

*Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.*

—Deuteronomy 7:9

The wilderness experience forged the people of Israel into a community shaped by God's everlasting covenant. The footsteps of Lent take us with Jesus as he is led by the Spirit of God into the depths of the wilderness. It is a time and place of testing and preparation for covenant life. Covenant life, loving God through loving our neighbor, is the work of ministry.

At the heart of this journey is a question posed by the Baptismal Covenant. *Will we seek and serve Christ in all persons?* The footsteps are reflection, judgment, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and ultimately salvation.

Lent is a time to reflect on the temptations that lead us away from acts that preserve human dignity. The path leads us straight into encounter with those who are in poverty, displaced and sick. It is a path of justice that leads to the heart of God. In what ways do you serve and seek Christ?

—Karen Montagno