - perhaps designating a few rooms for this purpose. Thus, the liberating mission of Jesus calls us to systemic change.

Group 14

- Be willing to let go, not only material, also thoughts. Deep trust in God/one another
- [Questions Regarding] past decisions:
 - re: apartments - seems they are only for the rich, yet we know they were to help us survive into future,
 - re: purchase of Riverview property - it seems that the Retreat Center might be used as the residence,
 - and the larger building for retreats, have no place for large groups to stay overnight.
 - How we are living out our mission for the poor? Seems we are only caring for our elders.

Group 15

- Common good means a sense of belonging which implies great trust in each other, care and concern for each other.
- We are united in community, so with that sense of belonging, the question remains, always, how do my choices affect not just myself but others? We have to “do the work” on an ongoing basis, being flexible because we certainly don’t have all the answers about the future.

Group 16

- Divesting? There’s no question. We need to shrink in order to be responsible for our resources
- It’s not just we who must let go. The rest of the world has to divest in order to go forward.
- We are proud to be part of this community that gave a considerable amount of our stimulus checks to the needy, being responsible for our goods but also contributing to a bigger common good.

Group 17

- In response to “What is the Spirit asking of us in light of the common good and in our movement into the future?”
 - We trust the community process as we make decisions toward the future. We need to hear one another as part of that process.
 - The image of the Sankofa bird works for this. Do we have the courage to look back and select those things from the past that need to move forward and bring them into the future filled with the “we” of everyone? Our choices affect the common good of everyone.

Group 18

There was great appreciation of the Leadership Council and the IHM Panel Presentations.

- Lisandra’s three words of Compassion, Love, and Care and Rose Ange’s image of the drips of water spoke to the issue of moving from the “I” to a ~~sense~~ “we” in owning the evolving understanding of the common good.
- The pandemic and the aging process helps to clarify what is essential and where the balance in our lives needs to be restored. Essentials and priorities become clearer with age.

- The bond of trust needs to be renewed daily and it is the basis of the common good. It is strengthened by being together and spending time around the table. This has not been possible during the COVID era and is greatly missed.
- Examples of addressing the common good are the 5 and 10 % reductions that Monroe Campus Departments made in their budgets and IHM Sisters made in their own budget. Another example is that of going on Medicaid when eligible as a means of reducing health care costs and identifying with the poor of our country.

Group 19

- [By] moving from “I to We,” we reduce the boundaries between the personal and the communal. We need communal discernment around our individual choices, e.g., in our Mission Circles, listening to/hearing one another at a deeper level.
- More particularly, each might anchor his/her thinking around the questions, “Where will I be in 2030?” “How does this impact decisions I make today in the areas of health, independence, checkbook, etc.?”

Other groups

- Live in simplicity of life
- Respect our limitations of age, both personal and communal due to the limits of aging
- Be open to the needs of other congregations that are smaller and struggling. (Roberta Richmond, Laura Hardage, Shirley Houff)

SPIRITUALITY

Thursday, July 29, 2021 - Afternoon session

What is in your spiritual tool chest?

How are your spiritual tools gift to you, and to the community, as we move into the future?

Group 1

- Simplifying, helping to calm our spirit and avoid dissipation in prayer and important as we move to simplify our lives and property.
- Talking to other people helps us think clearer, think better, love more, gives us the perspective of others as we move forward. Example of African American woman “Knowing that God loves you, how can you not pray?”
- Walking in nature refreshes us, gives us a chance for spontaneous conversations, brings awareness of the importance of our planet.
- Ways to assist us in prayer and to quiet our souls and just be: mantra, Jesus prayer, praying in tongues, patient silence, music. Our prayer affects other people. UTube can provide religious music, plus morning prayer with Canterbury Cathedral.
- Gratitude, even for hard experiences, which we later realize were openings to connection. The future is scary, but transformation is a gift.
- Declutter the mind and heart by turning off the daily news for a time.

Group 2

Tool

- Aging
- Prayer to Jesus as a Friend
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Music
- Scripture of the Day
- Psalms
- Books
- Relationship to Others
- Family and Rituals
- Silence
- Nature
- Familiar prayers
- Various images of God
- Sense of curiosity
- Stories of our ancestors in faith

Gift

- Slow down and live
- Alphonsian theme
- In our bones...justice, peace and integrity of creation
- To heal the world through joy
- Common to all IHMs
- Address the emotions of daily life
- To be shared
- More in common than what divides us
- learning and teaching each other
- To listen to the Spirit
- Appreciation of Beauty
- Ground Us
- New insights to share
- Listening to one another
- Grounding

Group 3

All of these are tools that we can carry into the future

- we have contemplative prayer with our vulnerability to events in the world today
- a willingness to stay with the process and sometimes an alignment is necessary
- fragility is a gift that can be a call to take it easy and used as a gift
- use our inner resources and lean on the spirit that is within us and the world
- lean on the spirit in impossible situations and in times that we are not in control
- our fragility in the aging process and to be aware of this and be at peace with it
- the use of silence that came with us during the pandemic
- the use of the 12-step process of spirituality in one's personal life and in the future to publicize that there is an IHM group that has been in operation since the 1980s.

Group 4

Tools as identified by the participants:

- Always aware that I stand in the shoulders of those who have gone before me, grandmother, several IHM's
- Connections
- Gratitude
- Nature
- Jesus prayer
- Humility...ability to share gifts

- Art journal to express what words cannot -window to the outside/views and sounds - quiet reflection at the start and end of each day...name and identify meaning and purpose to routine and mundane/ give focus to action -silence -music - water...lake...ocean...stream ...pond

Tools work for many now.... why not as we move into the future?

Group 5

In our toolbox

- Showing up, being present, not needing an agenda gives us as gift the opportunity to listen and look deeper into ourselves.
- Bringing to community our spiritual awakenings as gift to others.
- Scripture grounds us and broadens to a wider view the world of which we are part.
- Having a constant Spiritual Director as gift to bringing clarity and focus to our thoughts.
- 12 step spirituality program as gift in community with others that honors our experiences and gives strength and hope.
- Our wounds and life experiences as gift to the healing of ourselves and others.

