



### **Message from Fr. Leandro "Lines" Dela Cruz**

**Dear Parishioners and Friends,**

**The exhilaration one feels in the wake of a successful weight loss program or an addiction broken through a program is often enhanced by the compliments of friends and acquaintances. They applaud the transformation, especially if they have clear memories of “the old you.” The accomplishment is also a source of a good example for those others trying to do the same. Positive change matters.**

**There is a certain similarity here with the glorious event of Christ’s transfiguration. When the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity humbly hid His divine nature by accepting a human one, He took it on completely with all its limitations. We tend to forget that He was “like us in all things, except sin.”**

**So, the Lord in many ways looked ordinary to most observers, although He was at the same time a special Man. For example, He was undeniably approachable. Many people give off an air of cool indifference, especially to strangers but Jesus did not- He welcomed everyone. Jesus did not see color, gender, sinner, or saint. Everyone is loved.**

**Our Lord grew tired at the end of the day. He experienced the weariness of living with His sometimes-clueless Apostles. He had to guard against using any spectacular devices in attracting followers. Only when He worked one of His miracles out of compassion, or as a teaching lesson, did the source of His power gradually become revealed. His apostles first came to Him because He was different in all the best ways. Gradually they recognized that He was also**

**genuinely holy and close to God. Eventually, through the Transfiguration, He did show them Who He was – a powerful and caring God.**

**Let us accompany with our prayers our brothers and sisters who are enduring mental, psychological and emotional illnesses, and difficulties. We also send the good spirit of support and encouragement for transformation for those who are battling addiction in so many different forms. Let us all give these human situations a special place in our prayers.**

**Our every Friday live-streamed, as well as in-church Stations of the Cross, were beautiful and wonderfully prepared. Thanks to those who put their minds and hearts to make this via crucis' a meaningful and solemn experience for our parishioners. On March 5, 1st Friday, Bonnie Rakowski and Tony Oña will lead us in prayer at 7 pm. Please do join us again in this Lenten pious act.**

**Please be reminded that on all Fridays of Lent we are called to abstain as a sacrifice for the sins we may have committed. Many of us gave up something during Lent as a sacrificial offering, it is a good practice and helpful to us in so many different ways. The money we saved through our “give-ups” are supposed to be shared and given to the poor, as Lent is also a call for almsgiving. We have “Lenten Poor Box” by our church foyer so you may drop in your weekly sacrificial savings. The money we collect throughout Lent will be given to the poor and the needy in our area. We also have the "Lenten Rice Bowl Boxes" that you could use for your almsgiving.**

**When attending our church liturgies, kindly follow all our safety and health protocols. Constantly check your mask as sometimes it slips and is not properly worn. If you must be in any public place, remember the pandemic trifecta: wear masks properly, sanitize constantly, and follow social distancing norms.**

**God Loves You.**