

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, February 25, 2024
Second Sunday of Lent
Cycle B

We hear in our gospel today, the story of the Transfiguration. The biblical writers in describing the divine encounter tell us of a “cloud” in the sky, out of which comes the voice of God saying, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him”.

God comes to us in many different ways. But there is none more important than when he gives himself to us in some direct way. Such is the Lord’s “mountaintop experience”. Everyone of us has had this kind of mountain top experience one way or another in life. It can be your marriage, the birth of a long-expected child, or a miraculous healing.

That is what the Transfiguration event is telling us. That is what happens to us when we experience God’s precious presence in the ordinary events of life. Healing comes. Guidance brightens. Joy wells up.

But there’s another side to the coin. It’s not enough that we experience God’s immediate presence, we must also be willing to come back down to the valley in order to reflect the image of the unseen God, as Jesus did. We must be willing to reflect the glory of God’s love for others to see.

In the Transfiguration story, having witnessed the glory of God, shining in and through his Master, Peter didn’t want to leave the mountain of Transfiguration. So, he said, let’s build three tents here and reside where it’s secure and blissful. Peter didn’t want to get back to the troubles down below. But Jesus’ mission was not cut out that way. He led the three apostles down the mountain and into the valley, where they could reflect the image of God in and through their ministry of loving service.

The Transfiguration of Jesus is meant not only for the apostles to experience a foretaste of the glory that awaits them. But most importantly to strengthen their faith in Jesus, to change their view of Jesus' mission in relation to their own. That following Jesus is not that easy. There are always ups and downs.

Sometimes when we get discouraged traveling along life's rough road full of thorns, failures, betrayals, remember that it is the same "rough road" which the Father had chosen for his Son. But that road led to the glory of Easter.