Group 6

Spirituality Toolkit

- Sense of Humor, knowing God is holding all
- Silence
- Becoming a good listener; giving wholehearted attention to someone helps them experience that they matter
- Realizing that old trusted institutions are breaking down: becoming involved in *action* for justice in what new is being born.
- Realization that our spirituality changes from our life experience, e.g.
 - ~ depth discovery of life given in love: Etty Hillesum finding God without religion, giving her life for her people
 - ~ life formerly lived among people in Central America, the concreteness of their rituals and spirituality now shared with people in Detroit

Group 7

Expanding our experiences of God's ongoing revelation within us, through our relationships with others & in nature energizes & sustains us.

- Can't live without:
- Scripture broadly & critically interpreted
- Others/relationships
- Silence for listening
- Recognizing & embracing interconnectedness

Group 8

Tools in our tool chest:

- Love is one of our biggest tools. All that we do we do out of love. We give love to the needs of the poor, the marginalized, and the global community.
- Non-violence. In a chaotic world, non-violence is so much needed to subdue warring nations.
- Lighting a candle and looking out into the universe.
- Being with GOD. In silence, in nature, while walking their dog. Being grounded with God carries us peacefully into an unknown future.
- Journaling. Gratitude journals and personal daily journals.
- Focusing on how I am feeling in my body.
- Meeting with a Spiritual Director or sharing with other companions on our journey.

Note: KEEP THE TOOLBOX, SEWING BASKET, Or JUNK DRAWER OPEN!! Let the Holy Spirit have room to surprise us with new gifts and energy! Make room for more!!!

My own personal conclusion (BJS): Our greatest gift inviting us into the future is our awareness (consciousness) of a BIGGER GOD that cannot be known only by a few. An evolutionary faith that embraces the universe is a tool that needs to be embraced by others to counteract small-minded ideologies. This Bigger God wants to embrace all of us into the "kingdom" taught by Jesus the Christ.

Group 9

Tools in our toolkit

- Music, especially Classical, serves to calm sin sick souls. This calmness is needed into the future for our weary world.
- Nature, especially gardening creating an awareness of our responsibility for the future of our planet.
- Scripture, always beginning with the Word of God and with pondering will lead us into the future.
- Variety in the toolbox: listening, compassion, empathy, learn by reading and being faithful which will prepare us for moving into the future.
- Daily prayer: Teach me when to speak, and when to listen, when to ponder and when to share. These tools open us to others and prepare us for deep interactions with the world and its struggles.
- Using the quote: "From the source of everything: from the ground of our being" takes us into an openness for compassion and empathy.
- Using reading and daily news on one hand and scriptures in the other takes us into the world calling for attention and healing.
- Walking...
- Memory of our sisters and their example guide us to how we might interact in the future as it is revealed.
- Surprise of the day, being open to the unexpected which will prepare us for events like the pandemic and the unforeseen.

- Being open to the Incarnation and the Divine in everything that makes all so sacred whether it is peoples of the world, or rainforests or global warming, refugees, the homeless or the tree outside my window.

Group 10 Spiritual tool box:

- Eucharist
- retreats
- ministering with others
- communion of saints
- learning from diverse people
- saying 'let go and let God
- photography
- love of nature
- faith
- justice
- silence
- Mass
- being creative sewing, crafts

Group 11

Overall, we noted that whatever spirituality enriches any of us enriches all of us and beyond.

- Spiritual Direction - been a gift for many - helps one navigate the challenges of life - as a community it prepares the members take discern the movement of their lives.
- The encouragement of members for many years to be in spiritual direction has made a difference in the life of the whole.
- creation - "God's palate" - learning from creation / everything preaches
- taking the time to pause - to breathe - to notice
- GLAD - to notice what to be Grateful for / What have I Learned / What I have Accomplished / What I have Delighted in.
- Reminding myself that I live in the spaciousness of God - where there is room for all.
- Morning prayer -/ the anchor for the day
- Scripture of the day -
- Seeking to experience other spiritualities - open ourselves to the movement in others

Group 12 Spanish speaking outstanding.

Group 13

Tool kit:

- Centering prayer inspired by Thomas Keating- source of "ongoing revelation" for me of areas I still need to grow in. Makes me a better community person.
- My body; the mystery of the Incarnation- keeps me vulnerable, humble; gift to community is that society doesn't honor the dignity of body and its connection to God, others, the earth.

- My ears, focusing on Listening (as a counselor) to people, nature with a spirit of gratitude and openness; that is a gift to community.
- Nature-it's a gospel of revelation to me as I study biomimicry.
- Psalms, rooted in nature, metaphor for prayer; benefits community by my serenity and prayer for others.
- Daily scripture reading and reflection-nourishes her and relationships from the inside out. Community –prayers for others.

Group 14

- Regularity as to when, where and how we pray: present in the space is the globe (newspaper), candle, scripture and piece of nature,
- Journaling
- Freedom to sit with God
- Dignity and value of every person.... value of the immigrants (some of our parents were immigrants)
- Opportunity for lay people to participate, to recognize their spirituality
- Liturgical Celebrations without ordained Priests. We need to step in

Group 15

- Listening (mentioned by five in the group) - recognition of each person's experience of God and others. Hard to discount anyone when we hear another's story and get to know them. 5x
- Bodies of water - letting it wash over us and revive our spirit. Connects us to the wider and bigger world and the inner world. Awareness of our vulnerability and playfulness, the whole person. Learning to go with the flow and ride the waves of life as they present themselves. 2x
- Nature, music, art, poetry, books, writing all draw us into deeper contemplative prayer. They enrich our imagination and wholeness of being as well. 3x
- Looking out into the courtyard from different perspectives, watching leaves on tree move with the breeze and change color all draw me into prayer.
- Disciple of preparing and participating in communal prayer
 - All of above calls us to do our inner work which then draws us to contemplate the wider world. We are committed to ground ourselves by nurturing our spirituality, our relationships (nesting dolls).
 - All above prepares us for contemplative dialogue, discerning our communal future with our ONENESS in mind and heart.
 - There is a desire that we encourage our members to write more and communications to share it with wider audience. In other words, to share our gifts more widely.

Group 16

We're all morning persons and we find quiet time first thing in the morning absolutely essential.

