

“As Women of Providence, we have always wrestled with the effects of sin, evil, and suffering. At this time in history, we may also be called to better understand so as to more faithfully and fully incarnate that aspect of trust in Providence that Jesus embodied in Gethsemane and on Calvary: the Suffering Servant who with full consciousness and freedom gave up his own life and ego so that his hidden, deeper self could emerge and grow strong.”

– Ruth McGoldrick, SP

Jesus' fidelity to His mission led Him to give up everything. He emptied Himself, taking the form of a criminal. With freedom Jesus said to Peter after he had cut off the ear of the servant, “This is the cup the Father has given me; shall I not drink it?”

In Jesus' words to Pilate, His self-understanding is clear. Jesus is giving up His life. He is trusting in Providence. “My task is to bear witness to the truth.” “You would have no authority at all over me ... if it had not been granted you from above.”

When we trust in Providence, we know that bad things do happen to good people. But Ruth tells us that Providence people “are in tune with the intuitions of the mystics who know that God does not cause evil, even though God does know how to work in and through evil and suffering.”

I believe that the most important understanding about evil and suffering is that no matter what happens, God is WITH us: loving and holding us in an embrace of grace. And we are to be that presence of Providence for each other especially in times of suffering.

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