

## Handout 1: Exodus Lesson 3

The three elements of God's manifestation in the burning bush and the link to the Most Holy Trinity:

Manifestation	Persons of the Most Holy Trinity
1. The voice of the angel of Yahweh	1. Pre-Incarnate God the Son
2. The voice of the God of the patriarchs	2. God the Father
3. The unquenchable fire that does not burn up the bush/tree	3. God the Holy Spirit

See CCC 202, 259, 205-209, 255.

In the burning bush theophany God called Moses to liberate his people in dialogue presented in five stages:

1. God called Moses by name from within the fire of the burning bush, revealing Himself to be the God of the patriarchs (Ex 3:4-6).
2. God told Moses He had heard his people's cries for help and that He intended, using Moses as His agent, to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians, to lead them to this same mountain, and to give them a homeland (Ex 3:7-12).
3. God gave Moses instructions on how to approach the Israelites to inform them that he was acting as Yahweh's agent and revealed His plan for convincing the Egyptians to release Israel (Ex 3:13-22).
4. God gave Moses the power to work three signs to convince the Israelites and the Pharaoh that God was with Moses and the Egyptians must release the Israelites (Ex 4:2-9).
5. Offended by Moses' continued reluctance, God offered Aaron as Moses' aide and spokesman (Ex 4:11-12, 14-17).

Interspersed among God's five part dialogue, Moses made four objections concerning his call and his mission:

1. "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Ex 3:11)
2. "Look, if I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" (Ex 3:13)
3. "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my words, and say to me, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you?'" (Ex 4:1)
4. "Please, my Lord, I have never been eloquent, even since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow and hesitant of speech." (Ex 4:10)

In response to each of Moses' objections, God graciously promised to give Moses the gifts he needed to complete his mission:

1. God promised to help and protect him (Ex 3:11-12)
2. God revealed His covenant name (Ex 3:13-22).
3. God gave Moses the power to work signs to convince the Israelites and the Egyptians (Ex 4:1-9).
4. God designated Aaron to be Moses' aide and spokesman (Ex 4:10-17).