**Reflection for SECOND WEEK OF LENT, 2015 Sr. Claire Debes, DC, Vincentian Family Ministry**

**SCRIPTURE:**

**Reflect upon the Readings of Genesis 22:1-2,9a, 10-13, 15-18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19) Romans 8:31b-34; Gospel: Mark 9:2-10.**

In the first reading from Genesis, God tests the obedience and trust of Abraham asking what for many would be impossible: to kill his own son. When Abraham attempts to do this difficult task, what God commands, God stops him because God was testing Abraham’s true faith.

The Gospel reading of the Transfiguration offers a threshold moment, an opportunity to go deeper in our own faith by offering us new possibility. During Lent, God calls each of us to trust Him more and to follow what God is asking at this time of our life, our new possibility to go beyond the boundaries of our comfort zones. As we focus beyond ourselves and place our trust in God, the impossible becomes possible. In this reading, we see the love God had for his Son. Jesus was the beloved of God in whom God was well pleased. He is the incarnation of God, the embodiment of God's love. The one who is transfigured will soon be disfigured in his death. As we remember his disfigurement, Jesus asks us to connect with the disfigured of our world. God tells us that we are also beloved and God invites us to learn to listen at a deeper level to the abundant love that Jesus manifested to us in his life and in his death. He lived and died for each of us! God challenges each of us to leave the mountaintop to reach out to the broken and forgotten people in our world.

**PRAYER includes some** adaptations from A.20 (*Thoughts on the Cross, by St. Louise de Marillac*), Spiritual Writings of Louise de Marillac**:**

Good and gracious God, may we like St. Louise recognize **“that souls chosen by God are very particularly destined to suffer and this is … a sweet and agreeable privilege” …”** We pray **“that we may … consider loving and suffering as one and the same.”** We ask that we may **“understand the dignity of suffering”** and that **“this belief is a truth which …** is **“deeply rooted in our hearts.”** We trust you will be with us in our own suffering and we desire during this Lenten season to go beyond our own comfort zones to embrace the sufferings of so many in our disfigured world. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen

**TRY THIS TODAY:**

Spend some time *reflecting backwards* on Jesus life and death.

**What and why did he choose to come among us as one of us and what was His death all about for ME PERSONALLY?**

**What MIGHT GOD BE ASKING OF ME to prove** tha**t I can accept this love and allow this love to change the manner in which I will love God and those living on the margins of society more deeply that I am privileged to serve?**