Source of Our Courage

The Transfiguration happens after Peter’s confession in Caesarea Philippi that Jesus is the Messiah, during which Jesus warns them not to tell anyone that he indeed is the One (Mt 16). In fact, it was also after Peter’s confession that Jesus shares with them his first prediction of his suffering or passion. The disciples leave the Gentile town uneasy over their future.

In such a moment when they were grooping for answers as to what their discipleship to Jesus might mean, Peter, James, and John are brought by Jesus to a high mountain, where they witness him transfigure: his face shines like the sun, and his clothes become white as light (Mt 17:2). They also see Moses and Elijah converse with Jesus. They must have remembered their Scriptures: “Now I am sending to you Elijah the prophet, before the day of the Lord (i.e., the Messiah) comes” (Mal 3:23).

So inspired was Peter that he suggests to Jesus of building three tents for these three heavenly. Peter must have remembered not only that their ancestors lived in booths especially while wandering in the desert, but that God also met Moses in a special meeting tent, from where Moses emerged to relay God’s message to the Israelites. Thus Peter’s suggestion; but before he could enact on his proposal, he and his fellow disciples witness further their Master’s dazzling glory, during which a bright cloud casts a shadow, and from there, a voice says: “This is my beloved Son... listen to him” (Mt 17:5). They witness the glory of God in Jesus, and as expressed by Peter, they want to be always in the consoling presence of God.

These were Jews who have been taught from childhood that they could die if they ever met God on earth (cf. Ex 33:20). But instead of them dying, Jesus approaches them and tells them to rise and not to be afraid. For life goes on; they need courage to face life.

Our strength is from the Lord who made heaven and earth. In our Second Reading, Timothy has shared his struggles in the ministry with Paul, who in turn advises his protégé to bear his share of sharing the gospel, for God always gives him courage and strength (2 Tm 1:8). In fact, the mystic Paul, who encountered the Risen Lord in a vision, assures Timothy that Jesus has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, and that we, like Timothy, may be certain that blessings, like courage and everlasting life, will be a reality. Is not this the very thing shown to Abraham (First Reading)? God calls him to settle in an unknown land. Perhaps uncertainty, too, crept in the patriarch’s heart, for that time, the promise of blessing is tied to the occupying of the land. Abraham has to figure it out himself. Abraham goes as God directs him. We find in the Book of Genesis how God fulfilled his promise to his servant.

How many times do we feel uncertainty and doubt in our lives, especially when we suffer so much to make both ends meet; much more in trying to live out our Christian identity whether in our family or community? When we are criticized for certain decision whose results are still to be verified if indeed beneficial to our spiritual life, we get discouraged, lose light and lose sight of the Lord. Let us, then, go back to the scene of Transfiguration, for God has put the Spirit in our hearts and hence has made us heirs of his Kingdom (Rom 5), brothers and sisters of the Favored One. Let the voice of God remind us, “This is my beloved one (Son), with whom I am well pleased” (Mt 17:5).

— Br. Hansel B. Mapayo, SSP

Pastoral Catechesis for the Year of Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue, and Indigenous People

Knowing Our Christian Neighbors

— Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

Practical ecumenism begins with knowing and appreciating our “separated brethren,” our Christian neighbors. We can begin by the study, pursued with realism and good will, of their sincere faith convictions, their spirituality and liturgical practice, as well as their religious outlook and historical background. Within an ecumenical perspective, we should recall that in Catholic doctrine, there is a “hierarchy of truths” (UR 11); on many of the most basic Christian teachings there is a fundamental unity among various Christian churches. Since in our times cooperation in social matters (peace, justice, ecology, human rights) is widely valued and promoted, all Christians without exception are exhorted to engage in united social efforts. This imperative is laid upon all Christians, since they have been baptized in the name of Christ the Servant. Such cooperation will contribute to a deeper affirmation of the dignity of human persons, to world peace and harmony, to the application of Gospel principles to social life, to the genuine advancement of the arts and sciences, and to the relief of affliction, illiteracy, poverty, racism, and other social ills. Indeed, genuine ecumenism enhances our knowledge, appreciation, and service of our neighbors.
Collect
P — Let us pray. (Pause)

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
All — Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Gn 12:1-4a) (Sit)

God calls Abram away from the security of his land and home to form him from the chosen people. The call of Abram symbolizes our pilgrimage of faith.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

THE LORD said to Abram: “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.”

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

The word of the Lord.
All — Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33)
R — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

P. Octubre

Verse Before the Gospel (Ps 146:1-10)

P — A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. All — Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel (Mt 17:1–9)

JESUS took Peter, James, and John his brother, and
led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

— The Gospel of the Lord. All — Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (Sit)

Profession of Faith (Stand)

All — I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P — Let us earnestly pray to the Father that during this Lenten season we may make a pilgrimage of faith leading to an authentic conversion. May we die to our sinful selves and thus share in the glory of Christ. Let our prayer be:

R — Lord, listen to your people.

C — May the Church, the people of God, return to the house of the Father through a life of conversion, charity, and dialogue with the world. We pray: (R)

C — May those who are afflicted and tempted to give up be strengthened by the transfiguration of Jesus in their struggle to grow in faith, hope, and love. We pray: (R)

C — May the Lord strengthen our drooping hands and weak knees to carry our daily cross and may the pains we endure bring peace and fruits of holiness. We pray: (R)

C — May the Lord watch over refugees and exiles, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost or have left home, and bring them back safely to the place where they belong. We pray: (R)

C — May those who have gone before us in faith enjoy the vision of the Lord’s glory for ever in heaven. We pray: (R)

C — Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (pause). We pray: (R)

P — Lord, give us the strength to follow Jesus even on the way of the cross. For beyond suffering awaits your glory. Through Christ our Lord. All — Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

(Stand)

P — Pray, brethren...

All — May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P — May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities.

Through Christ our Lord. All — Amen.

Preface: The Transfiguration of the Lord

P — The Lord be with you. All — And with your spirit.

P — Lift up your hearts. All — We lift them up to the Lord.

P — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. All — It is right and just.

P — It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death, on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory,
to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.

And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim:
All — Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation (Stand)
All — Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer
All — Our Father...
P — Deliver us, Lord...
All — For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion (Kneel)

P — Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
All — Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Mt 17:5)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Prayer after Communion (Stand)

P — Let us pray. (Pause)

As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Pilgrimages & Tours

Turkey Treasures & The Greek Isles
(Apr 20 - May 6)

With Fr. Herbert Santos

(Sep 23 - Oct 7)

With Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP

We also offer Holy Land, Marian, Eastern Europe, Balkans & Mexico Pilgrimages.

Journeys of Faith, Inc.

Call us at (02) 8929-0144 or (02) 8929-0155
0917-5616440 (Globe) & 0999-9935580 (Smart)
join@journeys.com.ph | www.journeys.com.ph

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Through Christ our Lord.
All — Amen.

I DO EVERYTHING
for the
GOSPEL

A guide for the Eucharist and Morning & Evening Prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours
Available at all ST PAULS Bookstores nationwide!

Interested in becoming a priest or brother involved in the apostolate of special communication?

JOURNEY WITH US!

CONTACT US:

(+632) 523-1929

info@journalex.com

facebook.com/journalex.indo