

*Please note, this summer we are re-posting reflections from the 2018 B cycle.*

[Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ](#)

Ex 24:3-8

Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18

Heb 9:11-15

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

*By Steve Herro, O. Praem.*

The First Reading, Exodus 24: 3-8, and the Gospel, Mark 14: 12-16 and 22-26, both speak of covenant. In the First Reading, though Exodus contains several chapters describing rules around the covenant between Yahweh and Israelites, the latter will disassociate themselves from the covenant in Exodus 32 by constructing and worshipping a golden calf.

How are we tied to treaties and covenants today? Does the breaking of a treaty or covenant make the world a less just, more dangerous, or less peaceful place?

In 2017, the United States began to sever ties with 194 countries by leaving the Paris Climate Accord and with the five permanent Security Council members + Germany + the European Union by leaving the Iran Nuclear Deal. Is there any comparison between the Jewish people breaking the covenant with God and the U.S. breaking treaties with the rest of the world over climate change and Iran's nuclear capability?

In some ways, the United States left "the community of nations" when it broke from these two pacts. What is to be gained by leaving multilateral relationships and replacing with either nothing or a unilateral relationship? Does an entity lose others' trust when it jumps ship? We know that God reinstated the covenant with the Israelites after they broke the covenant by worshipping the golden calf. God welcomes us back, also, through the sacrament of reconciliation. But what is the result for nations which break a covenant?

Finally, I am moved by the image of the united Church constituting the body of Christ. On a day in which we memorialize Christ giving his body and blood for us to seal the New Testament covenant, I am also struck by the necessity of us acting in accord with other nations to accomplish God's will in 2018. A foreign policy of "going it alone" does not bode well if we acknowledge that the Father blessed us with a community of nations that constitutes the body of Christ.

*Steve professed solemn vows to St. Norbert Abbey in 1991. He has served in justice ministries for his Abbey, the Diocese of Green Bay, and Catholic Charities USA. He enjoys blogging, reading, gardening, biking, tennis, lobbying legislators, and volunteering in the community.*