

Homily: The Third Sunday of Lent March 20<sup>th</sup> 2022

THEME REVERENCE: ( IN AN AGE THAT HAS LOST RESPECT FOR ITSELF)

The story of the “BURNING BUSH” God appears to Moses not in a temple, as you might expect--- but in the wilderness. God appears, not while Moses was praying, but while he was minding his sheep. It was in this secular place and while he was engaged in this secular task, God made his presence known to him.

Today, the world has become a very secular place. --- It is very difficult for us to retain a sense of the sacred in such a world. Yet without the sacred, without a sense of the transcendent,-- my life is bleak and one dimensional .

Reading between the lines, Moses’ encounter with God .However this is not so. When the Bible speaks about the fear of God it does not mean my being afraid of God. It really means my having a sense of awe and reverence before the mystery of God.

My fear is a negative thing. -- It constricts me and makes me want to run away.

Awe on the other hand is a positive and expansive feeling .--- It draws me to the awe - inspiring object, and makes me

want to linger . I stand in admiration of something greater than myself. I am at once HUMBLed and ELEVATED.

Religion begins with a sense of REVERENCE, the recognition of God's greatness and my limitations. My awe and reverence precede my faith. They are the root of my FAITH. Awe is the beginning and gateway of FAITH.

MY awareness of the divine always begins with WONDER. It takes a wise person to wonder at the usual. This is our problem. I long for visions but seldom watch a sunset!

## CONCLUSION

We Christians come to church. But there is something I ought to put on before entering, namely a sense of REVERENCE!

AMEN.