

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lent ---yr A

On Mount Tabor, Peter, James, and John experienced a part of Jesus that they never saw before, the divine side in the transfiguration of Jesus. Like them, we too sometimes get a glimpse of the presence of God in our lives. We see glimpses of God when we receive or share love or mercy with others. We see glimpses of God when someone comes to the aid of another. These incidents happen every day in our daily lives. We see God in the beauty of nature all around us. We get more of a glimpse of God at Mass when we receive the body of Jesus in Holy Communion. SO, God is there, we just have to converse with him. In the gospel today one thing that entered my mind at first, was the fact that only three of his apostles experienced this divine act <sup>ON Mt. Tabor</sup> and not the others apostles. I guess we can answer that question by saying, this is what Jesus wanted, simple as that. Of course, these three apostles play leading rolls in

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Jesus' life on earth and also in scripture. Moses and Elijah are also represented. Moses a figure of the old law, and Elijah one of the major prophets. These two are testifying by their presents, that Christ is the Messiah who was promised by the prophets. You can be assured that the transfiguration of Jesus was a faith building experience for Peter, James, and John. For the same reason, this story of the transfiguration is told today, in the middle of Lent, to encourage us to persevere in our Lenten intentions. This act gives us a sneak preview what lies ahead for us. It shows what the future will be when the realization of our hope will be in <sup>OUR</sup> the eternal life with God. According to scripture, the transfiguration of Jesus took place before the Lord's passion, his crucifixion and death on the cross. Being present on the mount, the apostle's hope and faith must have been stimulated going into Jesus' passion and death, because it was necessary for the apostles to experience the glory of God before

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seeing their Master being crucified and hung on a cross to die. The apostle's hope must have hit rock bottom at the crucifixion, but remembering the transfiguration must have kept their hope alive.

In the same way, it is a builder of hope and faith for us, it is also a reminder of God's love and mercy. And, going into this season of Lent, we all know that Lent is more than simply receiving ashes on our foreheads. Entering Lent, some make it a practice to offer resolutions about taking specific actions, such as attending daily Mass, praying regularly, performing acts of love and mercy, fasting, or some other act that may involve making a change in your life.

Whatever we do along this line, ask the Lord to help you carry out your Lenten promises and surely the Lord will bless you in this endeavor. And in wrapping up, the transfiguration of Jesus shows to all who truly want to believe in it, that Jesus is at the same time, both true God and true Man. St. Mathew (Mt.17:2)described this

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action on the mountain by saying that "Jesus face shone like the sun." This is one way Mathew manifested Jesus' divinity in the gospel today. And we will <sup>someday</sup> witness what St. Mathew describes about Christ today when the Lord welcomes us into his everlasting kingdom. God bless!