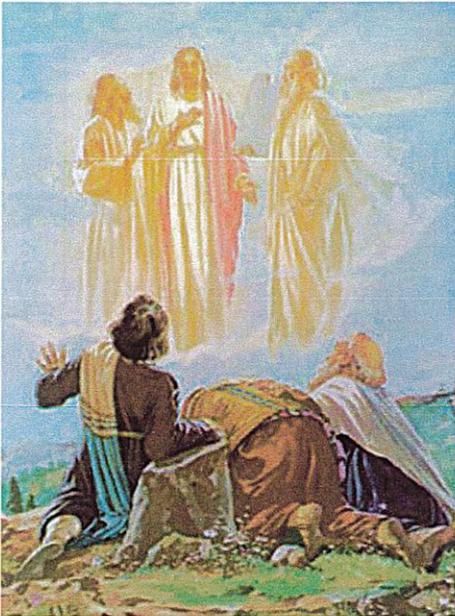


Our Faith on Sunday

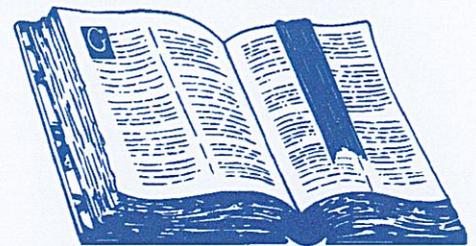
GOSPEL REFLECTION



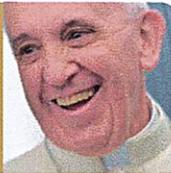
On this second Sunday of Lent, we are presented with the episode of the Transfiguration of the Lord. In a mysterious event Jesus anticipates the

glory of his resurrected body in the presence of Peter, James, and John. On his way down the mountain, he instructed them not to speak about this until after he was raised from the dead. In saying this, Jesus is instructing us about the essential link between his death and his transfiguration. There can be no such transfiguration without a prior death. The essence of being a Christian is to share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we look around at our world, we all are crying out for a transfiguration of ugliness into beauty, of lies into truth, of evil into goodness. We are eager for a “new heaven and a new earth”. There are those who put their faith in a belief in endless “progress” made possible by ever increasing leaps in science

and technology. Instead, Jesus tells us: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (Jn. 12,24). Lent is the paschal journey of dying with Christ so as to rise with Christ. It is a matter of dying to our ego so as to be able to empty ourselves in prayer before our Father in heaven, and reach out in love to our neighbour. It is only in this way that our lives will truly be transfigured.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



THE ULTIMATE FOUNDATION

273. In this regard, I wish to cite the following memorable statement: “If there is no transcendent truth, in obedience to which man achieves his full identity, then there is no sure principle for guaranteeing just relations between people. Their self-interest as a class, group or nation would inevitably set them in opposition to one another. If one does not acknowledge transcendent truth, then the force of power takes over, and each person tends to make full use of the means at his disposal in order to impose his own interests or his own opinion, with no regard for the rights of others... The root of modern totalitarianism is to be found in the denial of the transcendent dignity of the human person who, as the visible image of the invisible God, is therefore by his very nature the subject of rights that no one may violate – no individual, group, class, nation or state. Not even the majority of the social body may violate these rights, by going against the minority”.²⁶²

26262] SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter Centesimus Annus (1 May 1991), 44: AAS 83 (1991), 849.

Jubilee of Seminarians

Meditation Pope St. John Paul II
6 August 1999

In the event of the Transfiguration we contemplate the mysterious encounter between history, which is being built every day, and the blessed inheritance that awaits us in heaven in full union with Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. We, pilgrims on earth, are granted to rejoice in the company of the transfigured Lord when we immerse ourselves in the things of above through prayer and the celebration of the divine mysteries. But, like the disciples, we too must descend from Tabor into daily life where human events challenge our faith. On the mountain we saw; on the paths of life we are asked tirelessly to proclaim the Gospel which illuminates the steps of believers... let us pray that every Christian will know how to draw courage and constancy from contemplating Christ, who ‘reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature’ (Heb 1:3), in order to proclaim and witness faithfully through his words and works. May Mary, our tender and caring Mother, help us to be bright rays of the saving light of her Son Jesus.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

**Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.**

COLLECT

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Genesis. Genesis 12:1-4a

In those days: The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. R.22

**R. May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.**

The word of the LORD is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.
2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

R.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,

cleanse us of our faults

R.

and sanctify your faithful in body and mind
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.

Through Christ our Lord.

R.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17:5

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive these glorious mysteries,
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,
for allowing us while still on earth
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.