

Below are some themes to consider in quiet reflection during our time of prayer. These are drawn from the volume two of the IBVM Constitutions, which seeks to speak the heart of the Ignatian Constitutions in today's language.

1.11 A great love of God, and desire to do good,
an attitude of openness to all good works,
a freedom to refer all to God,
and a readiness to follow the way
of justice and sincerity in lightness of spirit:
this is the charism that Mary Ward desired
to shine through all our words and works.

1.14 As Mary Ward had the grace of forgiveness,
we seek to be instruments of justice,
peace and reconciliation
wherever there is brokenness and oppression,
wherever there is need.

The rights and dignity of women
are central to our concern

2.1 Mission is at the heart of who we are,
and love is the driving force that urges us on.

2.2 Our inspiration comes from

the life and relationship of the Trinity,
whose self-emptying love
energizes the whole cosmos.

Through this holy communion of Persons
we are caught up in mission,
expressed in a unique way
through the life, death and resurrection
of Jesus of Nazareth.

2.9 We commit ourselves to building right relations

With the earth and all creation
allowing ourselves and our ministries
To be transformed by what this demands.

2.10 Care of the faith and education

remain central to our tradition.
Whether we work in justice, welfare,
spiritual, academic, youth or other ministries
we bring the witness of faith and spirituality and the freedom of education to whatever we do.

2.15 Our call is essentially that of contemplatives in action.

We recognize the sacred in our midst,
finding God in all creation,

in all situations and in all people.

It is this awareness that we take to prayer,
and it is prayer that impels us in turn
to engage with our world
of beauty and despair.

2.16 The corporate dimension of mission
goes far beyond individual perceptions.

The Institute as a whole seeks
to discover and embrace the will of God.

The Ignatian tradition of discernment is essential to this quest.

It underlies all our decision-making
and enables us to face and review choices
with freedom and trust,
in the context of the Institute's mission,
the greater good and the gifts we have to offer.

3.1 Union of minds and hearts is a gift of grace
rather than a human achievement.

Through the power of the Spirit,
we humbly seek to live as companions for mission, in prayer and friendship.

3.2 As a world-wide Institute we are united through our charism.

Union, not uniformity, is primary;
and patterns of prayer, living and ministry [671] will vary across cultures.

6.2 Within the framework of the Ignatian tradition,
and Mary Ward's vision for her Institute,
we seek to bring to all levels of Institute governance
a feminine perspective of inclusivity,
where leadership is exercised in a participative
and consultative style,
where lay collaborators are valued
and diverse gifts respected.

7.6 More than any written law,
it is the law of love that the Holy Spirit
writes and imprints on our hearts
that urges us on to live the charism;
to be people of hope for the future,
in the service of the mission of Jesus,
alert and ready to give all
in a love that knows no end,
to the greater glory of God.

Conclude with

A version of Take O lord