

**MAY 8, 2022**

When Moses meets the Lord God at the Burning Bush in Exodus 3, there are two realities that seem to drive the Lord's directions to Moses: one, the People of Israel are enslaved, and two, God has a goal in mind that will slowly unfold over the coming pages of the Bible.

I love how the Lord God starts the conversation with Moses, 'I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry against their taskmasters, so I know well what they are suffering.' (Exodus 3:7) God has seen, He knows, the situation that they are in and He has come down to rescue them and lead them into the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

As I pondered this throughout Lent, there was something about this goal of the Promised Land that was elusive: none of the Israelites who were alive at the time of Moses and the start of the Exodus had actually been to the Promised Land! They had been in Egypt for over 400 years before being enslaved by Pharaoh. By this point, the people had forgotten the promises once made by the Lord God to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Even though they had an inner sense that God keeps His promises, those promises were so far away from being fulfilled they could not even comprehend them.

Yet, God is faithful; and He remembered. He knew. And all of the rest of Exodus is about breaking the power of the Egyptians over the people of Israel so that they might become free to worship the Lord God in spirit and truth. The Book of Exodus is about casting the vision of what would be once they reached the Promised Land, even if the people were yet to envision what exactly that could be.

And I think this is a great metaphor for where we are heading, today, with the new Family of Parishes of Holy Cross, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Peter, St. Christopher and St. John the Baptist. As of yet, there is no clear vision of what this new Family will look like. Since it is completely new, no one has even been there. Yet, this is where God is leading us. This is where we are heading.

At this point, we do not know exactly where it is we are going; but we can be assured that God is leading us along the way. We may not have the Pillar of Fire leading us, but we do have the Holy Spirit leading us. Over the last few weeks and months, I have certainly been spending many, many hours in prayer over what this new family will look like, as we slowly build this new identity.

In starting out on this journey, together, it is good to remember that God truly is faithful to His promises. May He continue to reveal His Will to us all throughout this process.

In Christ,

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Pastor