

Reflection by Sister Ruth Geraets



March 12, 2017

Second Sunday of Lent

The LORD said to Abram:

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.

*"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing....
All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you."*

GENESIS 12:1-3

Does God Suffer with Us?

When Abram began his journey with the Holy One, he was promised that his descendants would become God's special people: 'a great nation.' I don't believe that it was quite in the same sense as we think of 'America First.'

The Holy One was inviting Abram and the people into a special relationship. They experienced themselves as being an oppressed people; and God blessed them by accompanying them on their journey, as difficult as it was... enabling them to be a blessing to 'all the communities of the earth.'

Doesn't God extend this same invitation to you and me: to be a blessing to those we care for and relate to each day? During our journey, we share in both the suffering/pain and the awe/joy of others. Like God, who does not take away all our pain... but suffers with us, we can choose to accompany others (in the Spirit of the Holy One) sharing their pain. What an awesome realization!

**Loving and All-Inclusive God,
Thank you for enfolding me,
along with all humanity and creation,
in your loving arms.**

**Help me to be more aware of your sharing in
both my pain and my joy, and in the pain and joy of others in my Life.
May it be so.**

Sister Ruth Geraets
Presentation Convent, Aberdeen SD