

FROM THE DESK OF

Fr. Julius



Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!

On this Second Sunday of Lent we delve more deeply into the mysterious blend of divine love and suffering that lies at the heart of the Paschal Mystery. We witness the spiritual movement of Jesus as he lived from last Sunday's desert experience to today's Transfiguration on the holy mountain. We are struck by the invitation to pray, have faith and never to lose hope in God.

The First Reading from the Book of Genesis presents the ultimate sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith. God puts Abraham's faith to the test. How fortuitous that God passes him in his will- ingness to even return to God what God gave him: his only son Isaac. As recom- pense, God magnifies his blessings: "I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies..." It is from this very reading that I am frequently reminded of the tears in my mother's eyes when I finally decided to leave family comfort to become a priest.

Traditionally in the African culture, the first- born like me should marry and look after the younger ones until they can fend for themselves. But with great discernment I chose to serve God. Thus, like Abraham, my parents are gratified that they allowed me to answer God's Call; my mother was very pleased to see how closely I've been able to work with the three parishes starting from Clinton and Norris to St Joseph the Worker. A mother loves to witness this type of hospitality to her son, which she has observed during her visits here!

Today's Gospel reading, the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, provides us with one of the most magnetic and captivating windows into the Divine! Scripture scholars speculate that Moses and Elijah were probably discussing "the Exodus" that Jesus will undertake before reaching the "Promised land," passing through the most horrific suffering.

Today, on this mountain, Jesus is revealed in his divinity as a most glorious figure, far greater than Moses and Elijah. No doubt it was a radical and transforming moment for the Apostles to behold the ineffable light! In seeing what was concealed beneath our Lord's fleshly exterior, Peter could say, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here!" It is always amazing to be in the presence of the Lord and, like Peter, not want to release Him from our vision! The three apostles were radically changed, and that window into glory fueled them with great fortitude as they went on to their missions. This same good Lord waits for you every Friday in the Blessed Sacrament, come experience him!

Blessed Lent!