



WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, APRIL 16

She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant girls.

She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.

—Proverbs 31:15-17

Through my visits to programs over the past year, I have met countless women who amazed, humbled and inspired me with their strength and generosity.

As exemplified by the capable wife described in this passage from Proverbs, the women our partners work with really do surpass all. They rise early, work through the day to provide water, hot meals and healing and kindness to their husbands, children and many others. And they do so often with very few resources and despite many challenges.

I think in particular of one woman I met in Nicaragua last year. She was chosen by her community to be an agricultural promoter. This means that she not only attends sessions to learn new techniques for diversifying what she grows and sells and for conserving her land, but also that she commits to sharing everything she learns with five other neighbors.

This woman does so enthusiastically, dedicating countless hours to help other women and men gain new knowledge and skills.

During this season of Lent, let us give thanks for the opportunities that each of us have and reflect on the ways in which women around the world tirelessly embrace and share new opportunities.

—Sara Delaney