

READING

Leader A reading from the Book of Exodus: Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the Lord appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the Lord saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. "I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have truly noted that the Egyptians are oppressing them. Come, now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He answered, "I will be with you; and this shall be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain" (Ex 3:1-6, 9-12).

REFLECTION

This story, with its burning bush and "holy ground" reference, is more than familiar. In our theological understanding of *ministry*, this is a paradigm story of God calling forth a great leader to be the instrument of God's work.

For a ministry in search of leaders for the future, a few details from this familiar story suggest a prophetic role for those of us currently at work in Catholic health care. First, this passage from Exodus tells us that an angel of the Lord appeared to Moses as a bush aflame. That got his attention. But might we also attract potential leaders to our ministry by our example, by our fire? We could be, through visi-



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Prayer

We Could Be
the Voice of God's Call
to New Leaders

ble, faithful practice of virtuous leadership, the angels that cause gifted people to look closer at careers in the health ministry.

In the story, God calls Moses to "Come, now!" There is an immediacy, an urgency, in that call that we should emulate. The founders and foundresses of our ministry were not shy in asking people to join them in their work of healing. Nor should we be. Is there a neighbor who seems suited to the health ministry or an employee ready to move up to a leadership position? Could you invite them? Mentor them?

The story ends with Moses' skepticism and lack of confidence for the task assigned him. And God replies, "I will be with you." New leaders in the health ministry may feel unsure of their abilities to preserve and enhance the ministry identity of Catholic health care organizations, but through the formation programs under way and efforts that will continue to develop, God will be with them, speaking through us, their colleagues.

PRAYER

God of the prophets,
as you did with Moses,
you continue to call leaders to do your work.
Like Moses, I offer my humble "Here I am."

I offer myself as an instrument.

I offer the fire of my commitment to your healing ministry to captivate future leaders with possibilities for themselves.

I offer my eyes and ears and mind and heart to find these leaders and my voice in invitation as the sound of your call.

Let me always remember that this is your mission, your work, and trust in your promise.

Amen.

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