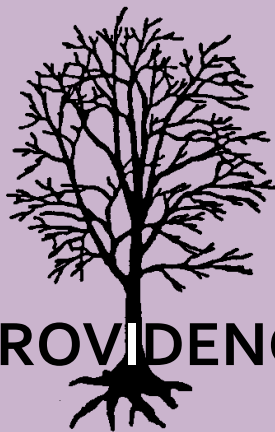




Advent 2016



Women of

PROVIDENCE

in Collaboration

Each year we embark on the journey of Advent, the pilgrimage, if you will, toward the feast of Christmas and remembering our salvation history, beginning with the mystery of the Incarnation— God with us, among us, one of us! Hopefully there is great anticipation and a desire for preparedness.

Advent can be that season when we set aside time to ground ourselves, to remember God's presence in our midst as the source of peace we often speak of at Christmas and for which we earnestly yearn. We know on a global scale the world is in dire need of peace—universal peace and reconciliation among nations and religious sects, among ethnic groups and political parties, among internal and external antagonism and wars. Locally, what can we do to promote peace in our little corner of the world? How can we build the “peaceable kingdom” and promote kindness and understanding? What are we willing to let go of or leave behind as we embark on this pilgrimage? What will we do to create places of peace wherever we are? The choice is ours whether or not we wish to join the pilgrimage.

This year our Advent reflections again will be taken from our newest WPC publication: *Providence Alive in Us: Ever Unfolding Mystery*. Each Sunday and Wednesday we will hear from some of our WPC reflectors on the writings of each of the authors in the book. I've asked these reflectors to take the quote given them and reflect on it with an Advent lens.

I invite each of you, as Providence persons, to join the pilgrimage this year. Reflect on the readings of Advent daily. Reflect on the quotes chosen for the two days each week and on what our Providence writers have offered us. As we are attentive to the calls of Providence this Advent we will be agents of hope and peace, proclaiming the glad tidings of Christmas, God is here!

Sister Barbara