

IHM Direction Statement 2018-2022
Reflection and Discussion for Associates #9
Seeing and Being the Light That Shines Through
the Cracks of Broken Hearts



IHM Direction Statement

We, Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Associates, rooted in God and the Gospel, search for prophetic ways to live our vowed and committed life in a world hungering for justice and meaning. We steep ourselves in prayer and contemplation, delve deeply into our brokenness and shadow, and embrace our giftedness and vulnerability, as we share in a life of radical interdependence. On fire with the passion to love unconditionally, we desire to be in the midst of the pain of our world and join with others in seeing and being the light that shines through the cracks of broken hearts. We use imagination, creativity, and fresh thinking to bring about God's dream for our beautiful, yet wounded world.

Our IHM Direction Statement presents numerous challenges. We live in a world where broken hearts can be found everywhere. We desire to be in the midst of their pain, to recognize it and strive to be the light that shines through the cracks of their brokenness.

"Broken hearts can reside in the young and the aging, those just beginning their lives, those living it to the fullest and those closing in on their final days. Bringing light to this brokenness is to bring God into its midst. It is to be a disciple of Jesus, to live the Gospel message. It is to speak words of faith and trust and love. It is to resound with the knowledge that God can conquer all, that Jesus has forgiven and died and rose."

Song: Be Born In Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsXOP7aQeqQ&feature=youtu.be>

Read - Pray - Reflect on these Scripture passages.

The following Scripture passages offer us encouragement and hope when our hearts are broken. Someone enters our life and offers us the light and presence that sustains us. Reflect and share ways you can be that shining light and when someone has been that light for you.

Presentation in the Temple - Luke 2: 25, 27-32

"There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon....when the parents brought in the child Jesus...he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying...my eyes have seen your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel."

In being faithful to ritual, Mary presents Jesus in the temple. Simeon, who had been waiting to see the Messiah, recognizes Jesus and announces that He is the Light for all people.

When we receive the light of faith in Baptism, we also are invited into a relationship with Jesus.

When has your faith helped you recognize Jesus as the light sustaining your broken heart?

The Light - Matthew 5: 14,16

"You are the light of the world...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Jesus charges us to be the light that others can recognize. This can happen in many ways. Perhaps it is due to our calming presence in a difficult situation, the words we speak to someone, the patience and encouragement we offer, the way we respond to unspoken needs, etc.

**In what way do you try to be the light that shines through someone's broken heart?
When has someone been that light for you?**

The Crucifixion - John 19: 25-26

"Standing by the cross were his mother.....When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

In his dying agony, Jesus was aware of his mother's broken heart and presented her to John. He saw her brokenness and spoke of who could be a sustaining light for her.

**If there was a time when you were in pain and others looked to you to be the light, what was that like?
How were you able to find light within to give to another?**

Appearance to Mary of Magdala - John 20: 15, 16, 18

"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for? Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

*Mary of Magdala is heart-broken and goes searching for the body of Jesus. She discovers the empty tomb. Suddenly Jesus appears and she doesn't recognize him until he says her name.
Due to this encounter she is sent on a mission to proclaim his resurrection.*

When have you recognized Jesus calling you to go forth as a light for the broken hearted?

Attuning to the Spirit:

These Scripture passages challenge us to reflect on the importance of letting the "light" of our faith offer renewed hope to others in varied situations. How do you carry on that mission of "seeing and being" that light in your midst?

Our Direction Statement reminds us to be the "light that shines". This can happen in many ways if we become observant and do what we can. We offer light when we offer a smile, present a gentle touch, give a listening ear, nod a desire for understanding, or just BE God's Presence.

Brokenness can be heard in the voices of family and friends, in acquaintances at daily Mass, in newscasters and professionals, and implied in words of the newspaper. Each echoes the broken heart of another. Each seeks to relay compassion to the other and feel compassion from another.

Reflect and Share

- What have you learned from Theresa Maxis about this quote in our Statement?
- As Circle of Grace, when have you shared experiences of seeing and being a "light" shining through the crack of a broken heart?

Sending Forth

Go forth and **be** the light, **see** the light, and **shine brightly** as a disciple of Jesus.

Song: We Are the Light of the World

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_m_LiCY3MJQ