

#### Prayer Unit 4

<i>Theme:</i>	<i>God leads me into greater freedom.</i>
<i>Grace:</i>	<i>To ask for what I desire -- a deep awareness of how God has to free me in order that I can respond to God's calls in my life.</i>

#### *Prayer Texts:*

- a) Genesis 22:1-19                      I pray over the story of Abraham and Isaac to be able to have the trust and openness of Abraham.
- b) Repetition
- c) Luke 1:26-38                      I pray over the story of the Annunciation to be able to say like Mary, "Let it be done to me according to your will."
- d) Repetition
- e) Philippians 3:7-16                      May I come to a point of saying with Paul, "I consider all the advantages I have as disadvantages in comparison to knowing Jesus."
- f) Repetition or  
John 3:22-30                      May I come to a point of being able to say with John the Baptist, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

I am called to be fully human; I am called to live in Christ Jesus; I am called to cooperate with others in fulfilling God's desires for humanity. These calls presume the freedom to hear the call and then the freedom to respond to the call and then the strength to carry it out. Such freedom is beyond my own achievement -- it is God's gift. God frees me from all those biases and prejudices and possessions that make me deaf to the Spirit's call; God frees me FOR cooperating with others in developing God's reign. God gives me the ability to carry out this effort.

Some of our medicine men always say  
that one must view the world through the eye in one's heart rather than  
just trust the eyes in one's head.  
-- from "Lakota Woman" by Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes

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

- Genesis 12:1-9                      God's call to Abraham was a call that led him into the unknown and on a path different from his own people.
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9                      You shall love God with your whole being.
- Matthew 13:44-46                      Parables of the treasure and the pearl.
- Mark 10:17-27                      Jesus calls the rich person caught by possessions.
- Ephesians 3:14-21                      May Christ's love be the root and foundation of your life -- the result of God's freeing love.