

With gratitude to the Provident God

(Outline for adoration)

Introduction: *8th March 1846*, is an important date in our history, because on that day our Institute received Pontifical approval by the Supreme Pontiff Pope Gregory XVI. A sign of love of Divine Providence that right from the beginning has assisted and guided the journey of our Religious Family and continues to guard and govern it as a kind father. Today, 8th March 2020, we begin the jubilee celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of this great event and as a Community let us raise, with one voice, our hymn of gratitude during this prayer of adoration in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Hymn for Exposition

Silent adoration

L.: To adore Jesus in the Eucharist is to praise Divine Providence, it means to open the eyes of our heart to experience, in faith, the Love of God for us; it means to unite ourselves to Christ, welcoming His will and His Word into our heart; it means letting ourselves be attracted by the Spirit to take to everyone His love that transfigures.

After each prayer of adoration, we shall respond: **We adore You, Lord Jesus.**

L: Lord Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, visible sign of your Provident love: delight us with your grace, nourish us with the continuous flow of your divinity, fill us and transform us into your image.

All: We adore You, Lord Jesus.

L.: Lord Jesus, source of new life: in you everything is light that illumines us, with you everything is sweetness that strengthens us, for you everything is joy that renews us.

All: We adore You, Lord Jesus.

L.: Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as our good Shepherd, the wise Master, the Redeemer: You are the Provident God who bestowed light, strength and courage on our Religious Family, leading it along the paths of the world, during these 175 years.

All: We adore You, Lord Jesus.

Hymn of Invocation to the Holy Spirit

L. The Sacred Scripture in many passages praises the Providence of God, His supreme authority over the world, who watches over and provides everything. Let us listen to the reading of the Word of God: **Mt 6: 26-30**

Points for reflection

L. How long will God's care for mankind endure? How long will the Lord Jesus, who walks with us, **how long will he care for us?** The Gospel response leaves no room for doubt: *to the close of the age!* [...]. And he will be the God with us, the God Jesus who walks with us. There will never be a day in our life in which we cease to be a concern for the heart of God. [...]. **He is always concerned about us, and he walks with us.** And why does he do this? **Simply because he loves us.** Is this understood? He loves us! And God **will surely provide for all our needs; he will not abandon us in times of trial and darkness.** This certainty seeks to settle in our soul so as never to be extinguished. Some call this certainty "Providence". That is, God's closeness, God's love, God's walking with us is also called the "Providence of God": He provides for our life. [...]

Indeed, Christian hope is rooted not in the allure of the future, but in the *certainty of what God has promised us and accomplished in Jesus Christ.* If he guaranteed he would never abandon us, if every vocation begins with a "Follow me", with which he assures us he is always before us, why should we be afraid? With this promise, Christians can walk everywhere. Even passing through parts of the wounded world, where things are not going well, we are among those who still continue to hope. [...] We have anchored our life in heaven. What do we have to do? Hold fast to the rope: it is always there. And we go forward because we are certain that our life has an anchor in heaven, on that shore where we will arrive. (Pope Francis, *General Audience*, 26th April 2017).

Article from our Constitutions no. 99: (Let us all say together)

**We recognize the signs of the Provident God
who takes care of our life
and we turn to Him
with humble confidence and persevering prayer.**

From the Writings of Mother Enrichetta: *"I hope for everything from my good Daddy and in Him alone I place all my trust. If the matters of the Institute were in my hands, I would have good reason to be afflicted and discouraged, but they are in the hands of the good God, it is up to Him to think about them and He will think about them. For the moment, I am happy to ask Him to let me know His will about what I could do for the good of the Institute, and for the rest, I abandon myself totally to His fatherly Providence and goodness"* (IIB, 234).

All: Lord, enlighten us so that we may know and appreciate the happiness of a soul which is always and totally abandoned to divine Providence.

Hymn of adoration

Silent adoration

L. One person proclaims some verses of Psalm 145 and at each pause all join in with the words of Mother Enrichetta.

L. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

All: *Abandoned in the fatherly arms of divine Providence, we go ahead with simplicity and humility.*

L. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

All: *Abandoned in the fatherly arms of divine Providence, we go ahead with simplicity and humility.*

L. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, The Lord will reign forever.

All: *Abandoned in the fatherly arms of divine Providence, we go ahead with simplicity and humility.*

From the Book of the Chronicles: This year 1846 therefore will be for the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence **the most glorious in the Chronicles of their Institute** being fully confirmed and approved as one their holy Rule, and consequently counted among and raised to the honours of the other religious orders fully recognised and approved by the Holy Catholic Apostolic Roman Church. Therefore in the present and in the future may it always be impressed in the hearts of all the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence, not only the **pious remembrance of such a great benefit**, but still more the most humble and **grateful acknowledgement** to the Supreme Pontiff, who granted it, that is Pope Gregory XVI... Then in the most special way we are grateful to our pious Mother and most beloved Foundress the Lady Marchioness Giulietta di Barolo, who in addition to all the benefits which every time she distributed to us, wished to undertake for our sake such a long and tiring journey, despite such delicate health and deigned to bear many discomforts unmindful of the care and concern for herself, or the expenses till the fulfilment of the grace obtained.

Perpetual thanksgiving be given therefore by the Sisters of St. Ann to Almighty God, by showing themselves to be in every moment the most humble and obedient daughters of the Holy Roman Church and fervent spouses of Jesus, by the faithful observance of the Holy Rule and ardent charity towards their neighbour through their works commanded to them, and by manifesting that they with love correspond to the pious intentions of their most pious Benefactors.

L. To praise Divine Providence means to open the eyes of our heart to become aware of the God's Love for us and to manifest it above all through our life.

Our response to each invocation will be: **We thank you, Lord Jesus, for your great acts of Providence.**

1. *The Church, in the person of the Holy Father, recognized the richness of our Charism and welcomed us into her womb, through the act of pontifical approval of our Congregation and of our Rules. Lord Jesus, help us to acknowledge with gratitude the greatness of this gift and know how to preserve it in its original freshness. Let us pray.*

2. *Carlo and Giulia lived all the events of their life in the light of the Word of God, recognizing the signs of divine Providence in the fulfillment of their dreams and plans. Lord Jesus, may all of us, Sisters of Saint Ann, know how to walk with solicitude in the paths they have traced out, so that we carry out our mission in the Church with creative fidelity, loving and serving the little ones and the poor. Let us pray.*

3. *Mother Enrichetta was a gift to our Religious Family and with her example of life totally given to us, she has indicated the path of holiness through a daily life marked by the will of God. Lord Jesus, help us to recognize your presence in our life as she did, to accept your acts of goodness and providence, even when they entail commitment, effort, availability and sacrifice. Let us pray.*

4. *Our Religious Family, faithful to the missionary spirit of the Church, is present today in various parts of the world. Lord Jesus, arouse in the hearts of many Sisters the desire to consecrate themselves to the mission "Ad gentes", to take your Word of salvation especially where there is much material and spiritual poverty. Let us pray.*

Our Father

Hymn of Thanksgiving