

HOMILY by Fr. Anthony Davis

“This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.”

March 8, 2020

2nd Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gen 12:1-4a; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

The common theme of today’s readings is metamorphosis or transformation. The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent, and to radiate the grace of the transfigured Lord around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

Illustration: You go into the movie theatre, and are comfortably seated, and get ready to watch the movie. The house lights dim; the speakers crackle with the soundtrack, and an image appears on the screen. It is not the film you came to see. It is the preview of coming attractions, a brief glimpse of the highlights of a film opening soon. The moviemakers and theater owners hope the preview will pique your interest enough to make you want to come back and see the whole film.

On the Mount of the Transfiguration, Peter, James and John, the inner circle of Jesus' disciples, were given a preview of coming attractions.

Today’s Gospel gives us a splendid preview of Jesus radiant in Divine glory, his mortal nature brilliantly, though not permanently, transfigured; a dazzling preview of His Divinity, unalloyed and perfectly pure, shining in glory like the very sun. In other words, this was a “sneak preview” of Easter, and of Jesus’ final coming in Glory to take us Home, the triumphant climax of the epic love story between God and humanity. OR better still, 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.

Life message: 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 in Faith, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are spiritually, and, if God wills, physically, healed and our sins are forgiven. In addition, communion with Jesus in prayer and in the Eucharist should be a source of daily transformation for both our minds and hearts.

Conclusion: Through these physical interactions, we must also be spiritually transformed by becoming more humble and more selfless, sharing love, compassion and forgiveness with others. But in our everyday lives, we often fail to recognize Jesus when he appears to us “transfigured,” hidden in someone who is in some kind of need. Jesus will be happy when we attend to the needs of that person. Furthermore with the eyes of Faith, we must see Jesus in every one of our brothers and sisters, the children of God we come across each day and, by His grace, respond to Him with love and service.

However, in moments of doubt, pain and suffering, disappointment and despair, we need mountain-top experiences to reach out to God and listen to His consoling words: **“This is my beloved son/daughter in whom I am well pleased.”** Our 'Lenten penance' will then lead us to the 'Easter joy.'