

2nd WEEK OF LENT, March 12, 2017

"Lent should call us to our own Transfiguration".

- Rev. James R. Gretz, D.Min., M.T.S.

Diocese of Pittsburgh

READINGS:

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Genesis is about Abram's call to leave his land. He is also to be the father of a great nation. St. Paul reminds Timothy that we are called to satisfy God's plan, not our own plan or desire. Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John. God's voice is heard telling them to listen to the Son.

REFLECTION:

As a young boy, I was so excited that my home parish had the transfiguration represented. It wasn't a representative work of art; it was those three booths built by Peter! I guess I was a theologian in training even then. I eventually came to learn that those were confessionals. And how we are transfigured in that great sacrament!

I hear these readings very differently this year. I have preached to my people numerous times recently that in the midst of our lives is the Paschal Mystery. We regularly experience a call to passion, death, resurrection, and new life. Yes, we think of Jesus as well as our final experience of the Paschal Mystery, however, we experience it every day. We must remember that when we suffer through change, and die to what we know, we will find resurrection and new life. It worked pretty well for Abram, St. Paul, and even Jesus. It will work for us too.

PRAYER:

Good and gracious God, You call us so often, yet we cringe when You do. We find such comfort in our status quo. We do not want to change. We ask that You help us to be transfigured like your Son. Help us to let go of our plans and embrace Yours. "Let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you." We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

TRY THIS TODAY:

Be honest with yourself, how is God calling you to be transfigured?