

*THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON  
PROVIDENCE*

**Written by**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

These reflections arise from insights found in Sacred Scripture and in some of my favourite authors. Over time the language — but not the meaning — may have been altered somewhat as I mulled the message in my mind and tried to live by it. Most of the illustrations (only one included in this electronic version, at the very end of chapter 7) are the work of Sister Jean Morningstar, SNJM, whose simple, direct approach charmed me. I am grateful to family, friends, and acquaintances who over the years have often reflected on the Providence of God with me. I also thank the following who have read the manuscript and have offered valuable comments: Carla Montante, SP, Margaret McGovern, SP, Eloi DeGrace and Marilyn Innes.

- L.G.

## **PROLOGUE**

The question of Providence is exceedingly difficult because it is at once comprehensive and complicated. It is comprehensive because it sums up God's relationship to the world and to all history. It is complicated because it raises the problem of the interaction between divine sovereignty and human freedom. The former can never satisfactorily be described and the latter can never satisfactorily be explained. With the question of Providence, therefore, we come as close to the heart of the problem as we possibly can. And the closer we come, the more deafening the silence.

- Richard McBrien, in CATHOLICISM, page 321