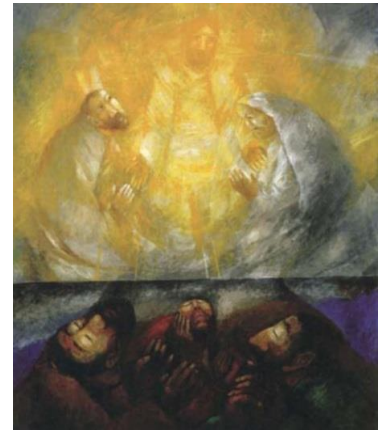


(Food for thought: Gospel: Mk 9: 2-10.)

“Change & Conflict”



The Transfiguration story is not about a moment of spiritual illumination - but rather a story where we see Christ's attempt to rehabilitate and reenergize his disciples. Prior to this scene, the disciples were arguing about who would be the greatest in the kingdom; they tried to persuade Jesus NOT to go to Jerusalem - to suffer, die and rise. They had their own idea of what Jesus was about and what he should be doing. Yet the whole point of the story was not to go up the mountain and bask in God's glory, but to go back down the mountain and do what Jesus does.

For us, the meaning of the Transfiguration is that "in the dark night of hopelessness the light of God shines, and a human heart finds in God the power which turns a dying into victory."

Like those disciples, we come apart for a while with other disciples and the same voice is encouraging us, "Listen to him." Jesus' words and actions will tell us about God and about ourselves; but also about forgiveness, compassion and our responsibility to spread what we have heard from him and to do what he did.

Lent is when we try to take his words to heart and examine our lives through his perspective, based on what we have heard and observed in the Gospels. Words spoken to us at a crucial time could mean the difference between life and death; between having a more meaningful life and just living through

our days in a superficial way without direction. It did for the disciples – it does for us.

As the Gospel unfolds, the dazzling brilliance of our God begins to show through the humanity of Jesus more and more clearly. Our faith tells us that our lives will gradually be re-energized and remade according to the pattern of the transfigured Christ, who is our Light, our Strength and our Salvation.

We have been told to “Go forth.” How do we respond?



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