



Advent  
2013

Advent is  
a call to  
discover those  
Providence  
moments in  
our ordinary,  
daily living.

A new liturgical year begins again with the first Sunday of Advent. We hear in the readings of cycle A about being prepared, not knowing the hour, waking from our sleep. We are challenged to hope in the Lord and believe that our strength will be renewed; we will run and not grow weary, for our God is at hand. Mary will bear a son and name him Jesus, and his house and his kingdom will endure forever, because God is with us. ***Providence is present; believe and fear not!***

These are some of the “voices” of our Advent Scriptures. There is an energy running through them that seems to say: listen to the Inner Voice, divinely guiding us at all times. Quiet your soul, turn within and seek higher perceptions. Listen to the inner rhythm of God. In these days of busy agendas, do not get caught up, but release the urgency of outer events. These Advent days provide an opportunity to slow our pulse a bit and pay attention to the rhythm we give our soul.

For us, as Providence people, Advent is a call to discover those Providence moments in our ordinary, daily living; to listen to the Inner Voice that calls us to begin again a journey of watchfulness, of patience, of how our lives are intersected with others. Be alert and attentive to all that is around us, for ours is a journey of shared hearts. Pope Francis has given us four life ingredients upon which to reflect ... which might inform our Advent journey together. They are: live simply, care deeply, speak kindly, and love generously. Perhaps if we live in these four “stances” the journey will be filled with awesome surprises!

The reflections this Advent come from Sisters and Associates in our WPC communities. They have been asked to reflect, through a Providence lens, on excerpts from the Sunday readings, and usually a Wednesday weekday reading. Email reflections will come twice weekly from WPC. May we continue to share our hearts, our journeys, our surprises, so that the Inner Voice of Providence may be made visible in our world!

Happy Advent!

**Barbara McMullen, CDP**  
**WPC Executive Director**

Advent 2013 • REFLECTIONS

**Women of Providence in Collaboration**



Advent  
2013

Put on the  
armor of  
courage and  
trust in order  
to be co-creators  
of Providence.

*"You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep ...  
Let us throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light  
... Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man  
will come." ~1st Sunday of Advent, Is 2:1-5*

A few months ago my niece, Sarah, gave birth to a beautiful, tiny baby boy. She was overjoyed because previously, she had not been able to bring a child to term. However, the doctors warned her that "Theo" had serious problems; the organs in the lower part of his body were all misplaced.

Sarah was undaunted; she talked to Theo, sang to him, cuddled him and cared for him with all the love she possessed until he had gained enough weight at four months old to undergo reconstruction surgery. He is now healing at home with his parents as they await a second surgery ... and further reconstruction.

As I reflected on the Scripture readings and this critical time in the life of this family, I thought how **awake** Sarah, her husband and the doctors had to be as they **threw off the darkness of pessimism and fear** and put on the **armor of courage and trust** in order to be co-creators of Providence, not only in the formation of this little boy, but also in the "recreation" of his body. Thus, they allowed the **Son of Man** to work through and with them in bringing this beautiful child into greater fullness of life.

**Irene Wilson, SP**  
**Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**Kingston, Ontario, Canada**

Advent 2013 • WEEK 1

**Women of Providence in Collaboration**