



Day 5 | Saturday, March 12, 2022
Presenter Carla Orlando

Today's scripture writers describe our covenant relationship with a God who wants us and draws us close. We make promises to one another today: You are to be mine and I am to be yours. It is intimate.

We are God's alone—the all of each of us: God's body is the one that we are to walk; God's voice is the one we are to hear: exclusive, possessive, passionate.

God woos us like a poet today: My sun will rise on you, good or bad. And my rain will fall on you, right or wrong.

Love like I do. Love those ones, that don't like you, like I do. Greet those ones that don't see you, like I do. I am yours; you are mine. I love you.

It's the intimate love that Tammy described to us on Day One of this Novena: "We are a gathering of souls, body and spirit," she said, "who believe that our prayer will change things. She then led us in our first prayer for this Novena: "Create the space in me, God. Create a space – and enter in."

Even when we keep God out and at a distance, said Fr Greg, Jesus meets us wherever we struggle, and just keeps loving us. And with an intimate love that captures us like a beautiful song that we need to hear; that speaks the truth and warms our hearts; that breaks through our walls, consoles us, and deeply satisfies; that boosts us in the direction of surrender."

The spirit enters us like a sacred, animating life force, described Leonetta. It's like our breath: present and sustaining, voluntary and involuntary. Again and again, we receive the graces, in this slow and steady transformational work. We live our courage. We feel, and we breathe.

And when we live our passion for justice, says Will, and we call each other out? We are called back in: into the new righteousness, into our relationships, meeting each other in the messiness, investing in one another and in the costs of loving. We lean in.

At this midway point of the Novena, we pray for the grace of greater intimacy, with ourselves, with one another, and with our God. We promise to love today: to love the ones that love us and the ones that don't; to greet the ones that see us and the ones that don't.

And today, God commits to the all of each of us: to enter us, sing and speak to us, warm and

satisfy us, and to breathe God's loving way into us, again and again. We lean into one another, today and every day, letting God see and love us.

Poem *Seeing You* by David Whyte davidwhyte.com (read my Maria Ochoa Vazquez).