

Divine Providence- West Coast Foundation-July 28

Hymn *Courageous Women* Jan Novotka
<https://youtu.be/QJXkt3bQ-p4>

Readings:

“What you can plan is too small for you to live.” *David Whyte*
Sister Mary Antonio Egan, the founder of the first Convent of Mercy on Newfoundland's west coast, would have undoubtedly nodded in agreement at poet David Whyte's wise comment on life. The call of the mission in the late nineteenth century took her from the comfortable academic and cultural milieu of convent life and ministry in Providence, Rhode Island, to a foreign, harsh environment with very rudimentary educational and social structures. It was in this environment of hardship and struggle in Bay St. George, Newfoundland, that Sister Mary Antonio and her companions gave birth to a dream that would change their lives and the lives of all who were touched by their ministry of Mercy.

“Woman of Providence” Charlotte Fitzpatrick, rsm

There has been a marked Providential guidance which the want of prudence, vigilance or judgement has not impeded, and it is here that we can most clearly see the designs of God.

Letter of C. McAuley to Sr. Elizabeth Moore, January 13, 1839

Writing to Bishop Howley in March of 1893, Sister M. Antonio Egan assured the bishop that she had not influenced the three other sisters in their decision to accompany her to the Newfoundland mission, “I put before those who did not know the place, the hardships and privations they might expect...I trust time will prove our motives and intentions are all for the greater glory of God.”

“Woman of Providence” Charlotte Fitzpatrick, rsm

Reflection:

Antonio mirrored Catherine in her trust in God's providential care. She certainly had to have great trust and courage to do what she did.

How do I / we mirror Catherine and Antonio?



Closing Prayer:

God, we pray to “trust
the past to the mercy of God
the present to his love
the future to his providence”.

St. Augustine

