

Lenten Reflection

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

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We have heard so much about the Jubilee Year of Mercy since Pope Francis announced it. Suddenly, the word, *mercy* seems to have neon lights which seem to identify it. Have you noticed it more? I certainly have! It seems to be in every Psalm (well, almost every one) and in prayers, songs and various other printed, sung or proclaimed forms. And why not! Nothing has changed except our perception of it. The raised awareness of Christians has made it so—God has not changed. God has always been a God of Mercy, Love and Forgiveness.

Isaiah tells us that God has been there always helping, keeping and restoring. He even tells us that it is God who leads and guides us through springs of water and even cut roads level and smooth making our way easier. Didn't we just hear that a couple of months ago when in Advent we were told to make God's way straight? But long before John spoke these words, those returning from the Babylonian exile heard it from the prophet. God did not forget Israel; God is faithful and will never forget.

How positive! How hope-filled! People I meet at church often speak of experiencing some days that are good and others, not so good. I hear that said over and over from many with gray or silver hair and some who are going bald! Knowing that our Provident God is always going to remember us, even when a mother might fail, can help on those "not-so-good" days. We can do well to remember that!

ISAIAH 49:8-15

Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you; and I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, To restore the land and allot the desolate heritages, Saying to the prisoners: Come out! To those in darkness: Show yourselves! Along the ways they shall find pasture, on every bare height shall their pastures be. They shall not hunger or thirst, nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them; For he who pities them leads them and guides them beside springs of water. I will cut a road through all my mountains, and make my highways level. See, some shall come from afar, others from the north and the west, and some from the land of Syene. Sing out, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth, break forth into song, you mountains. For the LORD comforts his people and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.