



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Second Sunday of Lent:

LOOKING FOR GLORY? FOLLOW JESUS!

According to tradition, the place of the Transfiguration is Mount Tabor, a singular mountain that towers 1600 feet over the Esdraelon Plain. Atop the mountain is the Basilica of the Transfiguration, highlighted by its twin towers, double altars, and gorgeous mosaics of the Transfiguration. The Basilica of the Transfiguration is owned and maintained by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, who receives financial support from the Good Friday Collection that is taken up in the parishes all over the world.

The Gospel reading for the 2nd Sunday of Lent is the story of the Transfiguration of Christ taken from the Gospel of Matthew. We often read in the scriptures that one of Jesus' favorite places to pray was on a mountain. On this particular day, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John along with him to the top of Mt. Tabor to pray. Jesus seeks now to bolster the faith of these three disciples chosen to be important leaders in the coming years.

For a brief moment, the true power and majesty of Christ is revealed to them. As Jesus prayed, His face "shone like the sun" and his clothes became "white as the light." Two men appeared at His side, identified as Moses and Elijah. Peter, always quick to speak what he is thinking, blurts out that they should build three tents on the spot in order to stay and savor this glorious event. Is not Peter's suggestion reminiscent of what we always wish to do with the good, true, and beautiful moments of our lives? But in the Gospel story, as with each of us, though the disciples could savor this incredible "mountain-top" moment, they could not stay



Mt. Tabor and the Basilica of the Transfiguration at the top.

there. The reward for that surrender is to be able to see Christ as he is and share in His glory forever in heaven.

All Catholics are challenged each Lent to be drawn into a closer, more personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Christians who still live in the Holy Land face incredible difficulties on a daily basis. Our brothers and sisters in Christ, many of whose families are descended from first century Christians, are being driven from their homes and denied access to decent health services, work, and even access to water. To help these Holy Land Christians and to preserve the Holy Sites such as the Basilica of the Transfiguration, please make a generous contribution on Good Friday to the Franciscan Custody through the Good Friday Collection.

Help for Holy Land Christians

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