

2nd Sunday of Lent 2016
2/20 & 21/16

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Journey to Transfiguration

Luke places the Transfiguration of Jesus right before Jesus turns his face toward Jerusalem where he will suffer, die and rise into new life. He is pictured with Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets, and he tells us that their teaching is summed up in the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. When meditating on the Golden Rule, it is important to remember who we are: People, everyone of us, who live in the atmosphere, the milieu of God, embraced every moment of our lives by Divine Mystery, by Divine Mercy. When we embrace others, we are entering into the presence of the Divine.

Peter, James and John were with Jesus when He was transfigured, when the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white. That is easy to imagine on a day like today. Peter was so overwhelmed by this, that he wanted to capture this moment forever. He wanted to build three tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah so they could remain in this moment. As much as we would like to do so, life is not about settling down, it is a journey and Jesus was on his journey to glory – from Transfiguration to Resurrection which was another Transfiguration.

The path of Jesus to Resurrection was through suffering and death. That was his exodus, his going out of the comfortable and familiar to meet God through his death and Resurrection. In the Transfiguration, the appearance of Jesus changed. I think of this change in appearance as symbolic, an outward sign of interior change. Jesus became even more the expression of the Divine.

That is what our own Lenten journey is about. It is about going up the mountain and praying. In our prayer, we reveal who we truly are, not who we think we should be or who we want to be. We reveal our loves, desires, worries and hopes to God. We can do this in a variety of ways: We can voice these to God, we can use movement to express our feelings, we can sit silently in the embrace of God's love. And since prayer is conversation, or some form of communication, we can expect an answer. God's answer often comes in a change of our feelings, in a new energy to get on with life, or perhaps a new acceptance of life as it is. But, in some way that suits our personality, God does answer. To hear this answer requires a listening attitude. As Isaiah tells us, God's voice often comes in a quiet whisper, not in a raging fire.

As with Peter, when the cloud overshadows us, when we become disturbed at the twists and turns of where life is asking us to go, that is when we hear the voice that sounds from heaven declaring, This is my Beloved Daughter; This is my beloved Son, and reassured, we get on with our journey.

We often describe life as a journey. In many ways it is. We can't settle down into the comfortable, we keep moving, but this journey is different. We know we are journeying to our own death and resurrection, but we don't have a roadmap. We have to be attentive, to live in the moment, to read the road signs as we go. There will be road signs. There will be circumstances to require us to be generous; There will be road signs that ask us to be patient; there will be road signs that ask us to be merciful, especially during this Year, declared to be the Year of Mercy by Pope Francis. Jesus is the expression of what God desires for us all. God desires our Transfiguration. Through our Lenten journey, God begins our Transfiguration.