

LENT II Sunday 3.5.2023

One old man was expressing of his life experience and prayer life. “I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change the world.’ As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life was gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me; just my family and friends and I shall be satisfied.’ Now that I am old and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: ‘Lord, give me the grace to change myself.’ If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life.”

In today’s gospel we see the transfiguration of Jesus.” The word transfiguration means a change in form or appearance. The transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain reminds us that the way of the cross leads to resurrection and eternal life, and that the purpose of Lent is to help us better to enter into those mysteries.

What is the purpose of transfiguration? The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to consult his heavenly Father and ascertain His plan for Our Lord’s suffering, death and resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciples aware of his divine glory so that they might discard their worldly ambitions about a conquering political Messiah. It was also meant to strengthen their faith and hope and to encourage them to persevere through the future ordeal.

Moses and Elijah’s presence in Matthew’s transfiguration account emphasizes Jesus’ continuity with the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) in salvation history.”

He who wants to know who really Jesus is, has to ascent the mount of transfiguration where the mystery of his person was revealed this is my beloved son, listen to him, so we understand that this Jesus is full of light. The image of the father, light from light, who lives in inaccessible light, who alone is immortal, king of kings and Lord of Lords, the luminous cloud depicts the glory of God. The cloud becomes luminous and the

voice confirms God 's approval of Jesus, His son. We all have to ascend the spiritual mountain to get a glimpse of Jesus glory to understand the meaning of transfiguration. We can ascend the spiritual mountain Peak only through the way of the cross in imitation of our Lord.

Abraham obeyed the word of God and believed in it. Therefore, Abraham became as an inspiration and model for so many people. He became great as a father of faith.

God asks us too, to leave our old life of sin behind and go forth with Him into a period of repentance, renewal of life and transformation.

St. Paul's letter to Timothy explains the type of Lenten transformation expected of us. We should be ready to bear hardship for the gospel and be thankful to God for our call to holiness, not trusting in our own merits but in grace. Yes, my dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, in each Holy Mass our offering of bread and wine becomes transformed into the body and blood of Jesus.

Hence, just as the transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of heavenly strength against our own temptations and a source of renewal of our lives during Lent.

Each sacrament that we receive transforms us. Baptism, for example, transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us the temples of the Holy Spirit. By the sacrament of reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness. By receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick in faith we are physically and spiritually healed and our sins are forgiven.

As Peter, James and John experienced the glory of God. We can also experience the glory of God in our lives. It is possible through prayer and sacrifice of our lives. As we are in this Lenten season, let us ask Jesus to give us a heart to pray and to accept daily cross and to experience his glory in our lives.