

Second Sunday of Lent B --2021  
Gen.22,1-2,9-13,15-18///Rom. 8.31-35///Mark 9.2-10

→every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we hear the gospel reading we just heard about the Transfiguration of the Lord.

→likewise on August 6 each year...we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration...and so on that day we hear about the very same event.

→twice a year...this story is proclaimed at Mass which would say to me that this is a pretty significant event if the Church deems is necessary to recall it two times during a year...

→the birth of Jesus, the baptism of the Lord, the Last Supper, the feeding of the five-thousand, the wedding feast of Cana and most every other event that happened in Christ's life only gets a "one-time a year" mention...so what is it... that makes this feast... the "Transfiguration of the Lord" so significant....

→after all it's a rather unpretentious event...Jesus takes Peter, James and John up to a mountain...there they experience a vision of Elijah and Moses conversing with Jesus...they become terrified...a cloud casts a shadow...a voice is heard... "this is my beloved Son...listen to him"...and they come down from the mountain.

→a story...an experience... no different than what the disciples have witnessed along the way with Jesus...

→however there is something unique about this experience, this incident, this event that is different than the other ones....

→and I think the difference lies in the phrase of the gospel that says... "and he was transfigured before them."

→I have often been struck by that word... “transfigured”...I always thought it was just a fancy word for “change”...that Jesus was changed before them...but the word “transfigured” is much richer and more meaningful than the word ‘change’

→in fact....earlier in the week as I was putting my thoughts together for today...I typed out the word “transfigured” and did a thesaurus search to see what other words are considered similar or can be used as a substitute for “transfigured”

→what popped up were words such as: transformed, revolutionized, metamorphosed and transmuted....but surprisingly the word “change” was not included in the list....

→i.o.w.... “transfigured” means much more than to “change”...and maybe then...that is why...we celebrate and recall this event twice each year.

→when Jesus takes Peter, James and John up to the mountain...it becomes a profound, sacred moment that just isn’t about a “change” in Jesus...something much greater happens...and not only to Jesus but also to the disciples....they too were transfigured.

*PAUSE*

---our lives...sometimes are also filled with fleeting sacred moments...moments that can happen at home, at work, or here in Church...that have the potential to transfigure us as well...if we allow them do so

→these sacred moments might be as awesome as a brush with death, or as simple as an unexpected smile, they might be caught up in tragedy or illness, or in the joy of a birth or success...and they may take place in a large group or in the privacy of our homes

→but whatever they might be...and wherever they might take place...they **have** the power to completely and totally transfigure us...

→this is what happens in the gospel today...[and hopefully this is what will happen to our young people as they are confirmed ]...this is also what has been happening over the past few months through the pandemic we have been experiencing.

→these have been transfiguring moments...

→and so perhaps today **that might** be the question to ask ourselves

→how have we been transfigured?

→[and] it's a question to ask on two different levels...

→how are we hoping to be transfigured as we anticipate the celebration of Easter...and how have we been transfigured lately in light of the pandemic.

→one looks forward and other looks backward...but both influence each other....

→so how has the pandemic transfigured us...because without a doubt it certainly has...

→we might consider....what kind of person have we become because of the pandemic....

→are we more fearful...less trustful...more frightened...less comfortable....more vigilant....less out going

→all of us have certainly been transfigured...revolutionized by this pandemic...in some cases perhaps for the good...being more health conscious and aware of cleanliness....but in other instances have we let fear and anxiety, mistrust and apprehension be given too much attention...

→and secondly how are we hoping to be transfigured moving forward as we anticipate Easter...and more importantly a return to a normal sense of life.

→that is why our Lenten theme of “mending our heart...[having] a new kind of hope” is so appropriate

→our God is constantly trying to find ways to break into our lives and reveal himself in ways that will transfigure us, that will change us forever.

→that is what this season of Lent is all about

→a time for us to realize the sacred moments in our lives and to embrace and be open to them.

→to be transformed and transfigured to become more like Christ.

[that’s what the sacrament of Confirmation is....our desire to transfigure our lives to be like Jesus]

----and so as we move through Lent, perhaps now is the time to be more open and aware of the presence of Christ in our lives

----through our prayers, sacrifices, and acts of kindness....to look at each moment of life... so that God might transfigure us

→....as we come down from our mountain...of this pandemic...and from what-ever might be preventing us from being more like Christ...may God transfigure us so that we can mend our heart....and offer a new kind of hope....