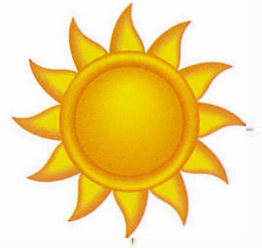


LIVING FAITH

THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY Matthew 17: 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

When Jesus was transfigured, "his face shone like the sun." We sometimes forget that Jesus did not transfigure Himself; He was transfigured by God. On that mountain, God transfigured Jesus, and allowed Peter, James and John to witness this great event.

God reaches into every human life and transfigures us; we have shared in that wondrous moment that God gave to Jesus! How does God transfigure us? Through love, through the human experience of love. The author Victor Hugo wrote, "To love another person is to see the face of God." God transfigures us when we love and are loved. You have experienced this. You know that when you love somebody, you see them in a way that is different from anybody else. You know how wonderful it feels when you are the apple of someone else's eye. Love transfigures us. God is love. When you love somebody else, they see the face of God. When you are loved, you see the face of God. Through love, we are transfigured, changed, to go out and share that love with the world.

JESUS IS TRANSFIGURED

In the Gospel that we heard proclaimed today, Jesus heard the voice of God saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased.' Can you imagine God saying these very words to you?

'You are my Son, my Daughter, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

God's love transfigures us. When we love one another, God is revealed to us in a very special way.

To love another person is to see the face of God.

Who shows you the love of God?

To whom do you show the love of God?



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Humans are created in the image and likeness of God. The Church calls for Integral Human Development, which addresses the *whole* person (social, economic, political, ecological, spiritual) and *every* person.



SOLIDARITY

We are all part of the human family and we are all interconnected and interdependent. We must see ourselves in others and collaborate toward solutions. We are *all in this together!*



STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

The Earth is sacred. Creation has its own intrinsic value. We have a responsibility to protect and to cherish the Earth's ecological diversity, beauty, and life-sustaining properties.



PARTICIPATION

How we live affects the dignity of the individual and the progress of society. All persons are entitled to participate in community and in decisions that affect their lives, and cannot be excluded for any reason.



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The economy must serve people, and not the other way around. All persons have a right to dignified work, and to fair wages and working conditions. Working is a form of participating in Creation!



COMMON GOOD

We must all consider the good of others, and the good of the whole human family. We must love our neighbours, locally and globally, and prioritize the human family over commercial interests



PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR

The moral test of any society is based on how the most vulnerable are treated. This does not call us to focus on the poor to the exclusion of others, but simply to prioritize those who are in most need of *solidarity*.



SUBSIDIARITY & THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The state is an instrument to build human dignity, human rights, and the common good. Such functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, so that everyone may participate



RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Rights arise from what we need to live as God intended us to. These are innately linked to our responsibility to ensure the rights of others – to not take more than we need, at the expense of others.



PEACE

To be in right relationship with God and with each other. Peace is the fruit of Charity and the consequence of Justice. It is the sign of *caritas* ('love') in action!

To discover how you can put these Catholic Social Teachings into meaningful action, visit www.devp.org/sharelent!

Development and Peace is the official Humanitarian Aid and Development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis – the official Aid and Development arm of the Catholic Church, headquartered in the Vatican.



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