

Lenten Reflection

Second Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2016

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One night, during my very first visit to New England, a good friend took me outside and told me to look up at the sky. “The stars”, she said, “are most beautiful here. They hang lower in the sky than in any other place.” It is true; the stars are very beautiful in New England. To this day, I look out at night to gaze on the beauty of the night sky before retiring, and somehow for me, the stars are mystical and calming.

Remember how God took Abram outside and told him to look at the stars. “You cannot count them,” God said, “but your descendants will be as numerous as those stars.” Then God made a very special promise to Abram; God made a covenant. Under the stars in the night sky, promises are made; vows are proclaimed; mysteries deepen.

Jesus took three of his friends to the mountain and became transfigured before them. God again spoke: “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” Those simple words on the mountain tell us that our lives can be changed if we simply “listen to him.”

In Sacred Scripture, stars and mountains, rainbows and seas, even the passing breeze is a very special place where God intimately communicates to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Those revelations in Scripture are intimations of how much “God so loved the world.” In each revelation, God invites us: “Look at the stars, gaze on the mountain, walk the fields, listen to the ocean, watch the ripples in a lake, catch the rainbow, feel the breeze on your face, gather the snowflakes, splash through the rain, enter the darkness, and as you do, ‘listen for Him’.”

Let this Lent be a very different Lent. Open your eyes and attune your heart to God’s Beloved who longs for you and, in the words of Mother Marie, “so visibly cares for us.” The Beloved may not always appear in dazzling white, but earth, sea, sky and all of creation will show up every day in all of their glory, and carry God’s message to us. Listen up!! Then proclaim with Mother Marie: “I recognize so visibly the wonderful ways of God!”