

The Feast of the Transfiguration

Amid a lovely summer, the Church gives us the Feast of the Transfiguration. First, it should be noted that mountains are often places of encounters with God. The Garden of Eden was thought to be on top of a mountain.

Abraham demonstrated his ultimate trust and obedience by being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah. Moses met God at the burning bush on Mount Sinai and later received the 10 Commandments there. Elijah battled the 450 prophets of Baal calling down fire from heaven on Mount Carmel. Today, we have the preview of our Lord's glory on Mount Tabor. The Franciscans built a church called the "Church of the Transfiguration" to commemorate the event.

Naturally, there are some little inspirations we can take to heart from today's celebration. First, remember that the Church is the Body of Christ. As Christ's Body radiated light in the transfiguration, so the light of Christ radiates out in His Church in her saints. Today's celebration is a feast of hope. It's a preview of the glory that God wants to give us in our future resurrection. Jesus' transfiguration is a "sacrament of our resurrection."

Moses and Elijah speak with our Lord on Mount Tabor. Their presence alongside Jesus represents the law and the prophets. They are a reminder that God is faithful to His promises. What God has promised, He will fulfill. You can *trust* Him!

Finally, each of us experience struggles and carry burdens. Think how often the apostles looked back at this glorious moment (Peter writes about it in our second reading), which gave them consolation and interior strength. It reminded them that their sufferings and trials were temporary, paving the way for future glory. Peter wanted to stay on the mountain, but Jesus moved them down the mountain where they had to fight the good fight.

In other words, if you want to be a disciple of Christ, you will have pick up your cross and follow Him. There is no splendor, no glory, without the Cross. The splendor of the Transfiguration leads to the humiliation of Good Friday, which in turn leads to the splendor of the Resurrection. We all experience our Good Fridays. The transfiguration, for its part, can give you consolation, strength, and hope to suffer well so that you, too, will experience the joy of Easter Sunday. ☺