

Lent 2015

Readings for the Fifth Sunday:

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-33

The readings for this Sunday direct our attention to the gift of time, the work of Providence in time. New epiphanies are always introduced by a special time. Jeremiah introduces the promise of the New Covenant of God with the house of Israel: "The days are coming says the Lord." The reading from Hebrews begins with "In the days when he was in the flesh," and in the gospel, Jesus responds to the disciples who present the request from the Greeks who want to see him: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." The Church in her wisdom invites us during this time of Lent to enter into the sacred hour of Jesus, the providential moments that glorify him, that bring life only through suffering and death on the cross.

We are the people of the new covenant with God's law written in our hearts through Baptism, when all sins are forgiven and we are recreated. We find ourselves accompanying the Elect as they prepare themselves for Christian initiation. They bring all of

the already baptized into the time of Providence who has called them in this time to profess faith in Jesus Christ, to turn from the darkness of evil to the light of resurrection, to new hope and vision.

God's providential heart desires all people to know him. Christ promises that there will be a time when all who follow and serve him will be where he is, will be his presence through the power that comes from him being lifted up, drawing everyone to himself. We see this promise fulfilled when we witness the depth of faith in people who endure tremendous suffering and yet continue to believe in the promise of the crucified Christ who cries and suffers with them.

We live in this providential time when our strongest efforts toward relieving human misery seem like seeds so tiny that they will never bear fruit. Yet we also live in this providential time when we walk with people who after having been excluded now enter new places like St. Juan Diego, where our feet tread timidly knowing that we, the lowly ones, are summoned to embrace this providential moment to become evangelizers in our own land.

The power of the New Covenant beating within our hearts gives us the strength to continue learning obedience through suffering that comes as we strive to bring unity in diversity, collaboration instead of coercion, and meal-sharing around the table. Here the voiceless can articulate their needs as well as their commitment to become providence by participating in bringing about the kingdom. Yes, many more times are yet coming for men and women of providence to believe that to receive true life, we must first let go, to slowly lose all that we thought was life in order to receive eternal life in the already and not yet.

Are we ready?

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*Lent 2015
Women of Providence
in Collaboration*