

*“Excessive consumption is bringing our planet to the brink of destruction, not occasioned by planetary enemies but by the enemy who is within: ourselves. Providence persons may indeed choose to be the ‘inheritors of the earth’ through the meekness of nonaggression and by choice of an economy of living.”*

– **Barbara Doherty, SP, and Michele Bisbey, CDP**

There are phrases that leap from this powerful statement.

**Excessive consumption** is key, because we have an awareness of its effect on planet Earth, her inhabitants, and some awareness of our personal role in this whole deteriorating process.

Our awareness has been raised over and over again. We experience the daily call to make life-giving choices. We do strive to live an economical way of life so that others may live and enjoy the necessary gifts of life, and that Earth may not be depleted of necessary resources on into the future.

Perhaps we are in need of a new founding, as in the early days of our Providence Congregations. Providence women saw the needs, led the way, created and established the means to meet people’s health care, education and social service needs. So today we are once again in a position to direct and lead by example, by communication and education, to define the needs of planet Earth, and the beauty of living a simple lifestyle.

Perhaps during Lent we Providence persons may set aside time to reflect on our awesome responsibility from a spiritual vantage point, a deep love of this beautiful Earth entrusted to our care by our loving Creator.

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