



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

If you don't know what season of the year it is, looking outside your window won't help much. It seems like we get two or three seasons in a couple of weeks! The first week of March we had summer weather: 83 degrees! This past week we were treated to some winter snow and in between we enjoyed a little spring weather! Stay tuned....

Life can be like that at times. Just when we think we have things *figured out*, we find there is a *new wrinkle*. We have to reassess and recalculate going forward.

The three disciples who accompanied Jesus up the mountain in today's gospel had some reassessment and recalculation to do. They had gone up the mountain to pray. Then, in a turn of events, Jesus' "face changed in appearance and his clothes became dazzling white." Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and spoke of the exodus that Jesus was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. This was a completely new aspect inserted into their prayer-journey. The disciples had to reflect and reassess what was going on with Jesus and them.

Jesus was *transfigured* there on the mountain. He appeared different and the message of Moses and Elijah pointed to a new relationship of Jesus with the people and the disciples. Could they "lean into" an expanded understanding of Jesus and his mission? Or did they want to hang on to their "Jesus and us" friendship that had developed among them?

I find in this reflection on the disciples and Jesus a resonance with what is happening in the Church in our day. Perhaps we have grown accustomed to understanding Church and our relationship with Jesus in one certain way. And right now we are asked to *go up the mountain* with Jesus and find Jesus transfigured. We are asked to be open to a message the prophets of our day are giving us about Jesus and the Church he resides in to lead us together to the Father.

We even have some new vocabulary as we make this journey of faith with Jesus. As Catholics, until recently we did not hear much of the words *synod* or *synodality* in relation to our faith. But, here they are now! The *prophets* of our time, led forward by Pope Francis, are calling us to hear a message of the new exodus that Jesus is going to accomplish *in Jerusalem (the Universal Church)*. We need to welcome the new message, reflect and reassess our understanding of Church. (Actually, it is an older, earlier, understanding of Church that had gotten lost over the centuries.)

We welcome the *transfiguration* of Jesus in the Church today. Let's do our homework and keep up with Jesus and the prophets of our time. (There are listening sessions we can attend. There are things that we can read. We can talk with others and grow our understanding.) The future of the Catholic Church is calling us forward.

~ Peace,
Deacon Ross