

## Second Sunday of Lent 2021

My beloved brothers and sisters, at the time of the Transfiguration, Jesus I headed towards Jerusalem and what will be the final stage of His life and the unfolding of His greatest hour and His greatest triumph, although it appears to be His greatest defeat. This is still the beginning of Lent, and we are seeing the unfolding of the meaning of the Resurrection and the unfolding of the Glory of God that properly belongs to Jesus as the Son of God. The Apostles Peter, James and John see Christ's eternal glory. They see in Jesus what all of the Prophets and Patriarchs before them longed to see; what Moses begged to see: God, face to face! No wonder they are stupefied. No wonder they want to build three temples! They have witnessed the Glory of the Living God!

It is into the midst of the reality of the Cross, which they will encounter in just a short while, that Jesus reveals His glory, and by revealing His glory in this way, reaffirms that this is indeed the will of the Father. This is how Jesus will save us, by emptying Himself out, and taking upon Himself the sins of all humanity in His perfect sacrifice. They will not understand this until after the tragedy of the Cross and His Resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; but they will recall it later, and will say: "we speak of what we have seen, what we have touched..."

My beloved brothers and sisters, the first teaching of this Gospel is that Lent is a time in which we are called to repentance and penitence, in which we are called a real Metanoia of heart, mind and soul. We are called by Jesus, like Peter, James and John, to remember that the story of Jesus is not about an event that happened 2000 years ago, but the unfolding of the truth and grace of that story within our own time. We are called to recognize that Jesus, although seemingly hidden from our eyes today, is indeed truly with us, and the God of Heaven and earth- Jesus Christ is no less present in the Church, and most especially in the Eucharist; and one day, we shall see with unimpeded vision what Peter, James and John saw. Jesus tabernacles, remains among us, no less present to us, than He was with them. This is our hope!

Suffering is a part of every human life, even without Jesus Christ; but with Christ, the Cross of suffering is transformed, and by it we are conformed to the very reality of Christ! In the Eucharist, we become what we eat- not a piece of bread that symbolizes Christ, but Jesus Christ in the flesh. We become what we eat, and we are made one with Him, provided that we receive His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity worthily. With Him, in Him, and Through Him we are already joined with Him in His perfect Union with the Father, and there is nothing, no suffering that we cannot bear with Him, and not even death can take away this Union with Him .

We have forgotten this truth, this reality in our time. We have become more and more lax in our relationship with Him. Remember oh Christian, what it is that we have been given and in Whose Presence we are and with Whom we are joined. Adore Him by giving yourself to Him and giving Him the reverence which Peter, James and John experienced in His Divine Presence on the top of that mountain!