



LIVING YOUR FAITH

March 2, 2014

God's Tender Love Enfolds Us

How tender—how very, very tender—are the words of our readings this day. Time and again we are reminded that we are loved, in all moments, in all circumstances, no matter what, and that we can trust so fully in that love that we can be at rest.

Our restlessness can subside. Our brokenness can be healed. This is true because we are held tenderly and lovingly in the arms of a God who sees us exactly as we are, beautiful, tender, and precious. All is forgiven, all is embraced.

What a call this is to us, too—those of us who call ourselves disciples, those of us who would follow in the example of Jesus who extols us to remember who we are—and whose we are! We are called to allow ourselves to be loved this way, and also to love God, each other and all of creation in the ways described in today's readings: with deep tenderness, precious mercy, and relentless love.

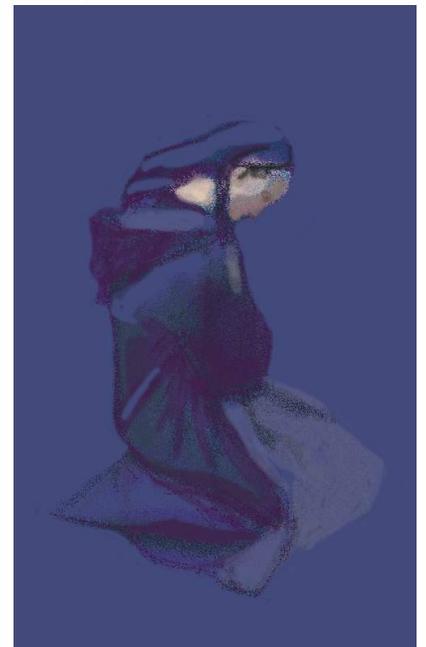
In a few days, in every parish of the entire diocese, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. In all of our tender, lost and broken places of the heart, we will gather, knowing that God's tender love will enfold us and hold us no matter how thoughtless, distracted, angry, distanced or destructive we've been. In each of our hearts, we know how blessed it is to be loved even though we've been imperfect in our choices and behaviors. We all yearn to be known exactly as we have been and seen nonetheless as loved and loveable. When we know that even in our brokenness, we're loved and included and welcomed home, we become more capable of making better choices. We become more tender and welcoming ourselves. We become more and more like Christ, bringing the tender, compassionate, just love of God into our own relationships and world. Our humble willingness to say, "Oh, I messed up. I'm so sorry, and I want to do better" leads us to a new wholeness.

The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance will take place on Wednesday, March 12th from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm in every parish church in our diocese. We hope you'll join us, and perhaps even invite someone who hasn't been to church in awhile to join you.

Diocesan Wide

**An Evening of
Confession**

**March 12, 2014
5–8 pm**



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