

## Second Sunday of Lent

My beloved brothers and sisters, in the last 50 years and actually starting about 140 years ago, there has been an attempt on the part of some scholars, the deny the supernatural activity of God in the Old Testament and especially the New Testament Gospels. Even Catholic scholars have written that Jesus did not know that He was God, and that the Gospel stories were all myths like the old parlour game called telephone, (wherein one person whispered something in the ear of one person and then that person passed it on. By the time it reached the end of the line, it was a totally different message!). This indicates the great prejudice of our materialistic society rather than the truth of the reality of the Gospels, and it makes all of Christian religion irrelevant and meaningless!

Such is the case with the story of the Transfiguration. Even though the story might have minor differences between the Gospels; nonetheless, they are all consistent upon the basic facts of the story: Jesus took His three closest friends with Him to the top of the Mountain. Jesus became dazzling luminescent with His internal Glory manifested externally; the cloud, called the Shekinah, descended upon them and the voice of God declares: "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him!" If Jesus is not God, and the Gospels a myth; then why bother to listen to Him? What is the meaning of all of this, and what does it mean for our times?

First of all, the Transfiguration unveils for us Christ's Divinity- He was not just a prophet- miracle worker- He is God in the Flesh. Therefore, everything He does and says is God's face to face revelation of Himself and His Divine Plan for us. Therefore, the Way of the Cross is absolutely essential to this vision; and, all that He teaches us, even if it is difficult, it is necessary for our salvation. Secondly, in Jesus Christ, heaven and earth, time and eternity meet and collapse into one. The deepest longing of the human spirit is now fulfilled: in Jesus Christ, we see the face of God, and we are invited into a relationship of Divine Intimacy with Him. There is now, no separation between God and man in Jesus Christ! Thirdly: the light of God in Jesus is so dazzling and awe-inspiring, that it leaves the apostles awe-struck and stupefied- How is it that God would reveal Himself to mere men and women; it is because He is Infinitely in love with us? Fourthly, God is not just

the God of the living, but also the God of those who have died- time fades away with Jesus, and He is seen speaking with Moses and Elijah about His upcoming death. Fifthly, the Cloud, is the same cloud that descends upon Moses and Elijah when God visits the Holy Mountain, and God Himself makes known who this is- it is His own beloved Son, and already we have the unveiling of the deepest mystery in the Universe- the Holy Trinity of the One God!

My beloved brothers and sisters, throughout all of human history, mankind has sought answers to the pressing questions of our human life: why are we here? How can we find happiness that we long for? Why is there suffering and evil and death? Throughout history, these essential questions have been directly asked of God. In Jesus Christ we have the eternal answer of God! Jesus is the answer! God's answer is a living person, not a formula nor a philosophy; but the "Beloved Son of God" made flesh, who has not departed from us, but lives among us in the Church, the Sacraments, and in one another!

God the Father, Himself asks us a question that each of us must answer: "Whom do we listen to? What is the model for my life that will give me peace and joy?" Do we really listen to Him as our solution for the struggles of this life? If Jesus is truly the center of existence itself, is He really the center of my Life?