

Third Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2017

A New Creation

“. . .we boast in hope of the glory of God”
Romans 5:2b

I don't know if God has a sense of humor, but He definitely has a sense of irony. In today's readings, we see Moses, the guy with the speech impediment, leading an entire people to the Promised Land. Then, we hear from the great evangelist, Paul, whose mission of persecuting Christians took a 180-degree turn after a life-changing encounter on the road to Damascus. Finally, Jesus asks a sinful Samaritan woman for water at the well. She's so inspired by the encounter that she heads back into town and begins testifying to others. Ordinary people are transformed and they all have one common denominator: they listened to the voice of God.

How wonderful to realize that God knows all of my personal shortcomings, my misguided efforts at righteousness and every sin I've ever committed, yet amazingly, He still wants to use me to do His work here on earth. Each week, God waits for me with welcoming arms at Mass, ready to take all of my weaknesses onto His cross and make me a new creation through His living word and through the gift of His very self in the Eucharist.

What's that one personality trait, physical limitation, or habit that I think most prevents me from serving God the way He wants? If I offered up that weakness to God in prayer, how could God transform my life and what could He empower me to do?

Father, I offer my whole self to you this week. Help me to hear your voice and place my trust in You, who can do all things, even through imperfect vessels like me.

Anna Barham