

# Lent 2016

**“Our Provident God is a creative God who made all things with a loving purpose, who involves those created in the process of creation, and who is always on the move.”**  
*Mary Kaye Nealan, SP*

We know that our Provident God called into being all that has been created including a number of Providence communities that are diminishing at this time in history. If our Provident God involves those created in the process of creation, we can see God’s hand still at work in the creativity of those congregations.

The congregation of which I am an Associate, the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston is dreaming into reality a Providence Village that will be created on their Motherhouse property to house and nurture the most vulnerable people in the Kingston community. Through networking and partnership and following the lead of Providence, it is hoped that those being served will include: single mothers who are struggling to feed their children on their own; people with physical and mental challenges that have been set aside by a society that focuses on the achiever; senior men and women unable to sustain their lives because of the rising cost of food and housing; and at-risk youth living on the streets. Can we not see the hand of a Provident God on the move?

The Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Lent is that of the Prodigal Son. The youngest son set out on a journey that he thought would be fulfilling and learned that he would be better off on his father’s land. His father was compassionate, loving and forgiving. God’s Providence blessed a boy who believed his life was at its end. Providence is always on the move.

As we prepare to celebrate the transformation from death to life of God’s son and our brother, Jesus, may our hearts and hands be open to the prophetic call to move forward as co-creators with our Provident God.

*Barbara Baker, SP Associate  
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*Lent 2016  
Women of Providence  
in Collaboration*