



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first reading is a familiar one this weekend: Moses and the burning bush. This is a remarkable text! God is re-revealing Himself to His people after (for all we know) being silent for four-hundred years. The last we know of God directly speaking to His people is when He speaks to Jacob and tells him not to be afraid to go to Egypt (Genesis 46: 1ff). Now God, who seemed to be distant from His people, comes again to speak to His people. He reveals to Moses that He has NOT been far off, but has **"witnessed the affliction of my people"** (Exodus 3:7).

God then reveals Himself to Moses in a way that no pagan deity had. Instead of revealing Himself as a god of a particular power (like the sun or wind or water), of a place or a people (though God does identify Himself as the One the patriarchs worshipped: **"The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob"** [Exodus 3:6]), God reveals Himself as not a being over other beings, but, rather, *Being Itself!* He says, **"I am who am... This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you"** (Exodus 3:14).

God is Being Itself. God is the ground of all being. He is not simply a being among many – even if the highest or the greatest. That would imply a beginning and an end. No, our God is ... **"IS"**. This should give us great confidence, for it means that nothing that is could be greater or more powerful than our God. Nothing that can be, could ever knock God out of His place of being and authority. Nothing even *compares* with God. This isn't the way Sinead O'Connor means it. While each of us is unique, we all have things in common – our humanity. But there is nothing that is even comparable to God to be able to describe Him. Most of what we say of God is what He is not. Every time we try to speak of what God is, every time we make an analogy, there is always more wrong about it than there is right. Nothing compares to God! We sometimes use the analogy, when showing why we are confident in God, that He is greater than Satan more than the Empire States Building is bigger than an ant... and yet, that comparison isn't even close. Even were we to compare an atom to the size of a galaxy, we would not be close to seeing the difference between God and Satan... or any other creature.

And here's the kicker: God – who is being itself, who is so utterly unutterable, who is so far beyond us as creatures – deigns to lower Himself, humble Himself to come close to us. He was present to and spoke to Moses and the Israelites. He humbled Himself even further by becoming a zygote in Mary, and growing through our human condition. He even took on Himself the pains of death. And every day He humbles Himself by coming to us under the form of bread so that we can adore Him, so that we can become one with the One who is so utterly beyond us!

This we have to remember: even when God seems distant, even when it seems He is silent, He is with us, present in our darkness. We had the Eucharistic Miracles display come last week. It was a great reminder of how God wants us to remember how close He is to us. He really IS HERE in the Eucharist, and these miracles are a testimony to that true presence in our midst. Even when God seems distant, He tells us (though it is a whisper), "I am here."

And don't we need this reassurance right now? Don't we need to know that God is bigger than Putin, bigger than Russia, bigger than inflation? Let's spend quality time with the God who is "I AM," and allow His presence to reassure our lonely, fearful lives.