

Advent 2014

We have been drawn into this Mystery (of God) because we live in a time when the revelation of Providence is necessary to humankind.

Barbara Doherty, SP

I think the Mystery Sister Barbara asks us to ponder here is what we mean when we speak of or pray to a Provident God and how we might share this with the world.

As an Associate of the Community of Divine Providence, I have come to know and believe that God's Providence is everywhere in all things because God created all things and loves every created thing. Further, I am called to have "a spirit of unbounded trust and openness to the Providence of God" (excerpt from the CDP Associates Mission Statement).

This idea of unbounded trust is what called me to become an Associate and challenges me spiritually every day of my life. How to let God be God and trust that there is purpose and direction in the world even though I may not see it.

The world we live in today seems full of darkness. The hatred and devastation in the Middle East, the Ebola outbreak in Africa, the natural disasters and the continued economic inequality in the United States. People tend to feel helpless, angry or just plain disengaged from the suffering of others. There are many who are asking where God is in all this.

How can we who trust and hope in the God of Providence find ways to share this hope with the world? As Providence people, we have faith that God brings order out of chaos and shines light in the darkness eventually and we know that God does this through humankind. How can we be open to our role as an individual and as part of a community bringing this about?

Let's reflect and pray on these questions during this season of Advent in this year of 2014. The church celebrates Advent as a season of waiting for the coming of God to be one with humankind. My faith tells me that this is the most Providential event in the history of the world.

As we spend this Advent waiting patiently, with openness to the mystery of our active relationship with the God of Providence, may we come to know better our role in showing the face of Providence to the world.

Advent is about waiting and listening with hope.

Julia Lynn, CDP Associate



*Advent 2014
Women of Providence
in Collaboration*