

3rd Wednesday of Lent. 3/10/2021

Witness to the love and mercy of God.

We hear today about a special moment of fulfillment in the life of the people of Israel. They are about to enter the promised land, after 40 years of wandering in the desert.

Entering the promised land fulfills a promise made by God to Abraham. The relationship with God has slowly developed, a people has been formed and they have received the word of God in the ten commandments.

There were ups and downs during those years in the desert. Now they are arriving at their destination. Moses summarizes the special relationship of God and his chosen people: Listen to the word of God that brings you life, and take possession of this land. Other nations, when they see

you, will be impressed by how you live. This is a happy day. There is a feeling of peace and harmony with everyone in the group. There is joy and anticipation for new life. There is excitement for all the things that are coming in this new land. There is gratitude for having a God that is so close and so merciful. And people are eager to live out this covenant with God, to listen to his word and be his special property, set apart from other nations.

Moses seals this moment with an important counsel, because over time the daily chores and distractions may weaken the enthusiasm and resolutions of those special moments: “Take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live but

teach them to your children and to your children's children."

In the Gospel Jesus reminds his followers that the word of God is eternal and that they are called to teach and share this treasure with others. Jesus has come to fulfill the promises of God and be even closer to us, walking among us and staying with us until the end of time.

Have we had experiences of very close proximity to God, to our family or to our community? Maybe there was a time when we received absolution and felt a deep gratitude, a sense of freedom and the conviction that we are starting anew. Or a scripture reading that has touched us deeply. Or the birth of a child, or a family gathering when everything was in place, with everyone sharing in a

common love, in harmony and anticipation for the future.

Those are blessings of God, who continues to do wonderful things in our lives. It helps us to hold on to those experiences and keep them alive in our minds, especially if we face any temptation against our faith, and remember that each of us is chosen to be God's special property. He cares for us and will guide us in everything. We can live every day in trust and gratitude for having a God that is so close that he wants to unite with us in Holy Communion and fill our lives. Let us ask Jesus in this Mass to give us the grace to teach our children his mercy and love, and to be credible witnesses of his covenant to the world around us.