Other tools include:

- Spending time in nature, walking, experiencing beauty and being purposeful about taking time every day to reflect on gratitude.
- Pray with your body, particularly breath prayer for centering and also praying lines from the Our Father in translation from Aramaic.

Because we've worked on and prayed with our diversity in the community, we hope that will be a tool for conversations in the future.

- Underlying all the above is the habit of approaching life, other persons and conversations from a contemplative stance.

Group 17

Question 1 - what do you have in your spiritual tool chest

- I have a sense of trust that I can be myself – God accepts me as I am. I also trust who my sisters are, who they are and how they answer their call.
- I have my experience. This past year of being quite ill and alone, yet knowing that God and the community were with me, along with friends and family, creates a supportive community throughout last year and my life.
- I have the ability to stop and breathe – to take the moment to refocus. When pushed to my limits, when I don't know where I or we are going, breathing is vital.
- I have the ability to be by the water. The connection with the water centers me.
- I have poetry. Sometimes just a word or a phrase sustains me.
- I have music. You feel it inside you, it moves you to a different place.
- I have stories because they can show the goodness of people. Stories can remind me of the goodness in myself and the goodness of others.
- I have favorite authors who provide patterns or scaffolding for dealing with new or difficult situations.
- I have quiet which enables me to get in touch with where I am at and who or what I am with, allowing me to be fully present to the moment and focus on one thing at a time.
- I have beauty. Focusing on beauty rather than imperfection, speaks of God who is in everything.
- I have connections to my past; structures and memories sustain me in the now, when the now is difficult.
- I have journaling. In the future I can reflect what is in my journal back to the community I am with.
- I have my membership in the community which propels me to look at things differently and to share my ideas and visions into the future.
- I have honest communication/contemplative dialogue with others in the community. This builds trust among each other. We don't have to think alike, but we have the same spirit calling us.

Question 2 – How are your spiritual tools give to you and to the community as you move into the future.

- Contemplative dialogue melts away differences and allows us to be ourselves.
- Just showing up and being present means we are creating and recreating community
- Gifts of the tool chest refocus me and helps me move forward myself or help the community refocus
- Stories show us a path to create our future and provide language to express our meaning.

Group 18:

- Silence: helps me to be centered
- Silence/Imaginary Door: close the door in order to set distractions aside
- Scripture: after reflection I can share my experience
- Show up/Nature: time for reflection and to clear my mind and move forward

- Put on the glasses that help me see things as a manifestation of God:
They look at the invitation; helps keep them on track; be centered, grounded
- Music: see as scripture set to music; we come together in the sentiment; sometimes may lead to poetry

Group 19

What is in your spiritual tool chest? How are your spiritual tools gift to you and to the community?

- Gifts to me/us
- Reflecting on the scripture of the day/ and the Psalms have always grounded me/us for the day and for the days that lie ahead.
- Journaling has always been a source integration of where I/we have been and God's everlasting presence with us in the good days and not so good days
- Music helps me/us to "be" with peace, something beyond myself /ourselves and quiets our hearts and souls.
- Walk in nature recognizing new growth, gradual growth to full maturity, death and then new life. The cycle repeats itself.
- Recognizing the "God Life" in another's goodness/ especially in our families.
- Holding onto "spaciousness" vs. constricted-ness. Suggested writer Ryan Doyle "How the Light Gets In."

Breakout Groups Responses to Plenary sessions

Friday, July 30, 2021 - Morning session

In light of the presentation, what feelings are stirring within you personally, for the community?

What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community?

What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

Group 1

FEELINGS

- Startled at the statistics.
- Troubled.
- Sadness as memories come flooding back.
- Sadness leads us to explore new ways of being.
- Grieving the differences at our MH home.
- OK and relief that management of MH would be lifted, and LC responsibilities would change.
- Resigned to the truth of the clear trajectory (this must be addressed even if another Congregation wanted our building, or we won the lottery!)
- It's about letting go and not just finances.

ACTIONS

- Need to continue to talk about this together.
- Preserving the life of the Congregation not maintaining a building.
- Need changes to our Governance Circles.
- Using (and investing) in technology that connects us with one another and the world.
- Staying connected to Tri-IHM-Oblate connections.

GOD'S INVITATION

- Stay open to what is happening beyond/around us.
- Continue to discern the questions.
- Call to a radical trust in God.
- Belief we have something unique to share with the world.
- Invitation to the future of community living.
- Trust this is part of God's plan that we are here at this time in history.

Group 2

#1 What feelings stirring in you....

- Confidence, wondering and questions about what trust fund means...Trust fund for community and land trust...need clarification...which is the best way to go?
- Concern about younger members.
- Grief but our mission is not in buildings or land...mission is what is important...call to respond in new ways.
- Concern about the Academy and not being able to sell and cost of tearing it down.
- Nature of the project...need for good discernment.
- Grief...lands and building are sacred space.
- We should not feel obligated to accomplish this in three years...need to pay attention to process and if it takes longer to do a good discernment so be it....
- Committees are important to divide up some of issues...need broad membership.
- Overwhelming and scary and needs lots of consideration.

#2 What actions may be required....

- Need more honest conversations about vocations and what it means to invite new members...what are we inviting them into?
- Focus on revitalization as an expression of our mission.
- Attend to people rather than on buildings.

#3 What is God inviting us to...

- New horizons...to be open and not judgmental about our future in terms of the church and hierarchy.
- Need to come together to talk about these issues in non-judgmental fashion.
- Need to come to a deeper understanding of what community means and how it affects our ministry choices.
- Greater vulnerability and honesty with one another.
- Insure processes for anyone who want to be involved so all can contribute their gifts to the decision.
- Is there any connection between our commitment to ecological and racial justice in terms of our land and buildings?

Group 3

Feelings:

- Trust; uncertainty about what this means for me, for us.
- Frustration, anger about how the community will continue.
- How will younger members continue to be and to do together.

Actions:

- Clearly link this decision to the future of the IHM mission.
- Develop ways of articulating how this will feed the future of the mission. How will this decision impact our desire to serve and support of migrants, the homeless?
- Need to put flesh on this decision. Do not want to have nothing happen until we are invited to a ritual immediately prior to sale of the building.
- Include the associates in envisioning the future of the mission?

What is God inviting us to?

