

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 03/24/19 **“We must find the Holy place”** Rev. Irma Guerra

“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

When the Lord saw that Moses was coming to look, He called him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses! "God was calling Moses to see if Moses could really set aside daily chores and worries; God was trying to see if Moses would turn around to look at the angels of God, the messengers of God, at the burning bush. This was a decisive moment that launched the Israelite people through a long pilgrimage from their captivity to freedom. It was like a life or death option.

It depended entirely on Moses noticing that burning bush.

Today's readings mark the beginning of a new relationship between God and the people of this world. It is the beginning of a direct intervention of God in the affairs of the world. And it is also an event of alteration for the ordinary life of Moses, but above all it is a significant event that brings change to the world. God declares that He sees the oppression, injustice and suffering of His people. God commissions Moses to intervene in his name. The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the middle of the burning bush with a message. Where is God and what is he calling you? That is the key question offered by the story of Moses and the burning bush.

Two children who were very good friends entered into a disagreement and became angry by saying offensive and painful words. The mother of one of them placed two chairs and sat them face to face to look each other in the eyes and remember their bad behavior. The children stared at each other in the eyes. Soon after the anger disappeared, and the children began to grimace and began to laugh out loud. They played again as if nothing had happened. As they looked into each other's eyes, it was not the anger they saw, but the joy of being friends. They did not see the disappointment caused by their anger, but the affection they had for each other.

In our daily walk, each person we meet, each stranger, is a burning bush bearing the divine presence in their own life. If we would just stop and stare at each other like the children in the story, we would realize that we are treading on holy ground-that everything is fine. In every moment, in every encounter, God is present.

God says to Moses "Moses, I have clearly seen how my people suffer. I've heard them complain because of their foremen, and I know very well what they suffer, that's why I came down, to save them.

Many of us find it hard to believe in God when there is so much suffering in the world. Sometimes we feel that God does not intervene in our life and that causes us a crisis of faith.

REFLECTION: A week after my ordination as a Deacon, I received a call from Betty a grieving mother because her son was in bad steps, she begs for me to go visit him, she stated that Because it was two months since she knew anything about him. She knows the plays where he works, and for some reason she prefers somebody else to go see what was going on.

So here I come. When I arrived at the address that Betty gave me, the place was looking kind of weird, the sign said "GROCERIES" then at the entrance door there was a security person, so here I am wearing my collar of course! I approach, and I tell him that I need to enter, he looks surprise and said:

- You? Wants to enter? Are you a mother, right?
- Mmmmm, something like that - I answer
- Do you know what kind of place this is?
- Yes! The place where the person that I'm looking for works!
- Okay Mother, - Please enter (he said)
- I entered and the place was so dark, someone directs me to a table, while walking I was able to see couples sitting, or dancing in the dim light, someone asks me if I was looking for someone in particular and I gave the name of Ricardo, and he said to wait 5 minutes and he offered me a chair and a drink, I say "water" so immediately I start praying and I said to myself, (look! if God sends you, you have to do it no matter what), 5 minutes later a young man appears on top of the table, he smiles at me and starts dancing very slowly, then slowly started taking off his clothes, little by little, I said: ayayay Dios mio!! at once I cover my eyes and shout:
- Ricardo? No no no!!! Stop doing that!!
- Do not worry, he said, priests, mothers, and all come here sometimes

- I started praying "Our Father" and I shout again No! Please stop!

then I felt his hand on my head, and instantly I said:

- Ricardo, your mother Betty sent me! -I was still covering my eyes, and I heard another voice that said:

- Sorry mother it has been a mistake, Ricardo will change and will seat with you in a moment

Ricardo approaches and apologizes. I look at him and we both laugh and started talking. Our conversation was so deep that it made him reconsider and correct his error, he repented and made his confession.

If we pay attention to this part, Ricardo was the burning bush, and God's point was to walk in that holy place and do the work.

The universe is full of angels of God. The world is in constant presence of burning bushes. It is up to us to turn from daily chores and worries to focus on the messengers of God, in the burning bushes of God that He reveals to us day by day.

Today Ricardo is no longer a table dancer, he is a lawyer, and his mother thanks me for having had the courage to go look and talk to him, Ricardo calls me from time to time and we remember that moment and laughed.

When Jesus confronts those, who came with the news, he asks them: "Do you think that these Galileans, because they suffered such things, were more sinful than the other Galileans?" Jesus attacks the criterion of these people saying that their thinking is not true. such facts because he knows well from whom those words come from.

We can't judge Ricardo because he was a strip dancer, right? We can't do that, instead let's have a time to listen to those lost ones, remembering that God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it, said the letter to the Corinthians.

Each one of us is a messenger of God, we are angels sent by Him, each one is a bearer of the healing power of God that is so needed in the world, and we must go as far as necessary to carry the Good News, we must not put obstacles to go anywhere, although it may be the most profane place.

Or let's ask for more time to convince others to return to the Lord, like the man in the parable when he said: 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it... Friends, let's dig around, and believe it, God will do the rest.

This is a crucial moment for us, with so many disasters around our world, It depends on us, to let God direct us, it was like this, that through other people Betty who was losing her son could experience the presence of God, it was so that Ricardo straightened his way to hear the Good News. It is up to us to make sure that the dignity of each human being is respected and that swords are not raised nation by nation, it depends on doing the work that has been entrusted to us so that the wars end, so that we are united as a family , because we all have been created by God.

Let's not be foolish and say like Moses: And who am I to do these things?

We shall say to the whole world: **I AM** sent me to you...

*So, Here I am to worship*

*Here I am to bow down*

*Here I am to say that You're my God*