

# Ash Wednesday 2017

***“The more fully we claim the mystery of Providence as the foundation of our identity the more surely we experience a profound call to conversion.”***

Marie McCarthy, SP

Andrew Garfield, who plays a Jesuit in the movie, *Silence*, spent a year making The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in preparation for the movie. In an interview with Brendan Busse SJ, in the January 23, 2017 *America Magazine*, Garfield says of his experience, “What was really easy was falling in love with this person, was falling in love with Jesus Christ. That was the most surprising thing.”

Andrew Garfield’s faith experience reminds us that the heart of our identity as Providence women is our love relationship with Jesus. Jesus is the God of Providence become human – God loving us graciously and deeply,

God providing for us abundantly, God suffering with us, healing us compassionately and entrusting us with that same mission – our Provident God coming to be one of us, one with us, in Jesus. Our deepest identity is being loved by Jesus, the Providence of God.

When we become aware of God first loving us so tenderly, our only response is to love in return. Love changes us. As we begin our Lenten Season, let us once again embrace God’s extravagant love for us as we seek to know, love and follow Jesus in a deeper way. This love will lead us to walk with Jesus on his journey through Holy Week to Easter. When we do that, we come home again to the loving Providence of God.

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*Ash Wednesday 2017  
Women of Providence  
in Collaboration*

