

## Prayer Unit 2

<i>Theme:</i>	<i>Our creaturely dependence on God -- God created us and continually is creating us -- God shares personally with us.</i>
<i>Grace:</i>	<i>To ask for what I desire -- amazement at my existence and at how personally God relates to me.</i>

### *Prayer Texts:*

- a) Exodus 3:4-6                      God's holiness before which both Moses and I bow down in awe.
- b) Job 1:21; 38:1-40:5              Naked I came from my mother's womb ... and I must bow down before my Creator's wisdom.
- c) Romans 8:26-34                  Yet God gives God's self to us through the Spirit present even in our limitation and weakness ... God is on our side.
- d) Repetition                          of any portion of the above, particularly those parts that you have found comforting and/or disconcerting.
- e) Repetition or  
Psalm 139:1-18                      O God, you examine me and know me.
- f) Repetition or Psalm 8              Who are we that you should care for us?

My existence is rooted in mystery, and at the heart of this mystery are three profound truths: God's holiness (transcendence) -- Is 6:1-3; my nothingness -- Job 1:21; God's desire to have an intimate relationship with me -- 1Jn 4:10. I am a dependent being of love. To experience this is to say with Augustine, "I tremble with fear and burn with love." Our response to this love is praise in word and deed; in word, because praise spontaneously springs to our lips when we experience this love; in deed, because the one who is thus loved perceives one's lover in all things and desires to respond in kind.

Why might God have called you into these exercises?  
Perhaps because of the great delight, esteem, honour  
and profound love in which God holds you?  
-- David Howells

### *Additional Readings for reflection outside prayer times:*

- Deuteronomy 1:29-33                  The Holy One goes before you and will personally fight for you ... God carries you as a parent carries a child.
- Deuteronomy 7:7-9                      Not because you are the largest of nations, does God love you.
- Wisdom 11:22-26                      Before you, the whole universe is like a little seed.
- Isaiah 54:5-10                          For God, your maker, has become your spouse.
- Jeremiah 18:1-6                        God is the potter; we are the clay.
- Psalm 19                                  The heavens declare the glory of God.
- Psalm 104                                The glories of creation ... you made the moon to mark the seasons ... the sun knows when to set.