

# 2021 Lenten Reflections



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
*In Joyful Service*

**February 21, 2021**

## **All It Takes is One Good Person to Restore Hope**

Genesis 9: 13 *“I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”*

We have heard the story of Noah building an ark, saving two of every kind of animals, and a rainbow appearing after the flood a million times as children. In his 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home, Pope Francis deepens our understanding of this story: *“Although the wickedness of [human] was great in the earth and the Lord was sorry that he had made [humans] on the earth, nonetheless, through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. **All it takes is one good person to restore hope.**”* (Laudato Si, 71) At its core, this story places an emphasis on GOD’s initiative: God’s unconditional promise to create life out of human transgressions, natural disasters, violence, pandemics, out of any situation that makes us dubious of God’s presence. We cry out, “God, show me you are here.”

When I watched the violence of the insurrection on the Capitol unfold before my eyes, my anxiety, my fear shook me to the core of my being as the rotunda floor was being desecrated. I asked, where are you God in all of this? And then one of the Presentation Sisters with whom I live invited me to be with her. And then I’m reminded, “All it takes is one good person to restore hope.” I see COVID-19 still raging out of control in our communities. We all know someone who has died from this deadly virus. People with COVID are flooding hospitals and our health care staff are treading water. And then I see the superhuman sacrifices being made by our health care professionals and the Avera employee joyfully and exuberantly inviting me to a celebration-like event to receive the first dose of the vaccine. Yes, “All it takes is one good person to restore hope.”

We have just begun Lent, per the Church calendar. However, it’s felt like Lent for the past year! I ask God, do we have to go through this again? Enough is enough. Or is it? God doesn’t promise that disasters will go away. What is promised is God’s presence (Emmanuel – God-with-us) always and in all ways. During Lent 2021, I am going to focus on looking for signs of hope, the divine blessings. Because where there is love, where there is hope, there is God! “All it takes is one good person to restore hope.”

Finally I can hear God showing me forward: “Pegge, you are my Noah today...restore hope in this wounded world.” Ok God, I’m on it!

### **PRAYER (Psalm 25:4-5)**

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;  
Teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
For you are God my Savior.

By: Sister Pegge Boehm, PBVM