

*“It is the beauty that comes out of pain which will connect us with the crucified God of Beauty and the beauty of all creatures involved in the struggle for transformation and wholeness.”*

– Ruth McGoldrick, SP

There are many stories of sacrifice that come from love. Many a parent, hero or friend have endured suffering, pain and anguish to rescue, support or accompany their beloved. There is no “Beauty” in pain. Pain and anguish are not virtuous in and of themselves. Suffering and pain without the reason of “Love” is torture — it is not beautiful. To endure pain, struggle or anguish strains and tests the resolve of those who enter it in hope, trust and love.

Those who enter difficult times or situations out of love are moving in the presence and life of our crucified-risen Lord, Jesus Christ. They begin their “Villa Dolorosa” with only love, faith and hope in the Providence of God. They are witnesses to Providence. They stand in the fire of pain, and anguish, yet they shine with the beauty of love, hope and faith. They are sisters and brothers of the “One” who is Providence ... The “One” who is beauty, wholeness, faith, love, transformation and resurrection.

I send a prayer for those “brothers and sisters” of Jesus ... who chose to witness to Providence ... who heard the word of God and acted on it. Their hope, faith and love is beautiful.

***Elsa E. Garcia, CDP***

*Congregation of Divine Providence,  
San Antonio, Texas*

