

Liz's First Profession

IHM Center – September 27, 2021

Grace before Dinner

**The God of all Grace has blessed us today!**

**Today we are blessed by our Sister Liz and the commitment of her life to what is good and holy all around us – through her quiet, gentle, and joyful presence. For generous grace, we give thanks.**

**Today we are blessed by Liz's family, her dear parents Helen and Richard, and her five siblings, in particular her brother Terry and niece Kate, who join us today. Family is a place where fidelity and love grow into permanence. For the pure gift of family and friends who feel like family, we give thanks.**

**Today we are blessed by the presence of friends like Janet, Maria, and Father Terry, whom Liz brings into our circle of companions. They have journeyed faithfully with her, sometimes on winding paths, to the joy of this moment. For the wisdom of friends, we give thanks.**

**Today we are blessed by one another. We can feel, and almost touch, the deep abiding presence of love, care, encouragement, and support that encompass us when we gather in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, our model of discipleship. For community, we give thanks.**

**Today we are blessed the by the joys and burdens of the world. We embrace the joys for they lighten the burdens. We embrace the burdens for they illuminate the mystery of the life to which we are committed. For all of life, we give thanks.**

**And now we are blessed by the food before us, food from rich fields and vines, to strengthen and nourish us; food that is scarce for some and for whom others beg. For the abundance of food and the generosity of those who prepare and serve it, we give thanks.**

**Indeed, the God of all grace has blessed us today. For all this - Liz, her family and friends, our Sisters who surround and love us, the sharing of life's joys and burdens, and the sacred opportunity to break abundant bread with one another, we say AMEN.**