- Call to make choices to continue the IHM mission.
- Discernment about what will we take on. Not just about letting go, letting go so that something can come.....what is coming?
- Take risks. Have we imagined enough? How are we “urged by the love of God.”
- Call to align ourselves with the liberating mission of Jesus.

Group 4

#1:

- Great confidence
- Gratitude for efforts of the committee; great transparency
- Trust, not afraid
- We are ready; aware that change is not easy
- Out of death comes new life: i.e. Marygrove
- An example of being part of the COMMON GOOD—we are part of the bigger picture!

#2

- Trust ourselves
- Continue to value our meeting i.e. ZOOM...this assembly experience has proved that we can be community without being ON/IIN the motherhouse.....WE are people not land.
- Continue to ask ourselves---why are we hanging on?...WHAT are we hanging onto? WHAT is important?

Group 5

Question 1

- Strong feelings of gratitude to the committee for the work being done on behalf of all.
- Open communication is helpful in dealing with feelings of anxiety and unrest around this experience.
- Use of the pot warp imagery was meaningful.

Question 2

- Continuing stewardship in preserving the patrimony of IHM.
- Continuing the of the role of spirituality is key to the process of preparing us to take the necessary steps to move forward and finding ways to express this as community
- An exploration of joining with other communities in sponsoring a spirituality center on the grounds

Question that arose

1. Do we need an election of transition before the end of 2024 and the present elected leadership to ensure continuity?

Question 3

- The importance of preserving a “sense of home” as treasure (the ability to be with people and continuing relationships).
- The call to trust.
- Using imagination and creativity in envisioning and continuing a spiritual environment.
- Having a continuing voice in how we live

Group 6

1. What feelings are stirring within you personally, for the community?

- Anticipation, excitement, apprehension
- Confidence, relief, energized, trust of what we will continue to do together
- Blessed: appreciation of the work (data) done and who we are doing it, with including the elders with their hope and zeal
- Trusted by our ancestors

2. What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community?

- LET GO
- Fierce trust that God is with us always in all our questions and searches.
- Personal investment continues in sharing ourselves and improving our relationships.
- Fearlessly offering our honesty, our wisdoms, questions, attractions, and stories

- Habitually offering our respectful skilled listening to understand without judgment
- Continually bring to our community the needs and insights of our local support groups.

3. What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

- Practice a deep sense of collaboration with any partner.
- Expect to negotiate
- Bring advanced discerning skills to what we choose to let go and keep
- Keep (preserve) our traditions and spirituality
- As we partner, aim to provide healthy spaces for all residents
- Integrate the concept of "undoing racism" with what we do with our property

Group 7

Questions 1 & 2 notes:

- Trying to be hopeful.
- How do the residents experience being under an outside agency?
- How are we as an institution structurally racists? (just wages and benefits)
- We need to move beyond all these issues of acceptance into real actions.
- We need to get the subcommittees going.
- Louis Gillet didn't just sit around waiting for God to act. He went to New Orleans.
- What is happening to IHM, is happening to everyone as The Boomer generation is retiring and declining. Decline and diminishment is not just an IHM issue.
- Why don't we have and report data about Associates?
- What do we bring to the world? What is valuable about our mission?

Question 3. What is God asking?

- We need to continue being witnesses of profound and deep contemplative life.
- Sell the property.
- Pay just wages.
- If we can't sell the property, let the poor move in.
- Fill the empty rooms.
- Are there affordable and low-income rooms and apartments in the MH? This might bring us state and federal monies.
- Sell the property without all these qualifications. We can't expect buyers to continue all of our qualifications.
- How could we afford to pay just wages? Where would this money come from? For instance, our Elm house only pays \$13 per hour with no benefits because that is what we can afford.
- Trust Providence. Providence was our original name.

- We need to look at the concept of Conservancy more carefully and fully.
- We need experts and diversity on our subcommittees.
- We need to stop calling it The MH because we don't have daughter houses anymore!
- What is the relationship between IHM Corp and Senior Living Community? How are we effected by Trinity Management? Who has the responsibility to fill all these empty rooms?
- We have employees with split duties between both corporations.

Group 8

What feelings are stirring within you personally and for the community?

- Gratitude to the POC for the work done and for the update
- Sadness and grief – in chat room people were honest that they may not be here in 2024.
- The Motherhouse is such a hub emotionally, there is wondering about what will draw us together as community in the future.
- Letting go is needed yet difficult.
- Buildings will still be there; we will still be there – now standing on edge of a cliff holding hands together.
- What is cherished are the people in this building – as long as we do this, we'll be OK.
- We are on the cliff; but we haven't yet experienced the PAIN of LIVING THROUGH THIS TRANSITION.
- We never imagined we would live through this...

What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community?

- We were blessed with an LC who have taken good steps – Leaders who are taking this seriously and moving us forward.
- The sense that God will never abandon us.
- How do we minister to our sisters in Monroe is something heard – hope to keep our chapel.
- We must have transparency as we move forward.

What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

- Recall our past history – the congregations have lived through so many tough times and we have navigated through – we have a past, a history that is strong.
- How are we seeing God into the future – with quantum physics, interconnectedness, - to serve this God is much more than our small frameworks – are we educating ourselves and others to embrace this bigger God.
- Living through the paschal dynamics of letting go and trusting in new life is our invitation - as someone recalled “small deaths lead to small resurrections – big deaths like this one lead to big resurrections”.
- Recall we are not alone.
- We are called to and must participate in the process; own and participate in the process.
- This is a process of communal discernment.
- This is a dialogical process.

- Remember, too, the larger picture of what is going on in our Catholic Church – will Catholic sisters have a voice, will we be a prophetic voice? We can never lose the broader context.

Group 9

QUESTION 1:

- Mixed feelings; mostly excitement: what is possible, what could be; adventure of thinking creatively.
- Trust in the people who are on the committee; filled with hope; some trepidation/not fear; confidence in God in spite of storm, rocky roads.
- Trust most MH sisters being very realistic and don't seem at unease at what we have to do; many family members are going through the same thing we are; open/no expectations.
- Trust not as concerned with my own as with the future of religious life
- Trust all of our future is going to be just fine; widen our scope; we have wonderful, intelligent women; optimistic.
- Trusting, confident.
- Grateful for all the work that went into this. We need to be realistic as to the future- not fearful. Nonetheless there is a sadness...Monroe is 'home' (perhaps having been away so long it resonates more with me).
- The phrase: 'ground of our mission' was used in one report, - not to take it too literally but the motherhouse was the 'ground' from which we were sent on mission- and the ground to which we return.
- There is an old Jewish saying, "Jerusalem cannot be everywhere unless it is somewhere.' Likewise, IHM.

