

Advent 2014

The discovery that reality is not absolute but participative and contextual challenges all of us to consider to what extent our vision shapes our world.
Lucy Zientek, CDP

Advent – the expectant anticipation of the fulfillment of God’s promise of Salvation and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. I ponder the idea that distinguishes the fact that we celebrate the Incarnation...the on-going process of salvation, and the Nativity...the once and for all historical event in Bethlehem, and that we are not passive by-standers of either.

We participate through what Eugene Cullen Kennedy calls the “sacramental element of ordinary life and ordinary time, the critical baseline for the reception of belief: human experience”. Contextualized in the circumstances by which one is surrounded, reflected back to us in “real rather than abstract human experience”, we live, as Providence people, in the present moment, in the reality of our own portion of “ordinary time”.

The awesomeness of the mystery calls for us to be “women wrapped in silence”, to take time to find a quiet place within, that place untouched by all the activity of our lives, that is capable of wonder, a place that nurtures humor and laughter, compassion and understanding, the capacity to forgive and be forgiven, to love and be loved.

With so much darkness in our world – violence, discrimination, injustice and suffering – we hold on to the promise that God, Emmanuel, is with us. Challenged out of our comfort zone we reach out to others encouraging them to live in the mystery, to trust in the fidelity of the Promise, that in God there is the hope that a new reality may yet be born – in the Nativity and ever unfolding promise of the Incarnation – eternal Salvation.

Joan Mullen, SP



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Women of Providence
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