

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

GOD AND HIS COVENANT OF LOVE WITH US



When we speak of Lent, we often think of sacrifices, renunciations, deprivations. In fact, the biblical readings of this Sunday invite us to look further and higher; it is our entire eternal destiny that is reminded to us on this day; this is what appears in the promise made to Abraham (1st reading), **God Who makes a covenant with Abraham: “You answered My call, you left your country, your comfort, you trusted Me...”** And God promises him a numerous descendant; He promises him to always be with him. Like Abraham, we are all invited to look further than our small horizon. God wants to lead us towards his Kingdom. And He

expects us to become sowers of **FRATERNITY AND LOVE**.

Saint Paul to the Christians of Philip (2nd reading) reminds us in his letter to the Philippians. The purpose of our life is not on this earth. **We are “citizens of heaven”**. Our poor bodies are meant to be transformed into the image of the “Glorious Body” of Jesus. Lent gives us the opportunity to turn away from our worldly concerns and to attach ourselves to Christ.

In the Gospel of the Transfiguration Jesus reveals His identity and our destiny. Jesus takes three of His disciples on the mountain to pray. **“While He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His garment became dazzlingly white.”** Thus, Jesus’ disciples discover that His prayer becomes “transfigured”; this is also true for each of us. **It helps us to come out of ourselves and to adjust to God**. This permanent contact with Him can only transform us. It is for us to welcome the Love that is in God so that it shines and is communicated around us.

But to revive their faith, Jesus invites them to glimpse the glory that will be His resurrection. **Beyond our sufferings and our trials, it is to this glory that we are all called by God Himself. On this Sunday and throughout Lent the voice of the Father is there: “This is my Son, listen to Him”**. Today, you see His face transfigured; one day, you will see Him disfigured by hatred, violence, and scandals of all kinds. But evil will not have the last word. **It is Love that will triumph**. We are all called to participate **in the victory of the Risen Christ**. All our actions of Lent participate in this vast movement of transfiguration. Through them, it is the Lord who is there and who challenges us. Like Abraham, like Paul and like the disciples, we are invited to come out of ourselves and LISTEN to the voice of the Father. This is the condition required for our transfiguration.

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