

## TRANSFIGURATION PREPARES THE WAY FOR THE CROSS.

The journey through Lent is a calling to fellowship with Jesus, we are being invited to pick up our cross and join Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. Only by accepting this invitation and taking this journey can we experience the joy of Easter.

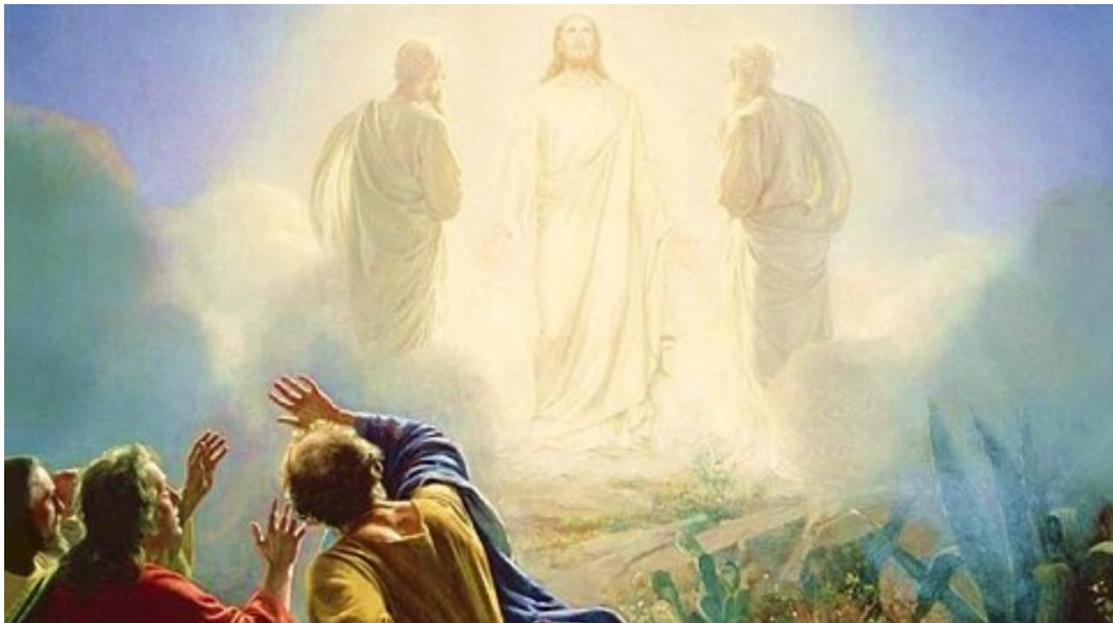
The second Sunday of Lent is an invitation to be transfigured by our intimacy with Jesus to face the challenge of the Passion. In the Gospel of Mark 9:2-10, it tells us of an occasion when Jesus went up to the hills to pray, taking with him three companions Peter, James and John. While he was praying His face seemed to change, His clothes seemed to dazzle and He was enshrouded in brightness, shining with glory. Two men suddenly appeared alongside Him Elijah and Moses, they talked with Jesus, Moses the Law giver through whom God gave the ten commandments, and Elijah the greatest of the prophets through whom God stirred the conscience of His people. Moses and Elijah now yield to Jesus, He fulfills the Law and the prophets. The Father said "This is my Son, the beloved, Listen to him." In the past in many ways and many times God spoke to our ancestors, He now speaks to us in His son. Jesus is God's last word, God has nothing more to say and all that God wanted to say He says in Jesus. During this time when we hear so many voices and teachings mostly from different preachers, these words should shake us and move us to renew our fidelity and commitment to the words of Jesus.

Moses and Elijah spoke to Jesus about his suffering and death, the scandal of the cross. The road ahead will be marked with rejection, suffering and death, but it would lead to glory! God gives us moments of glory to prepare us for the hard times to come. In times of consolation, we need to remember that desolation is to come; In moments of desolation we need to know that consolation is not far away. Pope John Paul II said "The transfiguration is not only the revelation of Christ's glory, but also a preparation for facing Christ's cross". It involves both going up to the mountain and coming down the mountain. The disciples who have enjoyed this intimacy with the Master surrounded for a moment by the splendour of the Trinitarian life are invested to return to the valley, to share with Jesus the toil of God's plan and to set off courageously on the way of the cross" (*Vita Consecrata*).

This sacred season calls us to create transfigured communities, since the community is the privileged place to behold transfiguration taking place like 'Peter's amazement and statement "Lord it is wonderful for us to be here." The community as the first place where transfiguration is experienced and the brothers or sisters like Peter should be the

first to say “it is beautiful to be with you” and “how happy I feel to have you as a community member your presence is for me an incentive to continue walking with greater courage and generosity.” (Fr Jaldemir Victirio SJ)

In conclusion the transfiguration should give us inspiration and hope every day we encounter problems, difficulties and trials in life. But in the midst of all these, we are reminded that the Lord we are following is the victorious Lord, the beloved Son of the Father. All our troubles in this world are short lived, our final destiny is glory, victory and eternal happiness. It is like reading a novel in which the happy ending is already known to us. No matter how difficult are the problems that we may encounter like Covid-19, we surely know that with Jesus our happy ending is certain, St Paul said, “The sufferings of the present are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). Sufferings are part of our lives especially as we closely follow the crucified Lord. As it is said that spiritual life is a call to be in constant communion with the transfigured Jesus, in order to face the daily challenges as opportunities to grow in the likeness of Jesus.



We are all invited to join with Peter, James and John and cry out in our days

“It is good for us to be here.

From Novices: Sisters Mary, Flaviour, Felistus, Fancy and Comfort