

## IHM Transformation Outreach

The Transformational Outreach initiative was launched at IHM in late 2019. The overall goal is for Outreach work to be more sustainable. (*Can we make the bread line shorter?*) A group of parishioners assembled the principles below, and are now working to influence their increased use. The plan is to accomplish this through education, and by supporting others, both within and outside IHM, that are already using these principles.

### ***What can you do to help?***

1. Read and carefully consider the principles below. Share, discuss and debate them with others in your circle of influence. If you agree with them, use them to help improve what you see.
2. Join the IHM conversation! You can contact Scott Lowe (email [jsl2206@outlook.com](mailto:jsl2206@outlook.com)).

## **Founding principles and beliefs of IHM Transformation Outreach:**

We understand that poverty:

- Is more than material deprivation.
- Manifests itself in physical, social, mental and spiritual areas; therefore, efforts to reduce poverty should take place within all these areas.
- Is inherently relational, and that the relational building blocks of life are:
  - With God;
  - With self;
  - With others; and
  - With the rest of creation.
- Is the result of relationships that do not work. That are:
  - Not just;
  - Not for life; and
  - Not harmonious or enjoyable.
- Is the absence of peace, harmony, wholeness, and completeness.

We believe that:

- All humans are poor in the sense of relationships that are broken, and in that we are all sinners.
- By embracing our mutual brokenness, we will affirm the dignity of all, and
  - Bring those on the margins into kinship;
  - Work **with** them rather than **for** them; and
  - Transform ourselves as well as others.
- Ultimately human brokenness and failing is healed through Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

We will develop outreach that transforms by:

- Engaging in a process that helps those in a partner community:
  - Clarify what really matters to them;
  - Determine their qualities and strengths;
  - Develop a sense of ownership, accountability and leadership;
  - Establish solutions that lead to sustainability; and
- Whenever practical, engage the partner community in planning activities and programs for mutual benefit.
- Making building relationships at least as important as “getting things done”.
- Being a model of working civilly and respectfully through differences of opinion.
- Planning within each program time for all participants to get to know each other socially.
- Including prayer at appropriate times.
- Taking time for reflection both before and after each outreach experience. Ask “Why?” to start to understand systemic issues.