

Providence Providence Reflections Reflections

Lord, Make us a Channel of your Providence!

This short prayer appeared on the cover of a booklet prepared for a jubilee celebration in our Community. The image that accompanies the prayer caught my attention for its simplicity and beauty. It portrayed a young person sitting quietly in prayer.

As Providence People, we believe that our lives must be rooted in prayer, for it is the foundation of our lives in their diverse and varied scenarios. Probably, at some time in our lives, we have seen that the biggest mistake of any person is to try to speak from the head that which does not come from the heart. I am convinced that in order to be a channel of God's Providence, our actions need to be sustained by a good measure of deep prayer that comes from the heart. Romano Guardini wrote that "Providence is a reality. We must not merely conceive this reality theoretically; we must act upon it in our lives." Thus, with "passion for Christ and passion for Humanity", the Sisters, our Associates and our Partners in Providence, want to continue on the path of making a difference in the places where we work and live – a difference that is rooted in the prayer of our hearts, not just our heads.

We might feel overwhelmed by the vulnerability of our world and the vastness of its needs when we are faced by the smallness of our possibilities. But, we do not lose heart because we are empowered by our trust and confidence in an all-encompassing, loving and ever present Provident God. The Prophet, Micah, gives strength and direction to us in his short but clear message: "You have been told, mortal, what is good and what is required of you: You are called to act with justice; you are called to love tenderly; you are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God."

The Human Face of Providence

Pope Francis, too, calls us to labor in the "field hospitals" of life. Is there anyone of us who can say that life is not a "field hospital" surrounded as we are, in addition to our own vulnerability, by homeless people, the sick, victims of violence in all its

manifestations, and culturally different strangers? But, Pope Francis also reminds us that we must not allow anything or anyone to rob us of the hope, joy and strength that Jesus gives us.

Let us allow the Spirit to set us on fire for this, our only world; there is no second or third world! A world threatened by nuclear wars, discrimination; a world that is pluralized and globalized. This is the world that cries out to us, with urgency, to live our passion for Christ and passion for humanity. In spite of all that we perceive as not “right” in our world, there abounds so much beauty, so much goodness; so many people committed to protect, enhance and advance God’s Kingdom; people who vibrate with contagious energy and who possess a sense of justice. Let us, with the example of Bishop Ketteler, Mother Marie, and all women and men of Providence, continue on this Providence journey to be “the human face of Providence”, without losing courage, without losing heart.

Let us believe we are here to make visible the face of a Provident God by building bridges of care, and by joining hands and efforts as we strive to be Providence people. Let us live with conviction that we are in this together and that it affects every part of our lives and our world. Please join us to be Channels of God’s Providence with our faces turned toward a beautiful, awesome but aching world by:

- ◆ Striving to be in right relationship with all in your families, your neighborhoods, your work,
- ◆ Living and promoting every form of non-violence, especially in act and word,
- ◆ By generously sharing out of your own abundance, even in the midst of your own scarcity.

We, the Sisters of Divine Providence, are grateful to you, our donors and Partners in Providence. You are our companions on the journey of making visible the human face of God’s Providence. May God and our Mother Mary guide, protect and strengthen you on this Journey of Providence.

Providence Reflections
written by
Inesita Vélez Negron, CDP



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