

Second Sunday of Lent 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, week after week, you hear me say that God has created us for Divine Intimacy. Last week I told you that we have a God-shaped hole in our lives that can only be filled with God Himself. In the beginning, Adam and Eve, our first parents, walked and talked with God as naturally as breathing; however, all of this became despoiled by the evil one and by their sin. Nonetheless, the deepest desire of the human heart, is to see God face to face. Even those who deny God still have a longing that cannot be filled with anything on this earth, and without God, the human heart is dehumanized and withers like a plant without water.

Because of sin, the face to face vision of God was lost; and our Good God could not tolerate our blindness to His love and presence. The Transfiguration is about the restoration of this intimate relationship with our God. Although God's presence is so awesome, that even Moses could not comprehend it, and was permitted only a passing reflection of His presence, God in the Flesh, reveals Himself in Human Flesh in His Divine Glory in Jesus on the Mountain of Transfiguration, not as a mere glimpse of passing glory, but in His Reality in Jesus! In His self-revelation, the Apostles are dumbfounded in His revelation. Peter, who knows he is in the presence of God, says: "let us build three tabernacles..." The Gospel makes it very clear, that while Moses and Elijah appear in their saintly glory; the Glory of God in Jesus far surpasses them.

For the second time in the Gospels, God the Father is heard to say: "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him!" It is an admonition to them and to you and me to listen and be formed by what we hear and see; for we see Him, face to face, in the Eucharist we are now celebrating, no less than what they saw on the Mountain that day!

In today's celebration, we are reminded that friendship, intimacy and union with God, go far beyond what the Apostles could imagine on that day- for we are offered Divine Union with Him, in a way that not even Adam and Eve could imagine!

Today, we have a laissez et faire attitude towards the Eucharistic Presence; however, we can never forget, that He who appeared in His Glory on the Mountain, appears in His Divine Glory to us in the Holy Eucharist. We may never be casual with He Who Is Our God, even while He offers us this Divine Intimacy. We should be filled with awe and dumbfounded at the Infinite generosity that He offers us in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity present in the Blessed Sacrament and here in this Tabernacle!