

CSC Gathering
Montreal – April 2016
Spirituality – Reflection on Providence

Confidence in Providence

*“I am convinced that **Providence**, which has in the past done everything necessary for the development and perfection of its work, will continue to bestow on it most abundant blessings.”* (Circular Letter, January 1, 1840)

Abandonment to Providence

*God, however, has been pleased to deprive us of this consolation in order to **deepen our confidence in him** and to oblige us to **abandon ourselves to his Providence** in this matter as well as in the affair of our eternal salvation.”*
(Circular Letter, June 7, 1861)

Cooperation with Providence

*“But there is one condition which is essential for the future of the Congregation of Holy Cross, a condition without which not even Providence will act: the cooperation of our good will, the fidelity **to correspond** to the grace of our vocation.”*
(Circular Letter, January 1, 1857)

Excerpts from the Writings of Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP
Biblical Meditations for Lent, pages 40-62

Providence is about today. In Deut. 6:5-6, note the repetition of the key word “today.” God is speaking his holy will anew to each of us today from a heart of love. He speaks today, this moment. He appeals to the love of all our heart. Love such as this, stirred within our heart by God’s immediate presence, happily takes away our liberty as we spontaneously seek this clasp of love. Without deciding between a million and one options we have chosen the very best; we have chosen His life!

At the depth of each person is a mysterious life, not only created by God but also directed by the Lord at each hour. There is an hour of peace and hour of turmoil, an hour of birth and an hour of re-birth. Not even we ourselves can ever properly and fully comprehend who we really are at the roots of our soul, and we will be perpetually taken by surprise even at critical moments of our lives. Shall we say, especially at these decisive crossroads will we react with undreamed of strength, wisdom and holiness or will we be captured by temptations from within and without to mediocre compromise?

We are not seeking answers but the living God; we are not settling disputes but responding to God’s providential, loving, searching presence within each of us.