



# New Life NOTES

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Spring 2004

## Looking to the Future Revitalizing Mentoring Communities

### IHM Constitutions

The love of Jesus Christ forms us into a community, diverse as we are as individuals. In response to the divine call to discipleship and apostolic service, we live together in community with the Eucharistic Christ as the center of our life. Joined in a conscious and intense sharing of his life and mission, we search out together the Father's will and offer one another support and encouragement in seeking to fulfill it. The thrust is twofold: the building of authentic community within the congregation, and the extension and strengthening of the wider community of all who belong to Christ. (p. 11)

### Chapter 2002 Recommendation

That the chapter endorse efforts to identify, form and support welcoming/mentoring communities in various geographical areas of the congregation.

### A Message from Young Adults



Pastoral Plan of the  
Third Continental Congress on Vocations

“Please openly witness to your faith, by being available. Specifically, (we ask) you who live the consecrated life...to offer

us an authentic and joyful witness to your way of life, that we may experience the passion of your service. Invite us to share your excitement and deep love of Christ and His Church.”

### Our response

Our Constitutions, the recommendation of Chapter 2002 and the young adults statement for the Continental Congress invite and challenge us to revitalize and renew our commitment to create mentoring communities for the life of the congregation. Thus, after much study, research, dialogue, prayer and reflection we have formalized our past and evolving experiences.

In the Summer 2003 issue of New Life Notes, Sr. Ann Barbara states, “As communities are called on to open their doors to those experiencing formation, it is important to reflect on the ingredients that make this work.”

We invite you to pray and reflect and dialogue on some of the ingredients.



## A Mentoring Community

### Commits to

- ❖ Personal and communal prayer in a variety of forms
- ❖ Dialogue and discussion around matters affecting the group
- ❖ Participation and companionship with new members in congregational activities
- ❖ Making visible the joy of our vocation as IHM
- ❖ Actively share our charism in ministry



## A Mentoring Community is

### Willing to

- ❖ Be open to the diversity of new members and one another
- ❖ Grow and be changed by the experience
  - ❖ Be patient with the gradual process of incorporation of the new member

---

*All mentoring, especially spiritual mentoring,  
is a form of empowerment that  
helps others discern their vocations,  
acknowledge their gifts and  
begin to give shape to their dreams.*

*Edward C. Sellner*

### Reflection and Discussion Questions

- ❖ How do you express your commitment to religious life without focusing exclusively on ministry?
- ❖ What gift do you reflect as a committed woman? How will you use this gift to mentor new members?
- ❖ Women entering religious life desire quality common life. What, in your local community, fills this desire?
- ❖ When has a mentoring relationship allowed you to form a bond with someone who was very different from you?
- ❖ When have you recognized in hindsight that someone served as a mentor to you?
- ❖ In what ways have openness to God, integrity, and a sense of presence been expressed by your mentors?

