

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, March 16, 2025
Second Sunday of Lent
Cycle C

A friend once shared a touching story about his grandmother. For years, she lived quietly in their home, rarely speaking, always working in the background. She wore simple clothes, never dressed up, and often seemed unnoticed. One day, during a family gathering, her grandson took a photo of her, printed it, and gave it to her. When she saw herself in the picture, she was stunned. “So, this is what I look like,” she said. Her eyes filled with tears – not because of vanity, but because for the first time in a long time, she felt seen, valued, and loved. It was as if someone had held up a mirror to show not just her face, but her worth. From then on, she started wearing brighter clothes, fixing her hair, and smiling more. She did not change because of the photo itself. She changed because she saw herself through the eyes of love.

Today’s gospel passage recounts Jesus’ transfiguration – a moment when his appearance became dazzlingly bright, and the Voice of the Father was heard: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.” This was not just an event of light and glory; it was a moment of deep love. The Father revealed his love for Jesus, and that love made Jesus shine. That love *transfigured* Jesus.

In the same way, we are changed, we are transformed when we see ourselves through the eyes of God’s love. Have you ever noticed how people

light up when they are called by name? When a teacher recognizes a shy student in class, when a husband notices his wife's beauty, or when a forgotten friend receives a phone call? Love has the power to *transfigure* us. This is what happened to Jesus in today's gospel narrative. In the presence of Peter, James, and John, Jesus was revealed in his true radiance. He was not just the ordinary-looking rabbi they followed. He was the beloved Son of God. The Transfiguration was a moment of affirmation – a moment when Jesus was seen for who he truly was.

Lent is an invitation to be *transfigured* – to be changed, renewed, and restored by the love of God. But before we can be transfigured, we must acknowledge our need for change. Just like a mirror reveals our reflection, Lent is a season that reveals our spiritual condition.

We may be *disfigured* by pride, unable to see our faults and failures.

We may be *disfigured* by sin, carrying guilt and shame.

We may be *disfigured* by fear and despair, unable to trust God completely.

We may be *disfigured* by bitterness, refusing to forgive.

But here is the good news: God sees beyond our weaknesses. God looks at us with love and calls us to shine once more.

Jesus was transfigured on a *mountain*, a place of *prayer*, a place of encounter with God. Lent is a journey up the mountain, a time to listen to the Lord Jesus and allow his love to change us.

It is a season to look beyond:

- Beyond our mistakes, to see God's mercy.
- Beyond our suffering, to see God's plan.
- Beyond our fears, to see God's strength.
- Beyond our failures, to see God's faithfulness.

Like the grandmother who saw herself in a new light, we, too, can rediscover our true beauty in God's eyes. Let us ask for the grace to be changed by God's love and carry it always to change others.