

# Lent 2017

## **Introduction**

Recently I came across a prayer from our CDP founder, William Emmanuel von Ketteler, written in 1844. Because of all the unrest in our world today, wars, poverty, genocide, it seems we are in great need of peace. So as Lent begins I share his prayer with you.

“O divine Lord, present here among us, speak to us the words with which you once greeted your disciples—Peace be with you. With your strong finger, engrave them on the heart of each of us...Give us the grace to be at peace with all people, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to forgive all who have wronged us, so that through your love, we will be worthy of your mercy and attain the forgiveness of all our sins.”

Amen

The season of Lent offers us a time to grow more deeply in God’s grace. Sometimes I hear people say they don’t look forward to Lent because of the childhood memories it evokes. Usually they speak about giving up candy or having to attend Stations of the Cross. It makes Lent sound like something to be endured rather than as a time of wonderful grace and growth in our spirituality.

Each year we are given six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives, our wants, our desires. Lent becomes that time to “return to God with your whole heart” as we hear in the prayers for Ash Wednesday. It is a journey of daily steps that brings us closer to the welcoming arms of a loving and Provident God.

Perhaps it will be a journey of peace and reconciliation, of acceptance of others who think differently than we do or who come from another culture to seek a peaceful and better life for themselves. Maybe, just maybe, if we ask God to engrave peace on our hearts it will seep into the hearts of all our neighbors far and wide, too. And the world will know the peaceful, tender providence of God, touching and transforming it beyond our imaginations.

Our WPC reflections this year come from our book, “Providence Alive: Ever Unfolding Mystery” As you read and reflect on them, may you experience peace being engraved on your heart!

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*Lent 2017  
Women of Providence  
in Collaboration*

