

# Holy Saturday 2016

**“We are waking up to the fact that we were created for dialogue and relationship and not for control and alienation.”**  
*Ruth McGoldrick, SP*

“Dialogue and relationship.” What do these terms really mean on Holy Saturday, this day that begins as grieving accompaniment with Jesus’ mother and disciples? A key dimension of dialogue involves listening carefully to diverse viewpoints to understand others’ perspectives. Then a consensus or, at least, a respect for the others’ views will hopefully result. How can the Paschal Triduum and our Providence faith engender dialogue and relationship when these days with Jesus exhibit such polar opposites as compassion and hate, fidelity and betrayal that appear in our own headlines.

In dialogue as receptivity one person seeks to discover the worth of what the other offers, even within apparently insoluble differences. But a prize-winning Chilean architect, Alejandro Aravena, shows how positive exchange and relationship can emerge from openness to others’ values. He addresses the housing crisis in Santiago and elsewhere by building houses in urban centers with the essentials paid by public funding but the rest provided through residents’ choices and efforts. More than shelters, he wants participation and involvement. As PBS Newshour describes (January 13, 2016) “Aravena hopes the Pritzker Prize will help spread his ideas about socially engaged architecture.”

Jesus’ total self-gift through his life, death, and resurrection displays unmistakably how thoroughly God-Providence embraces human existence. Darkness and vision, sorrow and joy, betrayal and fidelity, death and life – all are included and celebrated. How can we Providence people listen to the deepest human needs and foster dialogues that build the transforming relationships of a radiant Easter?

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*Holy Saturday 2016  
Women of Providence  
in Collaboration*