

- We live in a time when excellence and perfection are much sought after when it comes to the things of this world.
- We see many people dieting and exercising working to have the "perfect body."
- But how many are working at having the "perfect Soul?"
- Other's seek academic excellence and pursue perfect grades in Math, Science, Social Studies, and Art. This is good!
- But how many seek excellence in RELIGION by really studying their *Catholic Faith* and understanding, and living by, all of our Lord's teachings?
- The central message of today's Readings is about TRANSFORMATION!
- "Abram" will be TRANSFORMED into "Abraham" when God fulfills His Promise to make him the "Father of many nations" (Gen 17:3-6).
- His Apostles will be *transformed* by realizing Jesus truly is Divine, and the Son of God!
- Jesus appears before his Apostles as "Dazzling White Light."

- Jesus literally "**glowed**" before the Apostles because he revealed to them his SPIRITUAL Body—the more DIVINE aspects of his nature.
- Jesus' *Glorified Body* is the same type of body **we** can expect when we die if we invite more and more of the Supernatural Life of Christ to live in us!
- Think of your favorite *Superhero* (mine is *Superman*.) Wouldn't it be cool to be just like them?
 - And wouldn't it be cooler if we were able to become like them by eating something they gave us?
 - That's what Jesus is trying to do for us through the *Holy Eucharist*—instill HIS *nature* and *being* in us!
- People in Jesus' day had no clue what to expect after they died. They debated all the time what happened to the Soul after it left the body.
- Did they still look the same? Could they speak and listen? Did they retain all their memories and personalities?
- The answer is, **YES!**

- Despite our physical bodies being left behind, we still hold on to those things that make us—**US**, the *eternal* things of our being!
- Think about this... All the information computers store is done *electronically*.
- That means all of the *audio, video* and *information* we program into our computers—our *LIFE*, our *Memories*, the *Information* about our very being—lives DIGITALLY in a computer!
- In the same sense, our SOUL—which is the *Energy* and *Life-Force* of our Body—will also retain all the information and abilities we have collected in this lifetime.
- We know this is possible from our very own inventions. Just think of how much more ADVANCED God is with *HIS* inventions.
- In fact, it is only through the *Grace of God* that He chose one day to allow mankind to discover this invisible world of electronics and radio waves.
 - They always existed, but God led mankind to discover them, just as Jesus wanted us to discover the *Supernatural Life* through him!

- Right now, everything we see around us, from plants, animals, insects and humans—have a limited amount of time to exist in their *physical* state.
 - We all eventually die and the atoms and energy in us will be Transformed into another "state of being."
- *Albert Einstein* stated in his "Law of Conservation" that: "Energy can neither be created, nor destroyed, it can only be Transformed from one type of Energy into another..."
- You see, we are "flesh and blood" but we are also "Soul." Our body will break down and die one day, but our SOUL was designed—like ENERGY—to last FOREVER!
- We you really think about it, our SOUL—is "digital."
- And one day, we will live in the invisible, Spiritual realm—the "digital world" we know exists—until we get our mortal bodies back just like Jesus did.
- Remember, as the *Nicene Creed* says, "we look forward to the resurrection of the dead" (see also, CCC 1017)
 - just as Jesus' Spirit re-entered his mortal body after descending to the lower world to preach the Gospel to those Souls seeking salvation.

- The Bible tells us that when Jesus returns to earth, he will *physically* raise all those who have died, giving them back their physical bodies they lost at death (1 Cor. 15:35–44, 1 John 3:2).
- However, our resurrected bodies will not die. They will be transformed into a *Glorified State*, just like Jesus' body was at his resurrection.
- This *Glorified Spiritual State* of our Body and Soul will be free from suffering and pain, and enabled to do many of the amazing things Jesus could do with his glorified body.
 - If you would like to learn more about *WHY* we believe what God tells us in *Sacred Scripture*, then please refer to **Paragraphs 988 to 1019** in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)*.
- Now, don't ask me exactly **HOW** this will happen. But I believe that with God, "all things are possible!" (Mt. 19:26; Mk 10:27). After all, that's what makes Him—GOD!
- And if you don't believe that "all things are possible with God," then try designing a DNA strand, or an echo system, or better yet, *a galaxy*, or even something as simple as a "seed."
 - Mankind can do **none** of these things.

