La Providence

Text by: Gabriel T. Guillaume
French – English Poetic Translation

Fiat voluntas Dei.	*May God's will be done.*
Dieu de la Providence,	*God of Providence,*
Toi qui nous as jamais abandonnées	*You who have never abandoned us,*
Sois béni maintenant et toujours.	*Blessed are You, now and always.*
Tu créas toutes choses d'un éternel amour,	*You created all things with eternal love,*
Pour notre plus grand bien Tu nous les as données;	*And gave them to us for our greater good;*
Notre frère l'oiseau ne sème, ni ne moissonne;	*Our brother the bird neither sows nor reaps;*
Pourtant pour le nourrir, ô Dieu, Tu provisionnes.	*Yet still, O God, You provide for his need.*
Un simple lys des champs, une petite fleur,	*A simple field lily, a tiny flower,*
Du grand roi Salomon dépasse la splendeur.	*Outshines the splendor of great King Solomon.*
Dieu de la Providence,	*God of Providence,*
Toi qui nous as jamais abandonnées	*You who have never abandoned us,*
Sois béni maintenant et toujours.	*Blessed are You, now and always.*
Pourquoi nous inquiéter des choses à venir?	*Why must we worry of the things to come?*
Pourquoi tant de soucis pour notre devenir?	*Why so much concern for our future?*
Dieu de la Providence, Maître de l'Univers,	*God of Providence, Master of the Universe,*
Tu donnes à tes enfants plus que le nécessaire.	*You give Your children more than enough.*
En dépit de nos peurs et malgré nos malheurs,	*Even in our fear and through all our trials,*
Dans nos moments de joie et même dans nos douleurs,	*In moments of joy and even in our pain,*
Nous t'implorons, Seigneur, Dieu de la Providence,	*We call on You, O God of Providence,*
Tu nous offres toujours Ta divine présence.	*You always extend to us Your divine presence.*
Cherchons allègrement le Royaume des Cieux,	*Let us joyfully seek the Kingdom of Heaven,*
L'Amour et la Justice, le Bien, la Paix de Dieu;	*God's Love and Justice, Goodness and Peace;*
Tout le reste à jamais sera notre partage,	*All else shall be ours, now and forever,*
Et nos cœurs recevront le divin héritage.	*And our hearts will receive the divine heritage.*
Fiat voluntas Dei.	*May God's will be done.*
« En tout et partout,	*"In all things and everywhere,*
Que la Volonté de Dieu soit accomplie. »	*May God's will be done."*
Amen! Amen! Amen!	*Amen! Amen! Amen!*

Note: The French text of this piece was inspired by the words of Saint Mother Théodore Guérin (1798--1856), the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, and also of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana.

Mother Guérin, originally from Brittany France, was a woman well ahead of her time who impacted countless lives. She was an entrepreneurial leader dedicated to serving all people, regardless of race, religion or background, a value still held by the sisters of providence today. Mother Théodore was canonized a Saint by the Catholic Church in 2006.

Practice tracks and an audio pronunciation guide of the French text are available at:
www.sydneyguillaume.com