

OCTOBER 9, 2011

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW 22:1-14

Jesus, through this gospel passage, invites me to examine my own life, but also to examine my response to God's call to me to be a religious. He calls me to be part of his Kingdom, and the banquet is one image of the reign of God.

Today in the 21st century, all of us as Sisters of divine Providence and Associates, and all the people who have the experience of the Providence of God, need to look carefully: whom has Jesus sent to invite us to the banquet? And also we need to ask ourselves: "Why have I been invited for this banquet?" What does Jesus want to say to us with this invitation? How do we receive this invitation? Are we ready to answer to Jesus and to accept the invitation to be part of this banquet?

I believe that there are two parts to our response to the invitation to the banquet. One is that we need to continue trusting in God's Providence. And we need to **go out**—outside of ourselves and our enclosed world—out to homes, schools, hospitals, jails, etc., and see that many people (the poor, children, youth, elderly, widows, etc.) are waiting for someone to come to them and **invite them** to listen to the word of the Lord, to be consoled. We can help them so that they can discover in their lives that God loves them because we are in the hands, the feet, the mouth, the eyes, the ears of God's Providence.

--Sr. Eli Carrasco, CDP

For reflection or sharing:

- ▲ The banquet reminds us of how God provides for us. How have you experienced God providing for you within the last couple of weeks?
- ▲ What celebration—sacramental moment—has had a special meaning in your life?

October 11, 1866 ... Sisters of Divine Providence arrived in New York City en route to Galveston, Texas from France.