

Words in italics will NOT be on the power point.

**Associate Renewal Ceremony  
August 22, 2020 at 11:00AM  
Virtual Gathering via Zoom**

Theme: Illuminated Path

Scripture: Psalm 119:105-112

**WELCOME....**Linda Reynolds

*As we continue the selfless practice of restricted physical contact, as we adapt and welcome new ways of being communities of faith, our souls need special care. This service is not traditional in its liturgy...its designed to align us with the Living God during these pandemic-impacted times, aware of the chaotic political climate, call for social justice reforms and to, importantly, give us the opportunity to renew our commitment as Associates of the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence.*

**We Gather**

**Call to Worship**            Leader: Linda H.    **Response: Sylvia**

Let us come together – **people hungry for human contact.**

Let us come together – **people who find our way forward one day at a time.**

Let us come together – **Sisters and Associates eager for a community of hope.**

Let us come together – **believers held by God’s Providence and Big Dream for everyone.**

**Amen.**

**Invocation**    **Linda R**

As we light the Christ Candle we invoke the eternal presence of our Provident God. Be a lamp unto our feet, O Lord. Light our way, O Holy One. Amen.

***Light the Christ Candle***

**Song for Welcoming the Presence of God**

**“Exsultet: The Light of Christ”**

Sr. Maria

**Scripture**    Sylvia            Psalm 119:105-112 (*New Revised Standard Version*)

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to observe Your righteous ordinances.

I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O Lord, according to Your word.

Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,  
and teach me Your ordinances.

I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget Your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me,

Words in italics will NOT be on the power point.

but I do not stray from Your precepts.  
Your decrees are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.

I incline my heart to perform Your statutes  
forever, to the end.

*May God add a blessing to the reading and reflecting upon God's Holy Word. Amen.*

**Reflection**      **"Being With God"**      Linda R

**We Pray**      Linda R

*Though distant, when we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, we are connected one to another in the Holy Spirit. We never pray alone. What prayers does your soul ask to be lifted up – joys and concerns? Speak them. If your prayers don't fit words today, use your body to give your prayers to God through movement or sound, dance, tears, or silence.*

**Chant of Response**      **"O Lord Hear My Prayer" by Jacques Berthier of Taizé,**

**O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord Hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.**

**O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

**The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)** Linda R

*Imagine a place where you feel close to God, maybe a sanctuary where you've worshipped. Welcome the memory of your Beloved Community filling your soul with companionship as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespassed against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Renewal for All Associates**      Invite and is the voice: Linda R

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, as an Associate of the Marie de la Roche province of the Sisters of Divine Providence, renew my promise to be faithful to the spirit of the Community. I will strive to further the mission and goals of the Congregation to the best of my ability. I desire to continue sharing in community, prayer, ministry, and to spread the Gospel. I support you in your call and ask for your prayers as I continue my call as an Associate.**

**Sisters Renew Their Vows**      Invite and is the voice: Maria

**Drawn by the love of Jesus Christ, and desiring to dedicate myself to you, Heavenly Father, I, \_\_\_\_\_ freely vow consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty and apostolic obedience. In the presence of my Sisters and Associates in community do I make this gift of myself to God, according to the spirit of the Sisters of Divine Providence and in conformity with the Constitutions. In faith and trust I unite myself with this religious family, so that with the grace of the Holy Spirit, the assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the prayers and support of my co-sisters, I may grow in selfless devotion to the service of God and the Church.**

Words in italics will NOT be on the power point.

