

Listen to Him!

The works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we undertake this Holy season of Lent are meant to help deepen our relationship with God and with one another, which the readings of today invite us in different ways. The first reading tells us of God's blessings to Abraham, our father in faith (Romans 4:11-12). Abraham gives a wonderful example of what having unconditional love for God means. Abraham had already developed a good relationship with God. He believed that God cannot deceive or be deceived (Galatians 6:7). Thus, he was not afraid to sacrifice his son Isaac as God asked him to do. He believed firmly as St. Paul tells us in the 2nd reading that if God is with us nobody can be against us.

Similarly, in the Gospel, we read the transfiguration of Christ. The event of transfiguration happened after Jesus' first prediction of his passion, Peter's opposition to it, and his call to his disciples for true discipleship (Mark 8:27-33). Jesus used the moment and the mystery of transfiguration to strengthen the faith of his close disciples about his passion. The appearance of Moses (The law-giver) and Elijah (The great prophet) authenticates his mission. Equally, the voice from heaven calling on the disciples and all of us to listen to him reminds us that faith begins and grows by our listening and accepting the word of God in our lives (Romans 10:17).

This season of Lent is a good time to reflect and ask ourselves how much we listen to Jesus in the choices we make in our day-to-day life. God speaks to us in different ways- through the scripture, through the dictates of our good conscience, through the events of life, and more through one another. Just as Abraham, Jesus, and the disciples listened to God, may we ask the good Lord to open our ears and hearts to listen to him so that he will transfigure us to be like him. Amen.

“In this Lenten season, accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God’s word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life” (Pope Francis’ 2021 Lenten Message, #1)