

Second Sunday of Lent 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, the Word of God reminds us: 1 John 4:18 tells us "there is no **fear** in love, perfect love **casts out fear**." **Fear** is the opposite of love" The first reading for today reminds us that Abraham, our father in faith, set out into the unknown, based on a promise made to him by a God, whom he did not know. This promise was ultimately fulfilled in Christ! God did not leave Abraham any instructions, only, to leave everything and trust in His promise. Abraham is our model for faith, to set out into the deep, trusting in God's absolute providence for our lives!

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that Christ is at the very center of our Heavenly Father's plans, even before we were ever aware of it. It was He who chose us to be included in His Divine Plan in Christ. It is in Christ, that everything becomes revealed for us. Abraham died in faith, but he only saw a tiny bit of the plan of God revealed in his lifetime; and yet, he never waivered!

There is a saying we often see on the back of pickups: "Life is hard, then you die!" What a lie! Jesus has revealed that indeed life is hard, but then, we are destined for eternal life in complete union with Him and all who have gone before us in grace. When facing hardship, whatever it might be or entail, we can take great consolation that all things are ordered to our Good in Christ. Jesus, the Lord reminds us that life can have the happiest of conclusions, no matter what we endure in this earthly existence. This is His promise to us, and we already have the fullness of that promise in our Holy Communion with Him in the Mass. I become what I eat, so that I may celebrate forever with Him in the Eternal Eucharist, the word that means: Thanksgiving.

In the Gospel for today, we see a foretaste of our destiny, in the glimpse of Christ's Divinity and Glory on the top of the mountain of the Transfiguration. He showed them and us what is awaiting us, provided we remain faithful to Him and His plan for our lives! Peter, James and John see what the fulfillment of the Lord's promises look like. He gave them this glimpse of His Divine glory to strengthen them for the task ahead of Him, His suffering and death; and the way that they would have to walk in the future. In Moses and Elijah, the Law of God in the

Hebrew Scriptures, and the Promises of God given to God's people in the Prophets, point to Jesus; but then, they hear the voice of the Father: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!"

It was their faith in Jesus that led them to the top of the mountain; however, that faith like Abraham's faith, was only a glimpse of what lay ahead of them.

Today, we are surrounded by fear. Fear does not come from the Lord, it comes from the devil who wants to destroy our trust and hope. Today, Jesus is asking all of us for faith and trust in His Divine Plan and Providence for us. He reminds us that the end of that faith and trust, is our eternal life with Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit. So, what do we do when surrounded by fear? Don't give into fear, give into prayer, and exercise trust in the God who is head over heels in love with you, and who always fulfills His promises to us!