This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

Our faith in Jesus remains strong when we always listen to Him.

PROMISE:

"The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory." (Ps 97: 6)

WORD:

Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14/ Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9/ 2 Pt 1: 16-19/ Mt 17: 1-9

ORDER:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am wellpleased: listen to him. (Mt 17: 5b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Listen to God's voice and be aware of His promptings.
- Read, study and follow the word of God.



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Our Transfiguration Moment

REFLECTION:

The central message of the transfiguration of Jesus is in these words we hear from our heavenly Father: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Mt 17: 5b), which is also the foundation verse of our theme this week - Our faith in Jesus Christ remains strong when we always listen to Him. For the apostles Peter, James and John, it was an experience beyond

awe and life changing to witness Jesus in all His glory. This vision would have prepared them for the impending passion and death of Jesus by allowing them to see His glorious divinity, although they may not have fully comprehended it at that time. Peter would simply utter, "Lord, it is good that we are here.'

For those who serve and worship the Lord, Daniel describes the vision of Jesus, the Son of man, receiving dominion, glory and kingship, at the end of times. Psalm 97 proclaims the Lord is king, the Most High

over all the earth. And in his second letter, St. Peter testifies what he witnessed during the transfiguration and proclaimed the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory and majesty. As he prophesied, he reiterates the invitation of the Father to be attentive to the message of the Transfiguration.

We may have experienced something similar to a "transfiguration" moment when we felt God's presence

close to our consciousness. During the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the LSS, we felt closest to God in His healing mercy and grace, and in our weekly worship when we find ourselves before the presence of God as we close our eyes and worship Him in our prayers and songs. There are those people who had near-death experiences and witnessed how heaven felt like. These moments are shown to remind us what it is to be in God's loving presence as we are called to do mission work that our Lord Jesus asks us to fulfill.

Transfiguration - See Page 2

God's Will Fully Revealed In Jesus

Flock In the Transfiguration it is not Jesus who receives the revelation of God; rather, it is precisely in Jesus that God reveals himself and reveals his face to the Apostles. Thus, those who wish to know God must contemplate the face of Jesus, his face transfigured: Jesus is the perfect revelation of the Father's holiness

Let us also remember that on Mount Sinai Moses also received the revelation of God's will: the Ten Commandments. And, again, it was on the mountain that Elijah received from God the divine Revelation of a mission he was to undertake.

Jesus, on the contrary, did not receive the revelation of what he was to do: he already knew it. Rather it was the Apostles who heard God's voice in the cloud, commanding: "Listen to him".

God's will was fully revealed in the Person of Jesus. Anyone who wants to live in accordance with God's will must follow Jesus, listen to him and accept his words, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, acquire a deep knowledge of them. This is the first invitation I wish to offer you, dear friends, with great affection: grow in the knowledge and love of Christ, both as individuals and as a parish community, encounter him in the Eucharist, in listening to his word, in prayer and in charity.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message, March 20, 2011

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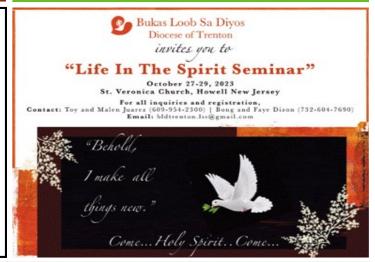
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The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.

Voice Of Conscience

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord does not seek skilled commentators of the Scriptures, as much as he seeks docile hearts that, welcoming his Word, allow themselves to be changed within. This is why it is so important to be familiar with the Gospel, to always have it at hand — even a small-sized Gospel in our pockets, in our purses to read and reread, to be passionate about it. When we do this, Jesus, the Word of the Father, enters into our hearts, he becomes intimate with us, and we bear fruit in Him. It is not enough to read it and understand that we should love God and our neighbor. It is necessary that this commandment, which is the "great commandment", resound in us, that it be assimilated, that it become the voice of our conscience.

~ Pope Francis



Transfiguration - Cont'd from Page 1

Our theme this week - Our faith in Jesus Christ remains strong when we always listen to Him, is a reminder that listening to Jesus means offering everything that we are to Him with an open heart. We are called into a deeper relationship with our Lord through prayers and meditation on His words that we may receive His peace. He wants to give us hope that even as we suffer in our journey of faith with many physical and spiritual challenges, we are being prepared to see His glory beyond the tribulations in this world. Living in God's presence makes us spiritually strong and encourages us to commit as followers of Christ. In moments of greatest fear, we are able to rise with a strong faith guided by the

words of Jesus, "do not be afraid." His love moves us and gives us courage to face problems in ourselves and in our relationships. Filled with faith, the only important thing is to know that Jesus does the impossible for us. Like Peter, our faith may not be perfect, but with Jesus in our life, we will persevere and see His glory in the end.

Being followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, let the renewal of our faith lead us to a true transformation of heart and mind, as we serve and fulfill our mission. When we listen to God's voice calming and strengthening our spirits, let us remember that the foretaste of heavenly magnificence will be realized in God's prom-

ise, "The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory." (Ps 97:6)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for empowering and revealing Your glory as we commemorate the Transfiguration of Your Son Jesus. May we rededicate ourselves to the ministry You have called us to serve and may we be a source of strength and joy to others as they journey towards Your kingdom. We give You, Abba Father, all the glory, praise and honor due You and Your Son, together with the Holy Spirit, for You are the Ruler of glory, the Majesty of light and the Most High over all. Amen.



Adapted from www.bldworld.org