**Lighting of the Community Candles** *(Sister Barbara—if these are at St. Mary’s, can you plan to do this. Read, then light the candle. We’ll be able to see you because everyone else will be muted (by us) and only person speaking will be on screen. (PPT will be closed, one of us will say response.) If not with you, we’ll figure something out....*

**Ketteler Candle:** Sister Barbara, light the candle, then speak:  
That through the intercession of Bishop Ketteler we may become people with a vision for justice, we pray,

**Response: Provident God, hear our prayer.** (Sylvia)

**Mother Marie Candle:** Sister Barbara  
That through the intercession of Mother Marie we may be women and men of courage and compassion, we pray,

**Response: Provident God, hear our prayer.** (Sylvia)

**Providence Candle:** Sister Barbara  
That the memory of all the Sisters and Associates who have gone before us will inspire us to live lives of continuing conversion in response to God’s call, we pray,

**Response: Provident God, hear our prayer.** (Sylvia)

Barb invites us all to pray and is the voice (This is on a slide...)

**All: Oh God, Giver of all good gifts, we praise You for the gift of vision that enables us to “see in all things the wonderful providence of God.” We ask of You the wisdom to be able to exercise creatively and justly, this gift for future generations, so that we may contribute to the re-creation of this world in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Sung (or spoken) Response: “Alleluia, Raise the Gospel” selected verses (5&6?) Maria**

**Recognition of Associate Anniversaries**

Linda R

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Annamarie Sullivan  | 5 years  |
| Kathy Rogers        | 10 years |
| Diane Klimo         | 15 years |
| Christine Sadasivan | 15 years |
| Nancy Diak          | 20 years |
| Ron Payton          | 25 years |
| Rose Vierdag        | 30 years |

**Wisdom Associate**  
Mary O’Grady Rose

Words in italics will NOT be on the power point.

**Blessing and Commissioning Linda Hoefflin as Director of Associates** Barbara

Maria and Barb pray:

Maria: In the deep down places of your heart,  
Where your thoughts might sometimes wander,  
This ministry position has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

Barb: For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Seeing the possibilities of commitment,  
The call of province wide leadership growing,  
Watching time open as you retired from nursing.

Maria: Though everything may not yet be clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of this new calling  
That is at one with your heart's desire.

**Barb: And so Linda, we bless you:**

**May the God of Providence** awaken your spirit to new adventures...for we await you.

**May the God of Providence** give you grace and wisdom to act in service to associates...for we await you.

**May the God of Providence** continue to cultivate within you the art of presence and engagement...for we await you.

**May the God of Providence** give you openness in times of disappointment so that graciousness, forgiveness, and respect be your guide...for we await you.

**May the God of Providence** gift you with deep listening, healing words, and encouragement for new frontiers...for we await you.

**May the God of Providence** bless you with supportive associates who will help to make this leadership be a true adventure of growth for you...for we await you.

**Let us Pray: (extend our hands toward Linda) ON A SLIDE**

**Provident God, we thank you for Linda's openness to the call of being Director of Associates for our province. We bless her now with your grace and our love for this new horizon. May HOPE deepen in her heart and release wellsprings of dreams, possibilities, and promises for our future together. We pray this prayer of blessing in the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit Sanctifier now and always. Amen.**

Words in italics will NOT be on the power point.

**Chapter Prayer** Linda H.

**Provident God, standing on the threshold of the future,  
we pray for wisdom and courage.**

**This threshold to our future is full of things that have never been,  
an in-between space,  
suspended between what we think we know  
and worlds we cannot see.**

**We ask for the grace to move through these thresholds,  
removing boundaries of exclusion,  
reimagining a world of generosity,  
and reigniting our passion for Mission.**

**Called by Our Provident God  
and standing on the threshold of the future,  
we pray for wisdom and courage. Amen.**

—inspired by a quote from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

**Benediction** Linda R

*I bid you to be in this world in peace.*

*Have courage.*

*Hold onto what is good.*

*Return no one evil for evil.*

*Strengthen the fainthearted.*

*Support the weak.*

*Help the suffering.*

*Honor all persons.*

*Honor all creation.*

*Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*And may the Love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be  
with us all.*

*Be in peace,*

*Amen.*

**No closing hymn. Unmute all and let them greet.....holy chaos!!**