

Ritual of Membership

Call to Worship

Leader: As we come together today,
let us embrace the reality of being God's beloved,
of *being* the holy dwelling place of God.

Hymn: "I Have Loved You" (Michael Joncas)

Leader: We are **sisters**
journeying together as **servants** of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary,**
the hallowed dwelling place where the Word becomes Flesh . . .

Psalm 121 (Please pray antiphonally.)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
Indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
The Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A Reading from the First Letter of John 1 John 4:7-11

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

The Word of the Lord.



Response to the Reading - Promise of Commitment

Cards are distributed . . .

Leader: In stillness, let us come before the God Who loves us.

(A Time of Communal Contemplation)

Leader: Let us commit ourselves to full participation in Chapter 2023.

(Sisters sign their commitment)

Leader: May our cards serve as a reminder of our promise.

Each sister in turn, voices her commitment, with these words:

**I, Sister _____, because I am loved by God and called to full participation
in our IHM Congregation, I commit myself to Chapter 2023.**

*She then places her signed commitment on the altar, and the community affirms her,
saying:*

**Sister _____, you are loved by God, and are a beloved
member of our community. We affirm your commitment.**

Intercessions (Please pray together.)

Gracious God,
You call us to newness of life.

Empower us to be
faithful witnesses *to poverty*,
making room for the Providence of God in the face of an unknown future.

Empower us to be
faithful witnesses *to chastity*.
offering compassion to a world hungry for love.

Empower us to be
faithful witnesses *to obedience*,
responding with courage to the Voice of God we hear in stillness.

Empower us to be open to the transforming movement of Your Spirit within us.

Closing Prayer

Leader: God of Boundless Love,
Help us to be faithful members of our IHM Community.
Bless our efforts to participate wholeheartedly in Chapter 2023
Bring us rejoicing into newness of life. Amen. Alleluia