

Understanding the IHM Charism

LOVE, CREATIVE HOPE & FIDELITY

Appropriate for Board, Staff and Faculty Meetings

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

As we begin a new year as members of _____, we pause to ask the Lord's blessing on this new year and to seek the wisdom of His Spirit in our deliberations as we work to further the mission of _____. Since September 1904, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary have shared their IHM Charism with every community in which they serve.. This charism, a grace for the apostolic vitality and the holiness of the Church, expresses itself in the core values of love, creative hope and fidelity.

We say that our Charism grace of **LOVE** manifests itself in joy, respect and reverence; that it becomes real in kindness and compassion; availability, approachability and accessibility; that it exercises justice with mercy; that it responds with acute sensitivity and large-heartedness to human need. This is not necessarily dramatic but an everyday ordinary response to a need. In a special way, our Charism directs our love and concern to God's people, especially those most abandoned or neglected - the poor among us, to those who could fall between the cracks, get left on the margins or become almost invisible.

Lord, May we, the _____...

Have Your eyes to see where there is a problem or difficulty and move in the direction of Your Healing. May others view us as kind, merciful, compassionate and approachable. Give us Your LOVE, Jesus, to make things right with all.



We say that our Charism grace of **CREATIVE HOPE** places all its confidence in God's loving Providence; that it seeks to make a way where there seems to be no way; that it finds in the present a hint of something more, looking beyond what appears to be to what really is; that it believes that we can make a difference, especially when efforts seem futile; that it chooses an alternative way of living, different from the dominant culture that would have us settle for less; that it engenders hope in the young and the most vulnerable and seeks to find alternatives to negativity and despair, looking to the future with fresh eyes and renewed vigor. It never gives up on anyone!



Lord, may we, the _____...

Have Your hands to reach out to those around us with little or no hope. May others view us as vigorous, intuitive, and always eager to find a solution for their hardships. Give us Your HOPE, Jesus, so that others will know that we will never give up on them.

In a culture that places little value on faithfulness, we say that our Charism of **FIDELITY** calls for perseverance, for staying power, for courage, for faithful commitment over the long haul. We say **Fidelity** fosters integrity in words and actions and it challenges us to remain steadfast in the mission entrusted to us. It calls forth an enduring love.

Lord, may we, the _____...

Have Your Heart to persevere in this most holy mission as members of _____ . May those to whom we minister pass on the **LOVE** to those they will meet in their lives. Give us your **FIDELITY**, Jesus so that we may call forth an enduring love in the lives of all with whom we come in contact.



It is our ongoing challenge and responsibility to claim this God-given gift of the IHM Charism, and to be sure that it finds a home in our hearts; that it becomes the reality of how we choose to live life and live it abundantly!

AMEN.

Have Your Heart to persevere in this most holy mission of Catholic Education as Advisory Board members. May the students of St. Francis De Sales pass on the LOVE to those they will meet in their lives. Give us your FIDELITY, Jesus so that we may call forth an enduring love in the lives of the De Sales students and their families.



It is our ongoing challenge and responsibility to claim this God-given gift of the IHM Charism, and to be sure that it finds a home in our hearts; that it becomes the reality of how we choose to live life and live it abundantly!

AMEN