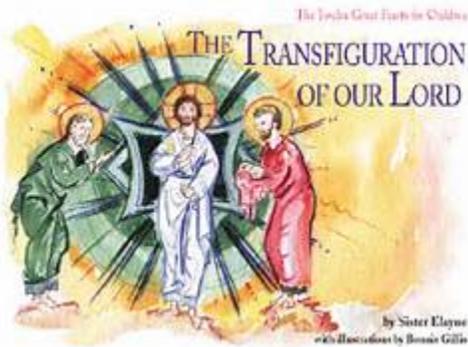


For The Bulletin Of August 6, 2017



From Father Robert

Sunglasses have become so much a fashion accessory – some people consider them really cool – that we sometimes forget their real purpose. Sunglasses offer us many more important benefits than making a fashion statement. They make us more comfortable in very bright light, filter our harmful ultraviolet rays, protect the eye balls and tender skin around the eyes from sunburn and the serious consequences that can come from that. It would seem that the transfiguration would have been a sunglasses moment for Peter, James, and John! They needed to be shielded not only from the brightness that surrounded Jesus in the transfiguration, but also from the full revelation of their own participation in Jesus’ glory and what that participation would cost them: their very lives.

Surely a sunglasses moment: before the three apostles very eyes Jesus’ “face shone like the sun” and “his clothes became white as light.” These images convey more than ordinary brightness, however, from which we naturally want to shield our eyes. Jesus “was transfigured before them.” Something entirely new was happening. He was

entirely changed. The apostles were given a glimpse of what was to come – not simply His death, but the risen Life that the Father would give Him. Something entirely new was happening to Jesus, and it would happen to them.

While Jesus is transfigured, “Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Him.” Peter, James, and John were given a glimpse of the “old.” Moses and Elijah represent the Law and prophecy of the Old Covenant. But with Jesus’ transfiguration, we see the promise of change, of something entirely new taking place. When the voice from the cloud tells the three apostles to “listen to” Jesus, they will hear something new, they will be challenged to embrace something new, they will be called to participate in a mystery only now being revealed in its fullness. They could not be prepared, however, for the “new” Jesus was inaugurating: that human flesh can shine with the glory of God; that death is not the end, rising “from the dead” is.

Peter wants to pitch tents and stay in the brightness and promise. But this cannot be. They must come “down from the mountain” and travel with Jesus to Jerusalem, through their denials and doubts, through their dying to their old lives and selves, through the “old” into the “new.” Only then can they grasp the extent to which God desires to possess us, to draw us into divine Life, to nurture us into the new covenant, the new relationship, God wishes to have with us through the Son. Jesus’ new covenant promises us a share in His risen Life. In the transfiguration of Jesus, Peter, James, and John see their own glorification. And, so do we.



Living The Paschal Mystery

In face of Jesus' transfiguration, the disciples "were very much afraid." Perhaps they were afraid of losing what was familiar to them from of old. Perhaps they were afraid because they had an inkling that this new journey presents formidable challenges. If we are to enter into Jesus' glorification, then we must be open to a transfiguration of ourselves, of our lives, of our own destiny. We must let go of our own limited vision and horizons and "listen to" Jesus opening up for us the uncharted territory of remarkable compassion and mercy, forgiveness and care, love and humility. We must allow Jesus to transfigure us.

What a challenge for the middle of summer!

- The transfiguration says this about Jesus...It says this about me...
- When I truly listen to Jesus, I hear...I respond with...
- I get glimpses of my own glorification when...

About Liturgy: Two Celebrations of the Transfiguration

Every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we hear proclaimed one of the transfiguration gospels. This particular incident in the earthly life of Jesus is

also proclaimed on the Feast of the Transfiguration. Usually this feast day falls on a weekday. This year we have the happy circumstance that it falls on a Sunday when many more people come to Eucharist than during the week. So, is it the same gospel? Yes, in terms of a Scripture selection, it is. But as a liturgical proclamation, these two Sundays offers us something quite different.

Sometimes we hear people complain that Liturgy is always the same. True, much of it is the same, for example, the *Kyrie* and the *Gloria*, the Creed, the prayers at the Preparation Rite, many of the prayers such as The Lord's Prayer, the sung responses. But we can readily name parts of the Eucharistic liturgy that change from day to day, for example, the readings themselves, the presidential prayers, the Eucharistic Prayer, etc. This Sunday's gospel illustrates another example of "changeableness" in the liturgy.