QUESTION 2:

- Actions: continued transparency by the committee and continued conversations with the entire community
- Actions: think we need to widen our lens of who we are looking to for models – i.e. Netherlands, Europe, etc.
- Actions: LCWR help facilitate US women religious into the future

QUESTION 3:

- Invitation: to let go of preconceptions and open ourselves to what could be
- Invitation: to center ourselves and to expand ourselves and open to possibilities
- Invitation: trust the process; trust God to guide us

- Invitation: call by God to surprise us
- Invitation: to stop being such a pessimist
- Invitation: expand our view and look to other models; Dream: to see the MH and Academy be used for unthought of purposes; a little village -i.e., immigrants

Group 10

We discussed first two questions together:

- We need to do this together and look at ways to collaborate with others
- IHMs have always overcome major challenges i.e. building Motherhouse during depression
- It's in our DNA to face challenges
- Other communities are not talking about selling MH or land. Feel hopeful that we are having those discussions
- Feeling of shock that we are facing the sale of the Motherhouse but grateful and awed we are discussing this during a pandemic.
- Grateful of Paula's presentation.

Question 3 - What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

- This is a new way to live the vow of poverty
- Spirit of hope overall. Need to give space to those struggling with letting go. Being compassionate heart and know some may be scared of not being taken care of at the Motherhouse.
- Again, need a sense of collaboration with the future residents of MH. Get rid of hierarchical structures
- Opportunity to create new community
- Thankful for renovating MH. Has prepared us for this moment.
- Can't forget about former member and other supporters not in former relationship with us
- What are we welcoming new members to?
- New members don't want to run nursing home. Need to deinstitutionalize
- Some current members understand they will not move to Motherhouse but instead age in place
- Need to look at ways to care for all members

Group 11

1. Feelings

- Range of emotions/reactions from calm and confident to sobering and terrified.
- We must deal with our emotions individually AND in collaboration with each other and the wider religious organizations nationally and globally.

- Spirit of the Congregation is attractive for buyers. We must do this. Collaboration is essential. Tell me how I can help.
- Confident in the people doing the research and that we will be cared for.
- The proposals are comforting, but I came to die with nuns not strangers. How will the sale affect those who bought the A-Wing apartment package?
- Strong belief that we have to do this. We trust this!
- Initially shocked by the news but enlightened by the sharing of information. The buildings are beautiful and will last and are valuable. The conservancy is a good route. The land is beautiful and useful. We are missionaries and as such must be steadfast - this is going to work out.

2. Actions

- Keep the work of the committee going it is vital.
- Keep talking and engaging with one another.
- Status of the Academy and its potential impact on the language in the RFQ regarding the Motherhouse. Imagining the building would likely be condemned and is attached to the Motherhouse.
- Is the Motherhouse/Academy an historic designation?
- The Academy is a big issue that needs to be addressed. Need to move on it.
- Continue to share information about the sale process especially with the residents and what it will mean for them.

3. God's Invitation

- To radical trust that is rooted in our history.
- To wisdom that can move us to trust then to action.
- Collaboration with each other; to encourage each other in knowing that we are in this together.
- To a journey that feels like adventure on one hand and peril on the other.
- Newer members to be engaged in the discussion for the mission they will carry forward.
- God invites us to our roots in order to go forward. Our founding spirit and deep sense of divine providence.

Group 12

Response to question 1:

Hope (and hope for the future), gratefulness, trust that God always provide for us.

Response to question 2:

Restitution and reparation to Native Americans involving giving part of the land to them

The use of some of our buildings to provide home/ health / education services to migrants in need

To continue working pussuing other forms of religious life with persons and groups of men and women

To continue collaborating with other congregations and organizations in a shared vision of mission

To continue using technology for communication purposes

Response to question 3:

To continue deepening our integrated eco-theological vision / This implies protecting and strengthening Mother Earth.

Understanding and welcoming migrants, Natives, and other minority groups' perspectives on Life and Mission.

To continue from a relational perspective, committed to the migrants, Native Americans and other "minority" groups

To continue working against racism

Group 13

What feelings are stirring within you personally, for the community?

- Amazed at information....feeling trust.
- Appreciated broader context. We're not alone. Our leader is our God. Filled with hope.
- No feelings of resistance. It's where we are.
- Not worried, appreciative of others ability to think through these things...Hopeful.
- Grounding.
- Need inclusion of associates.
- Not afraid...tradition of trust in Providence. We have more security than a lot of people have...our human capital is much larger.
- Who benefits? Who pays price?

What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community?

- Include indigenous persons in process.
- How pass on our legacy? What does it look like?
- Continuation of renovation commitment.
- Do in light of 175th commitment to anti-racism.

What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

- Dialogue with women of color.
- Dialogue with Mother Earth.
- Caution/invitation...information is important. Follow the questions Paula asked.
- Letting go, connecting with the land and all people, what does it mean to us? How territory, our land was taken and portioned... We have white privilege. What does it mean for us in relation to our ownership?
- Challenge that God is asking/inviting us to use power we have as institution to face institutional racism here.

Group 14

- Feelings: excitement - doing something new, anxiety re: investment - are there opportunities?
- Gratitude for what we have - how to share with others.
- This reality is not only ours - it is a world reality - how do we find the way forward, living with the tensions?
- Embrace the Paschal Mystery.
- Call - to be with/for the migrant population.
- Question - should real estate experts and health care experts be on the POR committee?
- We have competition in Monroe, should we be in touch with other Health care Systems - not in Monroe?
- The values we proclaim are not well accepted in Monroe - what would happen if we put a Black Lives Matter in the front?
- The idea of a Conservancy holds promise seeing what happened at Marygrove.
- Our failure with Norman Towers should hold some concerns for us.
- Need to reach out beyond the Catholic community to others.

