

Ash Wednesday 2016

“Darkness can cover the tessellations that lie stone-cold in our own souls. Unknown to us they are awaiting the pattern of grace that is yearning to emerge.”

Myra Rodgers, CDP

The miracle of spring is upon us. Yet even more miraculous than the opening of buds and the greening of leaves is the endurance of each creature that has withstood the heaviness and darkness of winter.

It is easy for us to remain oblivious to this endurance. Bulbs lying fallow in the ground do not express their impatience. We forget the journey of migrating birds once their flocks leave our sight. Bare trees seem to be frozen in time, their stirring and changing patterns of life covered by a blanket of darkness. We see no external signs of the meaning of this time, no hints of what is waiting to emerge.

Still, year after year we witness in the creatures around us the fruits of waiting and yearning in the darkness. Though we cannot accompany them to the “inner room” of being, each year their vibrant, delicate petals and tender green shoots reveal to us the ways our Creator rewards faithfulness.

As we each begin the Lenten journey to our inner rooms, the meaning of this time may remain secret, even to ourselves. By journeying unwaveringly through moments and seasons that seem “stone-cold,” we affirm our belief that “now is a very acceptable time.” We honor ourselves as part of the seemingly lifeless dust that, with time, gives birth to budding and greening. We express our trust that our Source, “who sees what is hidden,” will satisfy our yearnings.

Tracey Horan, SP

Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods



*Ash Wednesday 2016
Women of Providence
in Collaboration*