

Advent 2015

Like the biblical prophets of the Old Testament and like the historical Jesus, we are called to be intimately immersed in the word of God while at the same time attuned to the groans and laments of God's people.

Michele Bisbey, CDP

We have much in common with the prophets of old, including John the Baptist. Like them, we had a mother whose “time came for her to be delivered,” and surely people asked when they looked at our innocent little faces, “What then will this child be?”

As we grew, God called us into relationship, and as Sisters and Associates of Divine Providence, we not only embrace God's Word but also accept the obligation to listen to the cry of the poor, to be “God with skin on” to the most vulnerable. This includes, of course, the countless refugees trying to make some semblance of home in a strange land; the families caught in the violence perpetrated by ISIS; the victims of human trafficking. But “most vulnerable” also describes the family who lost someone in a car accident; the seventh grader who didn't make the cut for junior high basketball; the shut-in whose family doesn't bother to visit; the person who just went through a miscarriage or whose teenager ran away.

As we prepare for Christmas, we need only to watch and listen to those around us to discover that Jesus is here in our midst. Like the words in the song “Consciousness Waking” tell us: now is the time, we are the space, for the Holy to rise in our midst.

As women and men of Providence, let us offer love and encouragement to those in vulnerable moments so that they may get past their rocky spots. In doing this we embrace Jesus and glorify God.

Mary Helen Bertolini, ACDP
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Women of Providence
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