Group 15

Small group on Future Ownership

What feelings and stirrings in you and community?

- Feelings go up and down. I think it will be harder than I think.
- Feel sadness and fear and dread and an excitement in letting go. Terribly hard and overwhelmed for LC and committee.
- Felt relief learning where we are with it...hope it will be done within this LC. Being told there will be a place for the sisters. Impressed with the committee. We were privileged to see the video of the Victory Nolls and impressed with their planning.
- Know congregations who have done this...like our process..I experienced the separation when we no longer had visitation and the drive into the property from Stewart Road...it will be harder than I realize it as well.
- Those in skilled care...congregations who were separated...I feel we are in good hands. Makes me grateful not so much comfortable...right direction and doing it in a responsible way.
- Giving up control and not being in charge...even though we have moved into that in some ways. Question of sponsorship...

What actions may be required to preserve the life of the community?

- Small intensive conversations with the women in SLC to discuss these steps forward. There is a concern that not all the sisters understand how they relate to SLC. Also, to

raise up assumptions about the future which may cause anxiety or fear within them. Discuss assumptions about how we operate so we are aware of our control expectations.

- IHM initiates some small group with members in SLC.
- Possible rituals signifying major changes that will be happening among us in the next 3-9 years.
- We are learning so much about the power of when people come together and intentionally hold the space with a specific intention. A new understanding of intercessory prayer. Perhaps the congregation could set a time in which we all participate which would hold the prayerful space with the intention that the IHM mission continues as the future emerges through the decisions regarding the Motherhouse and the land. This could help us to prayerfully, gradually, intentionally grow into the emerging future.
- Need to be alert that after we sell the Motherhouse that those sisters/associates not living on campus will continue to be welcome to come and visit. We might need to create days to gather.

What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

- Calling on the gifts of our members to do some of the things we talked about yesterday and today. Not leave them to just our staff. People who are writing, who are artists, etc. share their work with each other through communications.
- Stay open, stay engaged in the process and our own belief in letting go.

Group 16

We mentioned feeling calm, not afraid. This is a very serious reality we face, but IHMs always face reality head on.

We need to remember and realize in a new way that the IHM community is not the buildings but the people we are. As we unravel and rework the strands, we know that it's about walking with the people, continuing to work with racism in ourselves in our local communities. We see this as including all persons of color including Native Americans on whose land we live and the large Arab community in Dearborn.

Another part of our continuing Mission is moving toward a sustainable way of living and a habit of asking, "What is enough?" We have stewarded our resources in the past, for example renovating our Motherhouse with a view to accepting Medicare/Medicaid residents. In addition, constructing apartments on the A wing, enabling us to market as a true Continuing Care Retirement Center. Both of these projects will provide a revenue stream into the future. We are educators who can continue to put forth the perilous condition of our planet and lobby for action.

We are where we need to be, and the immense, painful challenges we face are inviting us to new life.

Group 17

Day 2 – Break out 3

We spent the first 10 minutes getting everyone's technology sorted out.

Question 1 – How do you feel about what you heard

- Confidence – we are not alone; this is part of a community process and God is with us.
- Relieved to see the facts and figures.
- The Assembly Chapter prayer expresses who we are, what we do, and who is with us which calls us to be vulnerable but honest and loving with each other.
- Concerned for the 16 people under 80 in 2030 who will be carrying the responsibility of leadership at that point.
- Whatever happens, happens. It is bigger than us.

Question 2 – What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community.

- We have to take an honest look at ourselves to see what we need to let go to allow new life to come in.
- We will always be in mission, no matter where we are; but some folks don't feel if they are living in the Motherhouse, that they have a mission.
- We need to explore what mission means, perhaps expanding our definition on the form we submit.
- How does presence fit into mission?

Question 3 – What is God inviting us to do as we move into the future.

- God is inviting us to examine what we can leave behind so we can allow new life to come in.
- God is inviting us to redefine mission – presence as a fundamental part of mission, no matter where we are
- God is inviting us to move into the future as sisters who trust one another and who have really done our homework.
- God is inviting us to prepare our newest members for leadership when they are called.

Group 18

1. In the light of the presentations, what feelings are stirring within you personally and communally?

- Gillet Quote: *I began without thinking of the future, leaving it to God...* still resonates with us today in this moment.
- Heavy feelings, yet heart felt pride at the work that the Process and Oversight Committee (POC) has done.
- Trust strengthened by the presentations in our IHM Leadership and the POC.
- Great confidence and supportive trust of the approach that is being taken.

- The statistics from 2021-2024-2030 are sobering and need to be sat with. Integration of the information demands reflection.
- One member recalled that she entered just after Vatican II and change has been a part of her religious life experience. This conversation reminds her that greater change may be ahead.
- The weaving image continues to speak and the fact that personally and collectively we are engaged in mystery and weaving a life tapestry together.

2. What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community?

- Opportunities to gather and explore like this helps trust to grow. Bonding helps us explore hard issues.
- Days like Jubilee and special celebrations, just a fun day or a gathering to just chat is needed after the Pandemic era.
- Wisdom Circle smaller conversations revealed new depths of conversation that have been stimulated by the Pandemic and the lack of personal access to each other.
- The Associate connections as members, presence on the Coordinating Council, as well as their demographics and involvement need to be identified and capitalized upon in this process. They have wonderful gifts to offer and insights to bring to us.

3. What is God inviting us to move to...”

- Greater bondedness among us (sisters/associates) in community.
- More intentional inclusion and partnership with those who resonate deeply with our values and community.
- Coming together and deepening relationships are important so continue balancing our use of technology and in-person gatherings/conversations.
- Develop a new sense of transformative mission – being present.
- Envision our future-- giving up our vision of being an owner-resident (in SLC) to embrace being simply a resident.

Group 19

1. In light of the presentations, what feelings are stirring in you personally, for the community?

- Gratitude, for having been given “the big picture” as part of the presentation
- Confidence
- Sadness, have a desire to see us follow up
- Frustration (we’ve been saying for over 20 years we would look into the property; hope we would not dwell on “property” but “my sisters”)
- Anxious (I tend to be this way in face of the unknown, I want us to be conscious of one another’s needs, to allow people to come along at their own pace and “follow the questions” as Chittister said.

