

Let us pray

In the centre of ourselves
God placed the power of choosing.
Forgive us the times we have given that power away,
when we have sold our birthright
for that which does not satisfy our souls.
And so in your wisdom
may our yes be yes and our no be truly no,
that we may touch with dignity and love with integrity
and the know the freedom of our own choosing all our days.

Jan L. Richardson NIGHT VISIONS

March 2014



Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter,

... remind us to pause and consider those things that bring us joy,
those habits and ideas that no longer serve us well,
and the things that remind us that we are always a forgiven child of God.

We pray with the Church and the World

From the words of Pope Francis:

If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realize that every person is worthy of our giving. Not for their physical appearance, their abilities, their language, their way of thinking, or for any satisfaction that we might receive, but rather because they are God's handiwork, God's creation. God created that person in God's image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory.

Evangelii gaudium #274

The first Friday in March is the World Women's Day of Prayer and the prayers and reflections this year were written by the women of Egypt with the theme: *Streams in the Desert*. In this theme there is special reference to the meeting of Jesus at the well with the Samaritan woman. *As women of faith, we find strength in our spirituality for peace and in the relationship we develop as we worship together across the globe.*

8th March is International Women's Day. Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action. The theme for this year is *Inspiring Change*.

We pray with the Institute

Province Congregations being held in this month will be in the **USA** from March 28 - 30, **Canada** from March 7 - 11 and **England** from March 28 - April 3.

A challenge for GC'14 is to focus the discernment of where God is calling us at this time of our Institute life. The process of preparation is assisting this focus - an invitation to listen carefully to the voice of the Spirit, the voice of the individual and the voice of the group so that the best way forward will be decided. Continue to pray for the guidance and inspiration of the good Spirit.

The MWI meeting continues in Toronto until March 5th. Pray for all gathered to explore, learn, clarify and plan for greater effectiveness and coordination in this 'partnership for development and mission'.

One Small Voice

That day I saw beneath dark clouds
the passing light over the water
and I heard the voice of the world speak out,
I knew then, as I had before
life is no passing memory of what has been
nor the remaining pages in a great book
waiting to be read.

It is the opening of eyes long closed.
It is the vision of far off things
seen for the silence they hold.
It is the heart after years
of secret conversing
speaking out loud in the clear air.

It is Moses in the desert
fallen to his knees before the lit bush.
It is the man throwing away his shoes as if to enter heaven
and finding himself astonished, opened at last,
fallen in love with solid ground.

David Whyte *The Opening of Eyes*