

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
February 18, 2018
First Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9:8-15 + 1 Peter 3:18-22 + Mark 1:12-15



Reflection by: Sister Michel Rodgers, O.P.

The book of Genesis describes the flood which resulted in a covenant between God and man, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind...nor will I ever again destroy every living creature." Consoling words to those who fear the ravages of nature. To cement his promise he states "I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." "The water shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal things."

After Jesus' baptism he went out to the desert where He stayed for forty days, his Lent prior to his public life.

This weekend begins our Lent, 40 days when we can prepare for the holiest of days. How will we respond to God's warning, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand"? He continues to warn us that we must listen "...to every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Mark 1:12-15)

How can we hear those words? How can we make this Lent different?

The pollsters tell us that each consumer, as part of the social media, receives and/or sends 127 messages a day. Can we not reserve some time from this monopoly to "think of what is above, not of what is on earth?" (Colossians) For those of us who are shy of social media, I offer some suggestions, originally quoted from the *National Catholic Reporter*, that would add to our ability to have a peace-filled Lent:

Slow down

Reconnect with the natural world

Nurture your relationship with God, and

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. (Colossians)

Happy 40 days.