

## Second Sunday of Lent B

Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10



**A** man whose beloved dog had just died asked the priest about having a funeral service for it. The priest said, “We don’t do funerals for dogs in the Catholic Church.” Maybe one of the churches down the road will do it for you. The man asked, “Do you think a \$5,000 donation would be enough?” The priest said, “Well, you did not tell me the dog was Catholic!”

The Transfiguration of Jesus, about which we heard in the Gospel, helped the disciples to know who Jesus was. It helped them to see Jesus in His entire divinity. They heard the voice of God saying, “This is my beloved Son.” They also saw Elijah and Moses conversing with Him. Elijah was the greatest prophet, and Moses was the greatest law-giver of the Old Testament. To all the questions about Jesus that His disciples had, the transfiguration was an astounding answer.

In our society, transfiguration means “a radical transformation of our physical appearance.” It is about physical fitness with the weight loss and diet programs. It is about those exercise machines that promise fitness, shrinking clothing sizes, and extended years of healthy living. Cosmetic surgeons also promise transfiguration by redesigning your appearance. Even barbers and beauticians can transform your appearance.

But the Transfiguration of Jesus invites us to look beyond skin-deep changes. Changing one’s outward physical appearance can be impressive. But today, the Transfiguration of Jesus calls us to a transformation of mind, heart, and spirit. Abram was transformed from a wandering nomad to a patriarch of God’s people because of his willingness to change himself and do God’s will. He was willing to risk everything for his faith and trust in God. He was willing to sacrifice even his only son, Isaac.

In the second reading of today, St. Paul admits that we cannot transform ourselves based entirely on our own strength. We need God’s grace. When Christ is at our side, “who can be against us?”

Today’s readings also remind us that our faith is a journey—a journey that leads to glory. In our journey, we will face hardships and challenges because we are following someone whose life was a sacrifice. But the sacrifice was not the end. After sacrifice came the glory of resurrection. That is what we are journeying toward. Faith is not just something we merely profess. It is a life that we live.

Every sacrament we receive is a help to transformation. Baptism transforms us into children of God. Confirmation makes us into the temples of the Holy Spirit. Reconciliation brings us back from a path of sin to holiness. In every Eucharist, the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We who receive His Body and Blood are also transformed into His image and likeness. The Eucharist should be a daily source of transfiguration of our minds and hearts. It should transform us to be more humble, loving, compassionate and forgiving. May the Holy Eucharist in which we participate in help us to transform our mind, heart and spirit during this Season of Lent.