

# Lent 2017

***“The radical hope which marks us as people of Providence is a thoroughly engaged and courageous hope which faces the overwhelming evils and possibilities for destruction which surround us and yet persistently plans for, hopes in, and builds towards that future which God desires.”***

Marie McCarthy, SP

Radical hope. . .thoroughly engaged hope. . .  
courageous hope. Where do we find this hope as  
people of Providence?

St. Vincent de Paul reminds us that Providence unfolds  
a step at a time. How do we nurture this trust, this  
hope to take that next step to follow the dream that  
resides in the depths of our hearts, knowing that we  
may never see the results of our efforts?

If hope is a way of being for people of Providence,  
Lent provides the opportunity to examine our personal  
hope scale. Do we tend to a naïve hope or a hope sus-  
tainable when viewing the big picture? During Lent,  
find that quiet spot to pray, focus, reflect, and ponder.

In this quiet space, delve into the Scriptures to  
reaffirm our basis for hope. Recall the stories of our  
ancestors and wisdom figures to inspire new ways of  
seeing and being hope. Gain insight by tracing the ups  
and downs of our own hope journey.

To shift our attention to signs of hope and new life,  
refocus by immersing in art, music, poetry, and  
nature. Let these experiences rekindle and nourish  
our desire for a radical, engaged, courageous hope  
that will motivate us to take that next step on the path  
of Providence to co-create the future that God desires.

May this season of Lent be the time for us to  
renew, deepen, and strengthen our hope as people  
of Providence and agents of hope in our world.

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*Fourth Sunday of Lent 2017  
Women of Providence  
in Collaboration*

