

# Lenten Reflection

Saturday, First Week of Lent March 11, 2017



By Sister Carol Stenger, CDP

*“We are a people sacred to our God...and we are to walk in God’s ways  
...and hearken to God’s voice”*

This loosely worded translation of today’s first reading from Deuteronomy invites us to reflect on the blessings bestowed on us as we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, a people sacred to this God we call Providence. All of the people around the world are loved and cherished by this Holy Mystery who created every man, woman and child. This makes us sisters and brothers of one another. We are children of the Trinity – Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier – the God of Providence! The word “sacred” means connected with God, dedicated to a religious purpose. As women and men of Providence, we are called to see all life as sacred because God is in all, creating, through us, a world of compassion, justice, and peace.

Walking in God’s ways takes us to a deeper level. Beyond all the bickering and hatred we have seen and experienced these past months and year, we must be grounded in silent contemplation so that we can hear the voice of God hidden in our hearts. God’s voice calls us to stand with those who are marginalized and discriminated against because of their race, religion, ethnicity, economics, orientation, etc.

In today’s Gospel we are challenged by the words of Jesus who said we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. We must find ways to cherish everyone, even those we don’t like or with whom we disagree. We work to resolve conflicts and disagreements so as to be faithful to our calling as Providence people, united in our daily work for the purpose we were created. As women and men of Providence we cannot be silent to the call of justice.

**Reflection:** Do I see myself and others as sacred?  
How do I walk with God? Do I hear and listen to the voice of God?  
How am I a person of Providence?

