

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT      FEB. 21, 021.**

*For those of you who are married, at one time or another you have made promises to your spouse...both at the time of your marriage, as well as many other times when the situation required it. (I promise I'll never lay a hand on you. I promise I'll never cheat on you. I promise I'll stop drinking.) you get the picture. Promises, it appears, can be awfully hard to keep.*

*We are **not bystanders** in the saving acts of Jesus, observers of what he was about and what he taught. In Jesus that sacred Covenant has been revealed to us throughout human history in many different ways...through Abraham as well as Noah that we heard in the First reading. At the heart of the covenant is this: **God will continue to love us no matter what.***

*However, a covenant is not a **one-sided thing** as you well know. It is an agreement in which two parties, **freely commit to one another** in a specific way. God has made his choice...he has chosen to **love us completely, no matter what we do or don't do.** That's his promise. The real question is,*

***What's ours?***

*I guess that's sort of a tricky question. Yet, if we want to remain in this covenantal relationship with our God, as people of Faith, we simply can't be ok with standing on the sidelines watching God do all sorts of wonderful things for us and for our world, while we often do very little. That's not what a covenant is. God is always keeping his promises. **Are we keeping ours?***

*Of course, sometimes the hardest promises to keep are the ones we make toward the people who love us the most, parents, spouses and friends. And God is at the top of that list. We know that He will always love us, even when we stray far from the path.*

*So, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, as we examine our hearts and minds and motives and sin, let's also take the time to consider **what exactly it is that we are promising God.** The Lord Jesus showed us perfect faithfulness, even going so far as to say in effect, "you can even put me to death, and **I won't stop loving you.**" That's God's end of the bargain.*

*The question is, what will we do for God, what will we promise God...**no matter what?***