

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022

Our first reading is from Exodus, the Story of Moses' Call as leader of the Israelites. He notices the flaming bush, but the bush is not being consumed. Mystery! Then he hears the call of his Name: Moses, Moses.... remove your sandals for you are standing on Holy Ground. Another astonishing Mystery! But, when Moses challenges God to give an identity to this VOICE, to this Command, Moses wants some kind of authority: the NAME, who is it who is sending him? God replies with "I am who am" ... and later in the reading, "this is my name forever...through all generations."

Now, when you are asked to give your name, do you realize that you are giving your presence to that request? By giving our name, we make ourselves known, or available to the requesting person. The same is true here. By God revealing the name, God makes God's Self available to us. By giving that name, a relationship is launched. We KNOW each other, of course not completely. But we make ourselves available to each other. We are known "by name".

So, this reading expresses the same dedication; God makes himself known to Moses, therefore, accessible. And the same is true for us. Even that last line in this reading says it again. This is my name forever, ...to be remembered through ALL generations. This reading of Exodus 15 launches the relationship between God and humanity. God gives his name to us. God makes himself available to us. The covenantal relationship is initiated.

PS, please excuse the patriarchal pronoun.