

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent - Covenant

"The Lord remembers his covenant for ever!" says the psalmist. Some scholars claim the Covenant is what holds the whole of the Old Testament together and unites it to the New Testament. Covenant is much more than a promise and a commitment based on trust, it is a relationship and not just any relationship but a relationship of love between God and us. In the Old Testament it was clearly understood that to break this relationship, to break this trust, was punishable by death. Yet, although the human party in this covenant relationship time and time and time again failed this relationship, God was always faithful and always showed mercy. In the end to stop this endless cycle of infidelity. God sent us his Son, Jesus, who accepted to die for us all. Then having been accepted as an offering, Jesus rose again that we might have life and life for ever with God which was the whole purpose of the original covenant. This is why we call Jesus the New Covenant, the wine that becomes the New Covenant at Mass signifies the life of Jesus and the life Jesus won for us. We drink the wine, the Blood of Jesus, so that Jesus' life courses through our veins, through our lives, through our actions, through our prayer.

Pope Francis: *"Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, through this very sober and at the same time solemn Sacrament, we experience the New Covenant, which realizes in fullness the communion between God and us. And, in as much as participants in this Covenant, we, though little and poor, collaborate to build history as God wills. Therefore, every Eucharistic celebration, while constituting a public act of worship of God, refers us back to the life and concrete events of our existence." . . .*

"Prepared for in the Old Testament and established by Christ in the fullness of time, the Church is a new people, founded on a new covenant. . . sealed with the blood of Jesus,"

"The new covenant consists precisely in recognizing that, thanks to Christ, mercy and the compassion of God surround us."

"Jesus performing his first miracle at the wedding feast in Cana is greatly significant. Jesus manifests himself as the bridegroom of the people of God and reveals the nature and depth of this relationship as a new covenant of love." Pope

The fruit of keeping covenants is the companionship of the Holy Spirit and an increase in the power to love. Henry B. Eyring

Question: Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Answer: Noah -- he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Question: What did God say after He created Adam?

Answer: "I can do better than that." And so, God created woman.

And finally: Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbour's little boy was in his backyard filling in a hole. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said.

Patting down the last bit of earth, little Jimmy replied, "That's because he's in your cat!"