

# Lenten Reflection

Monday, Fifth Week of Lent      April 3, 2017



By Sister Angela Provost, CDP

*“O God, by whose wondrous grace we are enriched with every blessing,  
grant us so to pass from former ways to newness of life...”*

(From Collect - Monday, Fifth Week of Lent)

Imagine a crowded street with a great deal of commotion as Susanna is being led to her execution and above it all is heard a young boy's voice: “I will have no part in the death of this woman.” I can imagine hearing this young voice over the commotion, but the Spirit certainly overshadowed the crowd who agreed to return to court on his suggestion to examine the evidence. This has always amazed me, God's Providence working in their midst and especially, through Daniel.

Now, imagine another crowd sitting around Jesus in the temple area, when a group brought “a woman caught in adultery” and stood her in the midst of them. They demanded to know what Jesus would do. Jesus simply bent down and started to write on the ground but the group kept pushing with their demands. Jesus replied, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw the stone.” He bent down again. We know what happened next.

Both Scripture events were surrounded by the Spirit, by God's Providence; otherwise, the outcomes would be rather bleak. It reminds me of the very young children that I work with at school. They tell it as it is or at least from their perspective. The Spirit may move them to reflect on the other person's account of the event on their own or be given a little guidance to come to the right answer. For example, during Lent we are using the story: *How Full is your Bucket?* by T. Rath and M. Reckmeyer. Basically, the theme is about the fact that good deeds fill our (imaginary) buckets; otherwise, we are bucket dippers by our actions. Our children are quick to exclaim that she/he is a “dipper.” Now if I were to ask my little ones which of these people in Scripture were bucket “fillers,” they would know. They would also exclaim who the “dippers” were.

The tender heart of our Provident God gives each of us the simple, childlike wisdom to live out each day. We are to trust in the humble knowledge that God cares for us. The Responsorial Psalm for today assures us: “though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for you are at my side.” (Ps. 23: 1-3A)