- Yes, we invented the "Smart phone" through God feeding us a little bit of information at a time on how to do it,
 - but overall, compared to the many wonders in our world and universe, mankind is like an "amoeba" compared to what God can do...
- Whenever I read about the *Transfiguration* of our Lord, I can't help but think of "Near Death Experiences."
- An "*NDE*" (Near Death Experience) is when a person's Soul leaves their body after they die; they experience the "afterlife," and their Soul is then sent back into their body!
- Many *NDE*'s speak about the "Brilliance of Light" they see around them and how much more beautiful the world is in this "Glorified" state than it is in the Physical State.
- In the 1980's, Fiber Optics used *bands of LIGHT* to carry digital information anywhere in the world.
 - We now have WiFi that does the same thing invisibly.
- Right now, there are trillions of bits of Digital Information about color, sights and sound passing through the air around us.

- Do you hear them? Do you see them? **NO!**
Are they there? Are they real? **YES!**
 - We know they are *there* because we can download this information to our computers and cell phones.
- We take a video of our grandchild talking here, and we *BEAM* it with "energy and light" around the world and the same digital information is seen by someone else thousands of miles away.
- If we were to tell someone 200 years ago that this was the way the world would be one day, they would have thought we were CRAZY!
 - They would have said, "THAT is, and always will be, *IMPOSSIBLE!*"
- But again, brothers and sisters, with the Power and Supremacy of God—ALL things are possible!
- The *Transfiguration* happened before Jesus began his journey to Jerusalem to lay down his life as the *Sacrificial Lamb* for our sins (Ex 12:11-13; Lev 4:32; Lev 17:1-17; Lev 23:12; Jer 11:19, Is 53:7; Is 53:10, Jn 1:29; Jn 1:36; Rm 8:3, Heb 10).

- He knows that once he declares before the Sanhedrin that he is truly the "begotten Son of God," they will put him to death for *blasphemy* (Lev 24:10-23).
- Jesus knows this will be troubling times for his Apostles. The Shepherd is about to be struck and his sheep will scatter in fear (Zech 13:7; Mt 26:31, Mk 14:27).
- Jesus wants to show Peter, James and John that they have nothing to fear. By revealing to them his *Glorified Spiritual State* he is showing the full side of his Divinity.
- Today's Gospel reading focuses on the *Transfiguration* of Jesus and reveals what happened to him. But what happened to Peter, John and James?
 - What about THEIR Transformation in Christ?... **What about OURS...?**
- Even though Peter, John and Johns were temporally amazed by Jesus' *Transfiguration*, his Resurrected Glorified Body would motivate them—and the other Apostles—to tell the world about the Son of God!
- In a similar way, our encounters with God must transform our lives and motivate us to want to tell the world about Christ!

- In our busy world that demands more of our time and energy on a daily basis, we are tempted to cast aside our faith to place God somewhere further down our list of priorities.
- If God is not at the Top of our *List of Priorities*, we are missing the opportunity to be *Transformed* by him.
- Since Lent is our time to be transformed, now is a good time to ask: "*What transformation do I still need to make to become more like Christ?*"
- Yes, I know. It's not easy to live according to everything that Jesus teaches us in the Gospel. We need the Transformative Power of the Lord to help us!
 - What is the "Transformative Power" of the Lord? **His GRACE!** His *Supernatural, Real Presence*, living and growing in us!
- *Transcendence* comes only through death and resurrection. We must "die" of our old ways, and be "born again" in Christ in all ways!
- The more we open our HEART and MIND to invite the *Love* of Christ, the *Wisdom* of Christ; the *Compassion* of Christ into our

SOUL, the more we will begin to think and act like him in all ways.

- As our *Responsorial Psalm* says today, "The LORD is my LIGHT and MY *Salvation*... Your presence O Lord, I seek!"
- May we "seek" to be *Transformed* by our Lord from all the people and events we encounter in our Lenten Journey by seeing the *beauty* and *presence* of God in them...