



## ***2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of LENT YEAR C – March 17, 2019***

In the first reading today, we hear about the covenant God made with Abraham. It reminds us of a covenant that God made with us at our baptism, a covenant that was confirmed by us and for us at confirmation. We are the church of Jesus who died for us on the cross.

Saint Paul tells us that many conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. They excuse themselves from religious practice because there are so many “hypocrites” who “practice” religion and they don't want to be “hypocrites”.

Some good people leave the institution because it no longer seems as perfect as it's supposed to be. Frank Sheed once wrote these words, "There isn't anything a pope or bishop could do that would make me want to leave the church, but there are some things a pope or bishop could do that would make me want him to leave." You belong in the Church. You are the Church.

St. Paul says, don't worry about what others do. You are the mirrors that reflect the light of Christ. If your mirror needs a little cleaning to provide a better reflection of Jesus, Lent is the time to do that.

The Gospel today speaks to us about one of the two mountain experiences of Jesus; the one that took place on Mount Tabor - the transfiguration of our Lord. Jesus took Peter and James and John up on that mountain and he was transfigured before them. His garments became dazzling white as his divinity was manifested to his friends. Moses and Elijah appeared, and they were talking with Jesus.

This raises the question. Why is the transfiguration of Jesus placed among the Lenten readings which are usually somber - instead of among the Easter readings which usually deal with the glory of Jesus? The context is the reason. It occurred right after Jesus told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem to suffer - and die.

In fact, that's what Jesus, Moses and Elijah were talking about. They were talking about the death of Jesus about to take place in Jerusalem in a matter of days. The word for death in their conversation was the Greek word “exodus”. It means a crossing over from where Jesus was then to where Moses and Elijah already were.

When we die, we too will cross over from the land of the dying where we are now, into the land of the living where we will be then. Lent is the time to reflect on how well we live our lives here on earth and how well we are prepared to cross the bridge of death when it's our turn to do that.

For a few moments in silence reflect on what Jesus means when he says, “Stop being afraid.” And what does he mean when he says, “Be prepared!”

**μετάνοια**

