

CREATE
IN ME
A PURE
HEART
O GOD,

AND RENEW A
STEADFAST SPIRIT
WITHIN ME

PSALM 51:10

CATHOLIC FAITH SERIES: "Community and Sacrament" Catholicism is an especially rich tradition within Christianity. It maintains that the Christian vision can and should embrace all times, places and cultures and all aspect of the human person. Catholicism is a form of Christian humanism. Speaker: FR. MICHAEL HIMES, ND THEOLOGY DEPT, SUN & TUE THIS WEEK, KEENAN CHAPEL, 7-8:30.

MARCH



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"I am who I am
... This is my name forever." (3.14-15)

February 26

Third Sunday in Lent

TO THE BURNING BUSH

Every summer my mother used to plant a bush that grew numerous long, narrow, light green leaves and in autumn turned brilliant red. It was called "burning bush" and she loved it. Perhaps it was a symbol of her life's journey, a valiant journey certainly undertaken with God.

This image could prompt some questions: Have you seen the burning bush? When? Where? What did you do when you saw it? Did you close your eyes? Did you turn and run? (And does the bush aflame remain but a memory of a lost chance?) Or did you approach and take off your shoes, knowing you were standing on the very ground of God? Did you ask to know God's name? Where were you sent and where were you willing to go to respond to the suffering of God's people? Is the bush still burning?

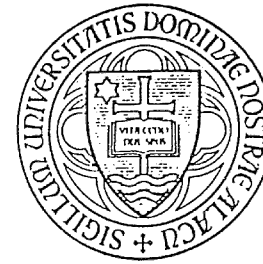
We are not speaking here of visions or phenomena but of those moments when you perceived God's presence in your life or felt a strong invitation to take a step in the name of God.

That other bush, the fig tree, neither burned nor shone with light nor gave any fruit. It was like some African violet that is all leaves but will not bloom, or a fruit tree that is only a decoration. Still, the situation is never hopeless: maybe next year, with the right kind of fertilizer, something new will happen.

Lent is a good time to examine our horticultural condition — speaking "fig"-uratively!

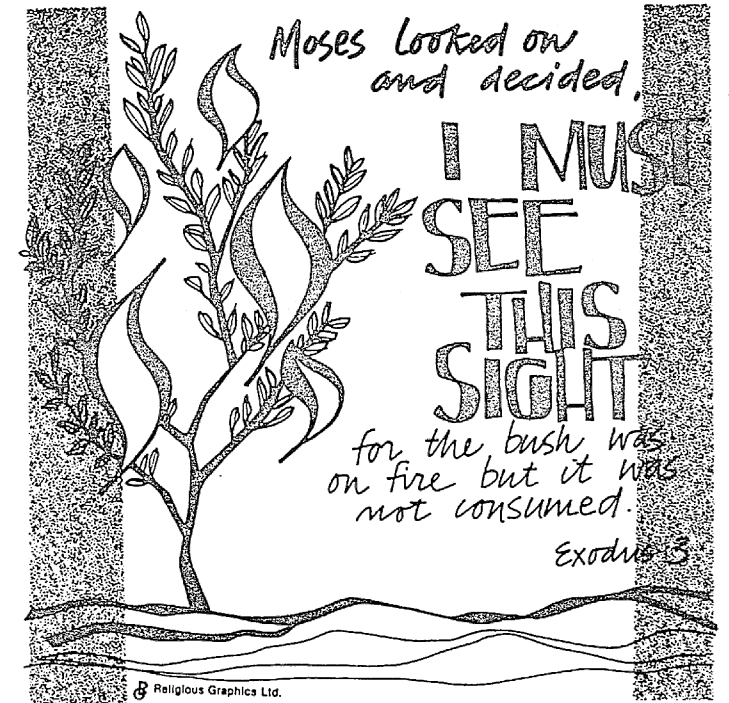
Sr. MARY ALBAN BOUCHARD, CSJ

*To love enemies is more difficult
than to have enemies.
Quotations Quotations*



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LENTEN WEEK #3:
SPEND TIME IN
PRAYER--READ
SCRIPTURE--DAILY.

**Psalms as Prayer Starters
for daily Lenten Prayer:**

**Prescription: Read each
psalm slowly and-----**

**allow God to speak to you
through your reflection.**

#139 HOUND OF HEAVEN

*Yahweh, you examine me and know me,
you know if I am standing or sitting,
you read my thoughts from far away,
whether I walk or lie down, you are watching
you know every detail of my conduct.*

*The word is not even on my tongue,
Yahweh, before you know all about it;
close behind and close in front you fence me
around,
shielding me with your hand,
such knoweldge is beyond my understanding,
a height to which my mind cannot attain.*

*Where could I go to escape your spirit?
Where could I flee from your presence?
If I climb the heaven, you are there,
there ,too, if I lie in Sheol.*

*If I flew to the point of sunrise,
or westward across the sea,
your hand would still be guiding me,
your right hand holding me.
If I asked the darkness to cover me,
and light to become night around me,
that darkness would not be dark to you,
night would be as light as day.*

*It was you who created my inmost self,
and put me together in my mother's womb;
for all these mysteries I thank you:
for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of
your works.*

*You know me through and through,
from having watched my bones take shape
when I was being formed in secret,
knitted together in the limbo of the womb.*

*You have scrutinized my every action,
all were recorded in your book,
my days listed and determined,
even before the first of them occurred.*

*God, how hard it is to grasp your thoughts!
How impossible to count them!
I could no more count them than I could the
sand,
and supposed I could, you would still be with
me.*

**GOD, EXAMINE ME AND KNOW MY HEART,
PROBE ME AND KNOW MY THOUGHTS;
MAKE SURE I DO NOT FOLLOW PERNICIOUS
WAYS,
AND GUIDE ME IN THE WAY THAT IS
EVERYLASTING.**

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**God's presence, His grace,
His friendship, comes to us
through His Scripture....**

#51 AN ACT OF CONTRITION

*Be merciful to me, God, because of your constant
Love;
wipe away my sins, because of your great mercy!
Wash away my evil, and make me clean from my sin!*

*I recognize my faults; I am always conscious of my
sins.
I have sinned against you-only against you,
and done what you consider evil.
So you are right in judging me; you are justified in
condemning me.
I have been evil from the time I was born; from the day
I have been sinful.*

*A faithful heart is what you want;
fill my mind with your wisdom.
Remove my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me and I will be whiter than
snow.
Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness; and
though you have crushed and broken me, I will be
happy again.
Close your eyes to my sins, and wipe out all my evil.*

**CREAT A PURE HEART IN ME, GOD,
AND PUT A NEW AND LOYAL SPIRIT IN ME.
DO NOT BANISH ME FROM YOUR PRESENCE;
DO NOT TAKE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME.
GIVE ME AGAIN THE JOY THAT COMES FROM
YOUR SALVATION, AND MAKE MY SPIRIT
OBEDIENT.
THEN I WILL TEACH SINNERS YOUR
COMMANDS, AND THEY WILL TURN BACK TO
YOU.**

**SPARE MY LIFE, GOD MY SAVIOR, AND I WILL
GLADLY PROCLAIM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
HELP ME TO SPEAK, LORD, AND I WILL PRAISE
YOU.**