

*In the face of the world's injustices, Providence persons are summoned to the works of Providence. Participation in the care of humanity and of Earth's resources have traditionally been known as the particular "providences" entrusted to us.*

– Barbara Doherty, SP, and Michele Bisbey, CDP

Each Lenten season the scriptures speak to us, "Come back to me with all your Heart," "now is the acceptable time...."

Yet this Lent feels strangely different to me. All that surrounds the Visitation of Apostolic Women Religious; the letters to the editor, the commentaries in the newspapers and on and on.... It feels strange to me because as I reflect back on the late '60's and 70's I remember all the time, energy, prayer and money we put into the renewal process and all of this in our effort to be faithful to the call of the Church. And while some of the changes that occurred were liberating, many were very painful. Yet we kept moving forward.

And as Women of Providence we once again devoted time, prayer, energy and money in our pursuit of exploring a contemporary understanding of Providence. And in doing so we have come to understand how we are to live out our charism of Providence through participation in the care of humanity and of the earth's resources.

So believing as I do that our efforts over the past forty years were based in integrity and a desire to be faithful to our call as religious and our charism of Providence, I hope this lent to focus my attention on how I can "in the face of the world's injustices" be a particular providence to others.

Understanding that "we see from where we stand" I realize that depending on where we live and with whom we minister each of us will face the world's injustices from a different perspective. And each of us is called to respond using our particular gift and creative abilities.

I will then, continue to move forward, perhaps humming a song familiar to most of us; "Come back to me with all your heart, don't let fear keep us apart."

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