- Peaceful –we can't go faster than some of us might like; need to be considerate of "the whole"
- Hopeful Our real "home" is the IHM community. It is a journey.

2. What actions may be required to preserve the life of our community?

- Willingness to take the "next steps"
- Why has no one brought up "the Academy"? Where are things on that?
- What if we said "this (the buildings, the land) is our "patrimony" and then answered the questions that Paula raised at the end of her presentation?
- We need to have conversations. We need to think collaboratively. We need to think not just of "an unloading of property" but of ENVISIONING, creatively with others. Perhaps, if we found the right groups (POC, indigenous, migrants) we could "give it away"? How can we offer those who share our vision, a share in this process of our "letting go"?

3. What is God inviting us to as we move into the future?

- "to let go"
- Trust we are being led by Providence
- Recall what happened with Marygrove: pursue philanthropic partner(s) who share our vision (could include other congregations), set up a "conservancy" that would minister to immigrants, youth, POCs

Breakout Groups Responses to Plenary sessions

Friday, July 30, 2021 - Afternoon session

Reflecting on all of our conversations, what are the common threads being woven through these conversations?

Group 1

- It was refreshing to have complete acceptance of fact
- We prefer the use of "legacy" rather than "patrimony"; the latter sounds like we are dying.
- We have come to a comfort zone with who we are as individuals with diversity.
- We are at the point where we are ready to move. One person compared us to the Chicago train station, with some on the steps with their bags, some meandering around, some still packing their bags, and some still out in the lobby. We don't know the destination or the exact route, and some may get off on the way, but the train is leaving the station.
- We have a forward-looking optimism.
- The word "we" reverberated through all discussions. We are a blend of "we's" but have expanded our understanding of who is included. Everything has moved to a broader context. "We" is more than IHM.

Group 2

Common Threads (page 7)

1. We are in this together - "Jerusalem our Destiny" - "The journey makes us one."

- We are up to the task
- Confident
- Resilient
- Without fear or negativity
- Trusting in Providence - all down the years
- Will make the way by walking
- Trust
- Hope filled
- Energized

2. New understanding of "humility, simplicity and zeal."

3. New identity as IHM is emerging

- connection to the land and those who went before us
- wanting to redress grievances of racism
- continue care for the planet
- mission not tied to buildings

4. Affirmation of the work of the Committee and gratitude for all that has been accomplished so far.

Group 3

What we have been hearing, etc.

- Sisters appreciated the metaphor of stewing...all of the information we have received today.
- It will take time weaving all together....Give each other support and TIME; be honest with each other
- We need to consider what are the needs that we can attend to...reach out to those on the margins,
- The poor, the homeless....
- Our property is our patrimony...
- Be vulnerable....
- We move forward TOGETHER!

Group 4

The threads of Solidarity for Justice, Peace, Sustainable new life

- HOPE in the face of world changes/events
- TRUST in the Journey that came before with God's faithful presence
- LIBERATION for ourselves, world, creation
- POWER of the anawim, in Truth, Simplicity and love that we have to share
- We are not making plans at this assembly with pages of results but making a VISION

- Expectation when we entered that we Trust those in charge...where will we go next in Mission?
- Patrimony is good image of Resources
- TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE!!!

Group 5

Common threads

- Need for continuing focus on Spirituality
- Widening our tent to be more inclusive
- Connecting our collective stories as community and our individual stories
- Being called forth in new ways

What will we need to do:

- Practice patience with ourselves and with other
- Trust and show up
- Be flexible
- Be supportive of leadership and each other
- Follow the Spirit

Group 6

Common threads

Positive openness to the future working with other organizations We are not our property; it is part of our legacy Future less institutional can mean more freedom Associates an important part of future

Group 7

1. A clearer picture of the limits of our resources from the reports of Jane Herb and Paula Cooney and a sense among us of a "letting go" for whatever might emerge in terms of mission and identity.
2. We are people not to be identified with property, but we do HAVE property and so we support the POC and LC to move on to the next steps in terms of the limits of our resources as mentioned above since we can no longer sustain and manage these properties.
3. Communicate with all who are impacted by this: IHMs and Associates, development Fund contributors, apartment persons, City of Monroe, etc., including our vision for the future.

Group 8

1. We heard many times that we want to be a loving presence to each other and a loving presence to the world.
2. We heard many times a stronger sense of community, the priority we are giving to mission and ministry and the invitation of mission and ministry in a new way.
3. We heard many times that spirituality is the core of our identity.

Group 9

Common threads:

- spiritual connection and trust in the Spirit to lead us
- concern for the common good
- forward looking optimism and energy among us, energy to get going, willing to move on
- we are ready and can do this for the betterment of the earth. community, church
- respect for each other in the past, now, in the future
- collaboration, conversation, conversion
- trust and gratitude
- as we are doing, we are becoming
- care for the lifeform [religious life] itself

Group 10

- Emphasis of people over property
- Sense of freedom in speaking about diverse spiritualities. Real sense of spirit of trust
- We are open to the spirit
- Readiness to move forward
- The future is now
- We've always trusted the spirit since our founding
- Trust in the providence of God
- Divesting is a form of the vow of poverty
- It's for the mission that we divest
- Concept of mission is not faceless - can't forget persons of color and migrants
- We're dealing with real issues
- Must acknowledge that some people might be afraid and need to walk with them
- Whatever we decide has consequences that will affect many more than even we can realize

Group 11

Common Threads:

The 'sauce' of our 'stew' is our spirituality - our diversity enriches the whole while each maintains their own uniqueness.

Many ways of completing "Re" :

- re- imagining
- re-defining
- re-founding
- re-vitalizing
- re-connecting
- etc

A shift from I to we - / as individuals to community as well as from one community to being part of a bigger whole. We're finally 'rejoining' the rest of the universe - we are sharing the same challenges that are part of the everyday life of all of humanity. Love will get us through. We are not alone!

The thread of intentionality - making the deliberate move into the future - a conscious decision to live into it.

Our trust will be revealed in our patience with one another and the journey - with an openness and generosity toward one another that is not judgmental but freeing.

Our letting go is emerging.

Group 12 – No response

Group 13

Common Threads...

