

Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Dear Parishioners:

God does not ask you and me to possess a blind faith, without reason or evidence. First of all, he asks us to observe the universe and see the evidence of his works. Somewhat akin to us experiencing what we have never seen. No one reading this has ever seen the wind, yet we know beyond a doubt that it is real because we have seen and felt its effects. Creation is the effect of God's infinite power exercised for our welfare to share the beauty and love of God, who is more than power and awe. He is love, goodness, peace, beauty, mercy, justice, etc. He knows the limits of our ability.

Konrad Adenauer used to say, *In view of the fact that God limited the intelligence of man; it seems unfair that He did not also limit his stupidity.* How many times have you said or done something that you immediately want to take back, but it's too late. If we could go back in time, which choices would we, knowing what we now know, change. Yet, alas, we cannot do such a thing.

Jesus, understanding the human condition, takes Peter, James, and John up Mount Tabor to provide them the evidence they will need to follow through being a disciple. The Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) converse with Jesus. The conversation is not recorded for us, but it must have been something terrific. I would think that Moses and Elijah were overjoyed at seeing the fruit of their lives in the person of Jesus.

Peter, James, and John, most likely, did not understand the full implications of the event. Peter wants to build a tent or tabernacle or booth – (reminiscent of the great harvest feast when the people pitched tents and enjoy the bounty of God). There is often another level to the story. Salvation history is so very rich in meaning. I imagine they were deeply awestruck.

It becomes for them a bit more evident that Jesus is more than a mere man. They probably did not see him as God at this point, but something began to stir in them. "If this was Moses and Elijah, what must be in store for us?"

After such a glorious sight, they had to come down off the mountain. Perhaps you have had an experience of the divine on a retreat, a moment of clarity, the day of your wedding, or birth of a child, etc. and wanted to keep that feeling. As we all know, the feeling seems to dissipate rapidly. Some things we must keep in our hearts and savor the joy as an inspiration and evidence of God's presence.

We are in this *vale of tears* every day. But we do have the Lord Jesus with us to lead us into the hope God's grace provides. We do not have to give into the excesses this world and Satan pushes on us. We do have the strength to remember the vision of the Transfigured Jesus.

C.S. Lewis ends his Narnia series with: *And for us this the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.*"

Jesus gave us a glimpse of the glory to come. May Lent prepare you to receive the Lord Jesus and walk always in his footsteps.

Something you might like to consider is to volunteer at **Loaves and Fishes**, a ministry of the Magnificat Houses. Volunteers are needed, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. They are asking that one of our organizations or a group of our parishioners, commit to one of those days to help prepare, serve the meals, and cleanup. The commitment is from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Loaves and Fishes feeds, on average, 350 a day. Talk it over with your friends. You do not have to be Catholic.

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Msgr. Bill

