

2nd Sunday of Lent- A & EF 2014
Deacon Pat Hall

Ordinary Form

Genesis 12:1-4A, 2 Timothy 1:8B-10, Matthew 17:1-9

Homilies are vehicles for breaking open the Word of God. First read the Sunday readings at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/031614.cfm>

Extraordinary Form

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7; Matthew 17:1-9

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*John Paul McMillan,
born May 20, 1952,
residing at 1315 E. 14 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI.*

This is what was written on my driver's license during the two years I worked undercover for the Kalamazoo Police Department.

This is who I was or who I pretended to be during my work hours.

This is how I was known to the conspirators whom I had infiltrated.

When done for the day, I would drive home by some circuitous route to shake any who would be following me.

I would walk through the door of our home and then again become Pat...

or Daddy as the majority in my household knew me.

Today is Transfiguration Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all proclaim this mountain top story of how Peter, James and John were brought to see Jesus, literally in a new light, to know him in a different way.

*And he was transfigured before
them;
his face shone like the sun and
his clothes became white as light.*

*And he was transfigured before
them.
And his face did shine as the sun:
and his garments became white as
snow.*

The disciples all had their impressions of who Jesus was.

Like most of us, I am sure they colored his persona with how each hoped he would be for each of them.

Don't we do that to each other, our spouses, children and friends?

Instead of taking the time to discover who that other person actually is, we just put on them our own overlays, stereotypes and personal expectations. No wonder we are so routinely disappointed. Do we ever allow ourselves the possibility that the other person could surprise us with their wonderful complexity and quirkiness?

The disciples thought they were following the liberator of their people. They were right, but not in the way they thought. They could not understand how Jesus' predictions of his suffering and death could possibly play into their version of liberation.

But, with the Transfiguration, they were given a vision of how God the Father sees God the Son. With a foretaste of Jesus' eternal glory, they were able to follow Jesus back down the mountain into the messiness of life with disease, sin, violence, oppression and pride.

Knowing Jesus more fully, they were able to be disciples more fully.

Pope Benedict wrote:

*"Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."*ⁱ

Because they had a vision of Jesus' glorious divinity, they could become more human.

Pope Francis wrote in his recent exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*:

*"We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."*ⁱⁱ

Being emboldened, the disciples followed Jesus on his path to Jerusalem towards his date with destiny as foretold through the ages.

To truly know Jesus, we need to behold him with his shining face on that mountain-top.

To truly know Jesus, we need to behold him also as Veronica beheld him on his way to Calvary.

Friday, here when we prayed together *The Way of the Cross*, we recited at the

Sixth Station where Veronica offers her veil to Jesus,

“My beloved Jesus, Your face was beautiful before You began this journey; but now, it no longer appears beautiful and is disfigured with wounds and blood.”ⁱⁱⁱ

We behold Jesus in all his divine glory and human suffering.
When we come to this altar to receive him, may we do the same.

We hear Fr. David often proclaim the friendship Jesus offers us.
Jesus is our friend and he offers himself for us as the way towards our own destiny, when we will hear of our Father’s own pleasure with us and our own faces may shine like the sun.

ⁱ Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus Caritas Est*

ⁱⁱ Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*

ⁱⁱⁱ St. Alphonsus Liguori, *The Way of the Cross*