We said above in the first paragraph that this Transfiguration gospel comes in Lent and now, about halfway through Summer's Ordinary Time. The Liturgical Year, then, offers us two very, every different contexts for hearing and interpreting this gospel. During Lent, the Transfiguration gospel is a paschal mystery counterpart to the gospel of the First Sunday of Lent which is always about the temptation of Jesus in the desert. During Lent this gospel can be interpreted as revealing a necessary element in the paschal mystery dynamic: we are being called to glorification. During Summer's Ordinary Time, hearing this gospel is an encouragement, a strengthening to continue our disciple journey with Jesus: we are being called

to be faithful. Same gospel, two liturgical year contexts, two interpretations. No, liturgy is never the same!



Today we are especially blessed to have three beautiful floral arrangements in the sanctuary.

The First is in Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Deacon Gary and Diane Hack in Thanksgiving for the many blessings they have received throughout their married life.

The Second is in Loving Memory of Carlos Garcia who would have been 42 years old today from his parents, Leo and Cecilia Garcia.

The Third is in Honor of the 90th Birthday of Fina Villalpando from her daughter, Alicia Perez. Congratulations and many blessings for the best of health and much happiness for all the years yet to come!



Diocesan Missionary Coop Appeal

Today we join the parishes of our Diocese in the Annual Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Appeal. We are pleased to welcome **Sister Mary Elizabeth Lawrence, SM**, the sister of Fr. David Lawrence, SJ, Vicar of St. Bonaventure Parish, Concord/Clayton, as our Guest and homilist. Envelopes for this special appeal are on the credenza for your convenience. Others of us have our envelopes in our monthly Envelope Packet. Many thanks for your generous support of Sister Carol's Order and Missionary work both here and around the world.



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, August 15th, is a Holy Day of Obligation marking The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are privileged to celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. in the evening.



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...to our faith volunteer parishioners who arrive very early every Saturday morning and do such a wonderful job of cleaning both the church and parish hall: **Emilia Freking, Carole Miller, Angela Bueno, Heather Hatteroth, Mency Osborne, Jun Bajet, Rore Acamala, Jack Goncalves, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our parishioner volunteers who faithfully clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, and Harlan Young.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who prepared the recent mailing of the Festival Letter and Grand Raffle Tickets: **Bernice Campbell, Clem Bushman, Marguerite Bloomfield, Anthony Gumina, Bobbie Ocang, Ruth Landry, Vangie Parrilla, Geri Chiechi, Anne Peck, Nancy Newton, Jane Enos, and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

Sofie Zimmerman, Harlan Young, Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, and Judy Quicho.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**



Fire Chaplains Academy

From Tuesday, July 25th through Friday, July 28th, I had the privilege of attending a Fire Chaplains Academy at the Training Center of ConFire in Concord. Offered and taught by the California Fire Chaplains Association (CFCA) under the auspices of the Federation of Fire Chaplains, each day began with prayer, meditation, and reflection. The first two days focused on "Fire Chaplaincy Foundation & Personhood, Firefighter & Victim Ministry, Fire Department Funerals, Fire Department Operations, Making Death Notifications, and Critical

Incident Systems Management. The second two days were focused on Advanced Chaplain Training and addressed 4 hours of Mandated Reporting Law (Emphasis for Chaplains/Clergy); 4 hours of Title VII Issues, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination (4 hours), and concluding with 8 hours of Delivering a Fire Department Message for Events.

This was an outstanding week with an outstanding Instructor, **Battalion Chief Jim Cook, CFCA and FFA Chaplain**. There were 15 of us in the class from up and down the state of California. It has been my honor to serve the men and women of ConFire for the past 16 years.

Memorial Ceremony to honor those Firefighters that have died in the Line of Duty. Since 1969, 16 ConFire Firefighters have died of fire related injuries and illnesses. This was also the 10th anniversary of the death of Captain Matt Burton and Engineer Scott Desmond who were killed during a tragic house fire in San Pablo while trying to save the residents.



Contra Costa Fire District Memorial
As a parish, we remember all of our first responders and members of our armed services at each weekend liturgy. On July 21st, I had the distinct honor of presenting the opening invocation and the closing blessing at the Annual Contra Costa County Fire Protection District