- In our stewing we saw how many people, cultures and experiences have added spices to the rich stew that we are as IHM.
- Some thoughts... evolving sense of the Common Good... of IHM and the whole earth community.
- Openness to the future and a willingness to take risks as we journey together with hope.
- And trust that God is leading.
- The mystery if life is an energy pulsing among us.
- Racism, poverty, and injustice call us to be a force for peace and justice.
- God is calling us to LET GO and to Reach out.

- We need to be neighbors with the native residents on the land we share.
- We want to talk with Indian people in Monroe about the possibility of designating a piece of our land (actually their land) for an Indian heritage memorial of some kind.

Group 14

In movement, emotions of anxiety and anticipation, interest in Health Care in U.S., Academy not in use-would affect the process? Include lay experts on the Committee. Experience of Marygrove process as an example. Although Detroit and Monroe are different realities. Trust the experts. IHM is suspect in Monroe: the garden of wildflowers, our spirituality.

Open wider our vision, this is for the mission and life of the Community. connect with interfaith groups, no-violence- counter cultural.

Trust. among all the uncertainties. Live the questions. Needs of the migrant populations. resistance in Monroe. Work of Sara Nash. Dignity of each person in the process. Walk together the Congregation with the people. Much energy as all recognizes the need of letting go. There is Spirit, energy around the process. Live the Paschal Mystery.

Group 15

- Togetherness and belonging
- Trust in the future
- Power and gift of community
- Sense of resiliency; responding faithfully

Group 16

IHMs are not institutions but people.

We find the wheel of tension an effective image for the struggle between the good of the individual (I) and good of community (we). We desire to move from the "I" to the "we."

On the Commitment form we appreciate the listing of "Prayer and Presence" for the ministry of retired Sisters.

We heard the recurrence in many different wordings of striving not only for the IHM common good for the larger global common good.

We noted the clear emphasis on absence of fear, but rather on trust. We desire to move to "we" trust.

Group 17

Question – Reflecting on all of our conversations, what are the common threads being woven through these conversations?

- Trust in each other and in the process
- Courage to risk honest conversations
- Willingness and energy behind what is ahead of us
- The expression of mission and how it may be adapted – reimagining of our life and mission
- Desire to move from the “I” to the “we” – God is walking with us
- Based on our spirituality – not that all of us share the same spirituality but that God is central to each person’s expression
- The common good has to mean more than the IHM – it has to mean outreach to our brothers and sisters. This is our mission.
- The “stew” metaphor resonated, as well as the weaving metaphor. Our differences and individualities blend to make our mission of which we are all part.
- We are in mission, even if we are not in active ministry.
- Stewing is important – making the sauce that binds us together enriches the flavors present without one flavor overpowering the others. Stewing creates a hunger in us to continue to participate, to “taste” everything there is to “taste,”
- We are launching into the future without fear – with the openness of a child and the fearless of a trapeze artist. The congregation pushes where we could not go by ourselves. Together we can make something new.
- Moving into the future involves inclusion – the people in the “A” wing, the people in Monroe, members and associates and partners – the lines of clear communication are vita.

Group 18

Common Threads in our Conversations

- 1.) We are the ones we have been waiting for.
 - >together strengthen our bonds, encouraging each other as we journey into the future;
 - >we are contemplative women, the Spirit is our guide....no need to fear;
 - >we must accept the diversity in our spirituality, moving deeper from I to We
- 2.) We are called to make NEW again.
 - >how we see our Mission: respond to wider needs, see ourselves at a bigger table;
 - >commit to the Common Good for ourselves and the world;

What do you believe is God’s Invitation to you personally and as a community, as we move into the future? What will this require of you personally, and us, as a community. These two questions were blended together in our responses.

- God’s invitation is to continue the conversation and in reaching out to other, in making the effort to do so. When we meet attempt to create bonds with community members by getting acquainted with those we do not know well. Bonding with each other is so important and a very significant factor for trust to grow, which will be so needed in the days ahead.

- Relax and trust the step-by-step process that is unfolding. Things will unfold and God is in charge.
- Bring the critical issue of the study of future ownership of the Motherhouse and the land in an intentional way to prayer.
- In the last report earlier today, it was mentioned to be a loving presence to each other and the world. A loving presence to each other and the world will be the spark that will ignite the fire to get things done, to also transform.
- Need to be attentive to indigenous and migrant voices in how we address the dispossession of our property. This will demand intentionality and creativity on our part.
- How to clearly address the common good concretely will be more of a focus in the days ahead.
- Institutional responsibility decreasing hopefully will free up funding and other resources for mission.

Group 19: What are the common threads being woven through these conversations?

We have an inheritance in our spirituality, in community, in our history.... In 1845 we emerged as a response to the cries of our church/world.... The cries of the world are calling us again and we are being called to respond again.

In this post pandemic moment, are we being invited by God to truly allow the cries of the world to take center stage in our discussion/ deliberations/ decisions about our property, our patrimony, our inheritance trusting that God's providential love will bless our intention and effort? Has God been waiting for this moment to put our property and land to use on behalf of those in need?

As we move forward, we need to continue to attend to who is at the table. Who is at the table when we talk about needs? We desire to respond to needs and not create a solution to a need as **we** perceive it.

There were a lot of unknowns – that is not central focus – but we move forward and address the unknowns as they present themselves

Emerging future, we don't see it.... Listen to call God gives us in this moment. While not knowing the future, we are asked to respond in this moment and in so doing, we create the future. Mission lies with our members.... How can we use our patrimony as part of mission?

In our earlier days, we could get caught up with what we do – is the invitation to renewal of our commitment to religious life? Our gift to contribute is the witness of a single-hearted commitment to God; we see in Jesus, his single-hearted relationship with God and that commitment was a challenge for everyone/everything with whom he engaged.

Re-commitment to religious life – people who are single-minded in their love and commitment to God.... A re-focusing of our presence as witness to a single-hearted commitment to God.

The joining of such a commitment to God and commitment to challenging injustices. This was highlighted again and anew during our 175th Assembly.

Our sharing these days seem to reflect the fruits of the sharing that is underway in our spirituality SOGs. We are appreciating each other in new ways for their relationship with God and how it was lived out in their lives. Spirituality... in a different place