

Divine Providence



The humble Joseph, dependent on God's Providence, is one among the cloud of witnesses', who like him have responded to the call to walk with God along the human pilgrimage of life.

Trust in Divine Providence saves us from the anxiety of needing to hoard excessive amounts of provisions and wealth for ourselves to the detriment of others. To say it is enough becomes an act of gratitude. The early Sisters were to allow Divine Providence to guide them 'as a gentle mother who truly knows their needs and who by her very nature rears children lovingly nestled at her breast'. They were to pray:

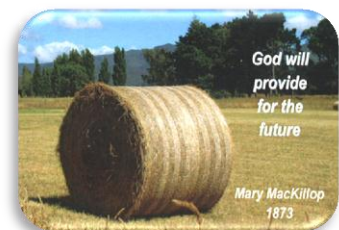
*God can provide; God did provide;
God will provide. All merciful and
all provident God hear our prayers
and grant our petitions.*

This prayer is still prayed by the Sisters today.

Requests to Joseph through prayer or a note slipped under his statue for basic and bigger needs often produced a positive result. Fr Julian Tenison Woods had written to the Sisters at Lochinvar 'You are meant to give an example of poverty and simplicity of the Holy Family, and your life will be a failure and a mockery if your heart be not full of its spirit'. St Mary MacKillop drew from Joseph's inability to provide out of his own resources for those he loved, a consciousness of our dependence on Divine Providence. This was a mark of her spirituality that permeated her whole life.

For the Sisters of St Joseph in Whanganui today Divine Providence is also seen in the observations that life in our universe thrives on the capacity to relate. Everything is created out of relatedness, sustained through relationships and thrives on interdependence. No living thing exists independently. This interdependence is expressed in their mission statement 'Fullness of Life for the earth and its peoples - Ki tonu to ao me to orokohanga a te tangata'.

- Are you aware of Divine Providence in your day to day routine as well as in times of crisis?
- In your relating who are the people who manifest God's providence to you?



*Divine Providence accommodates
the life of all, in the give and take of co-existence.*