

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 2021

Lack of faith can blind us or keep us from recognizing God's glory in our lives. Faith enables us to see what is hidden or unseen to the naked eye. Through the eyes of faith Abraham recognized God and His call in his life. His willingness to comply with God's big demand was a sign of complete vulnerability and a willingness to put love of God before any and every attachment and affection. That is a tough act to follow. Abraham is thus our father in the faith because of his righteousness and his hope in the promises of God. Faith makes us taste in advance the light of God's glory which we shall experience when we see him face to face.

Such courageous faith is proposed as a model for all the Catechumens during this season of Lent. When called by Christ they are to give up many things especially the bad habits and in return God will give them joy, serenity and interior peace.

The Transfiguration of Jesus described in the gospel today happened at a stage in His public ministry when His foes were closing in on Him and His disciples led by Peter were feeling very afraid and anxious for their master's safety. He had even predicted His own death. So, they needed their faith in Jesus strengthened. The transfiguration event offered them that experience. It was God's way of delivering the disciples from a crisis of faith. God helped them out of it by enlightening their vision so that, at least for a moment, they could see from God's own perspective – what kind of Messiah Jesus was: He was God's own Son, one to be listened to.

Moses and Elijah representing the law and the prophets, were two men of the covenant who also gave their all to God. In their way of carrying out God's plan, they prefigured Jesus Christ. Jesus gave His all to the Father, putting His love of the Father and of us all above everything else to the point of sacrificing His life to save us in obedience to the Father's will.

Where can one get such a Transfiguration experience? Our Sunday worship is a good starting point. At each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" or transformed into the living body and blood of the crucified, risen and glorified Jesus. Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of heavenly grace against temptations, and our source of renewal especially during Lent.

Touched by God who transforms us, St. Paul challenged us thus; if God is for us who can be against us?" St. Augustine having been transformed by God exclaimed thus; "our hearts are made for you, oh God, and they are restless until they rest in you". St. Francis having been transformed by God invoked thus; "make me a channel of your peace." If we commit ourselves to prayer, then we too like Christ and the saints mentioned above will have our own transfigurations, our own transformations.

When God grants us a glimpse of eternity then we shall realize that all our troubles in this life are short-lived. Then we shall have the courage to accept the apparently meaningless sufferings of this life, knowing that through it all God is on our side and we are heading to the eternal glory of which the three apostles had a foretaste. All it takes is a little glimpse of that heavenly glory.

May we pray for the gift of faith which will carry us through the path of suffering, through the way of the cross following our Lord so that we may rise with Him to the glory of. May the Lord transfigure and transform us during this season of Lent. Amen.