

Good morning:

Distinguished Board of Directors, Sr. Candace Introcaso, President at LRC, Sr. Michele Bisbey, Provincial Director, Sisters of Divine Providence present at this ceremony, Mr. Roberto Clemente, Jr. dear graduates, dear Caribbean students, parents and family. For me it is a privilege this morning to share the dream of each one of these students who today concludes a long process in their lives. Your work and efforts do not end here, it is the beginning of a professional life that will be a beacon for the good of your country, your homeland. Congratulations to every one of you!

It is also an honor for me to share this proscenium with the son of one of our Puerto Rican glories, Mr. Roberto Clemente, Jr. My respects and admiration to you and your father, a man who was born to serve and entered heaven serving.

I work in an office that shows God's providential face, an Office for the Promotion of Human Development, founded by Sister Roberta Grzelak, one of our sisters. The work of this office is directed to develop, sustain and respect the dignity of each person. Our work meets new challenges daily, new teachings, new opportunities to make God's Providential care and love visible amid the different situations that arise daily.

One day, as I was working at the Center, I received a call from Sister Michele. When Sister Michele informed me that I had been granted the "Woman of Providence Award" I was greatly surprised. When I got my breath back and was able to speak I asked, why me? " She responded: "because you are a woman of Providence." I am still surprised! At that time, I was helping with post-hurricane María's work; I was not a woman of Providence working alone, it was an entire congregation who personalized the image of the "Woman of Providence" during the chaos in our island and the Caribbean. It was and is our whole congregation who made visible the providence of God in every person in need, especially women, young people, children, the elderly and the sick with whom I work daily; a congregation that accompanied me and accompanies me to every town and neighborhood I visit, a congregation that walks with me to bring hope and peacefulness, joy and trust. It was an entire congregation that was giving support and security to my footsteps.

Thank you for granting me this Award, I want to share it with each one of my sisters who accompanied me with their prayers, work, monetary support, physical and psychological support, who continue to accompany me now and I know will continue to accompany me in the future. The Award is also for you who have been able to struggle, work, trust and be good stewards of the gifts God has given you. To you Sister Candace, to the Board and to the entire staff who work here, thank you for your dedication and for leaving a clear image of compassion and justice for all countries and their people. Thank you for your prophetic presence in the integrated education you offer to our world. May our Provident God bless you all!