



Live By Faith

The story of Abraham is one of extraordinary blessing. However, his story is also one of extraordinary faith. At major points of his life, Abraham had no idea what was in store for him or his family. He was directed to leave his home and become a wandering herder. He was an immigrant in a foreign land, bereft of social support structures. He was promised descendants but waited many years for that promise to be realized. Once he had an heir, he was then told to sacrifice that son of promise without any assurances of a favorable future. Time and again, Abraham was asked to live by faith.

The phrase “seeing is believing” is misleading. It is really an expression of skepticism that means, “I won’t believe it unless I see it.” However, true belief means that we accept something even though we don’t see it, don’t understand it. That is a very difficult way for most of us to live. Yet live like this we must, whether

we are believers or unbelievers, because so much of life is beyond our control or understanding.

So how do we learn to live by faith? We have something that Abraham did not have. We have his story to encourage us. In that story we see that again and again he stepped forward in faith, and God brought things together. If God did this in Abraham’s life, surely God can and will do it in ours. We must only live by faith.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * *Do you always need certainty before you act? Has that always worked?*
- * *Be grateful for the times when you stepped forward in faith and God brought things together.*

*So it was that there came forth
from one man, himself as good
as dead, descendants as numerous
as the stars in the sky.*

HEBREWS 11:12

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

REFLECTIONS

Transfiguration

The event we call the Transfiguration comes about mid-point in the Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus. With a selected group of disciples, Jesus ascends a height and is subsequently 'transfigured.' The scriptures declare that Jesus' "face changed and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly, two men were talking with him - Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and spoke of his passage which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem."

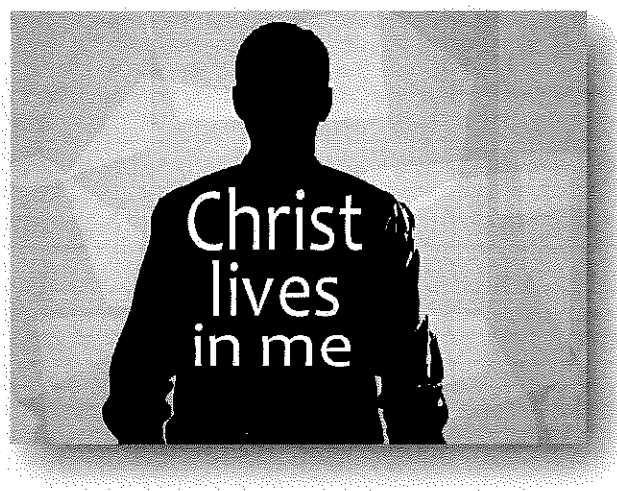
What actually occurs here is challenging to grasp, although it is clearly a personal epiphany for Jesus. Indeed, the primary intent is to provide both knowledge and courage to Jesus as he continues his earthly ministry which clearly will lead to the Cross. That Jesus is willing to undertake this mission, despite its challenges, goes without saying. After all, Jesus comes from God to do the will of the Father.

Scripture tells us that Peter and the other disciples had earlier "fallen into a deep sleep" but they awaken in time to see the Lord's glory. Although the actual transfiguration event is clearly for Jesus' benefit, the disciples are necessarily included, although they clearly misunderstand. Indeed, Peter's response about building earthly 'booths' or sites of worship clearly misrepresents God's intent. The disciples hear God's corrective comment. "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him".

Jesus communes with God in this transfiguration event. The disciples, despite that fact that they do not yet understand, have also been transfigured, changed. That's what an encounter with God is intended to accomplish - to change us so that we are more closely aligned with God's plan. We do not have to go to a mountain height to encounter God. God is present with us always, waiting for us to awake from sleep so that he can transfigure us. The words of the hymn summarize it all:

Transfigure us, O Lord, Transfigure us, O Lord. Break the chains that bind us, Speak your saving word, and where you lead, we'll follow, Transfigure us, O Lord."

From Father Ken



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Nineteenth Week in Ordinary time has arrived. Looking ahead at the week, I noticed that each day we have a memorial or feast of a saint to contemplate and give thanks for their example.

I came across a statement from Bishop Barron focusing on last Sunday's readings:

Detach yourselves from the goods of the world. Do this by enjoying and savoring what you can, but then let it go. Seek rather what is above, not what fades away. Always keep our eyes on God and his promises. The only thing we can take with us in this life to come is what we have given away on earth. This is an attitude of detachment and generosity.

It is something to think about. . .

I would like to thank Father Ken for picking up an additional six Masses on Tuesdays during July and August while Father Bob is on vacation. We are blessed to have Father Ken as our Priest and his dedication to us.

This month we donated \$1500 to the Carmelite Nuns of Arlington. Thank you for your generosity.

To meet guidelines, we will soon be offering safe environment classes at one of the nearby Catholic Churches, or if possible, here at the Village. We are putting together a list of those needing the training and will have more information within the next couple of weeks.

In closing this week's reflections, I came across a new poll from EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), and in real clear opinion research, the poll found:

84% of Catholics were concerned over recent attacks on Catholic Churches.

72% of respondents stated they feel that anti-Catholic sentiment is spreading in the U.S. (154 incidents of arson and destruction of Church property have been documented in 37 states since 2020).

55% of respondents accept all or most of the Church's teachings.

33% of U.S. Catholics attend weekly Mass.

50% of respondents believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

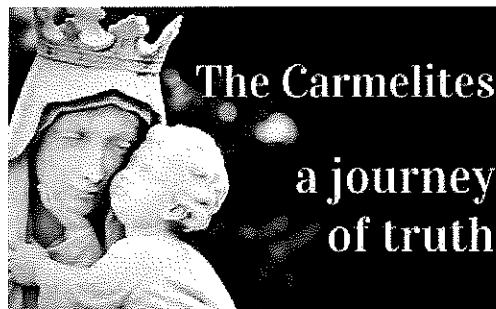
82% of Catholics said they pray weekly or more frequently.

26% pray the rosary at least once a week.

These numbers give us something to reflect on and pray that our Catholic faith will grow stronger among all Catholics.

May Christ's will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

*God Give You Peace,
Mike Pierson*



I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth. ~ St. Therese of Lisieux

Mass Intentions

Aug. 7, 2022	For Intentions of All SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners
Aug. 8, 2022	For the Intention of the Jim Foster Family By Brian Foster
Aug. 9, 2022	Repose of the Souls of Jim & Jerry Ann Foster By Brian Foster
Aug. 10, 2022	For the Intentions of the Salazar Family By Stella Cruz
Aug. 11, 2022	For the Intentions of the Cruz Family By Stella Cruz
Aug. 12, 2022	Repose of the Souls of Jonathan & Devin Massey By Mel & Julie Miller
Aug. 13, 2022	For Everyone affected by cancer, Especially Kirk, Mark, & Mary Henry By Genese Burlett (9AM Mass)
Aug. 13, 2022	For Intentions of All SFV Catholic Chapel Parishioners (5PM Vigil)

Dear Padre,

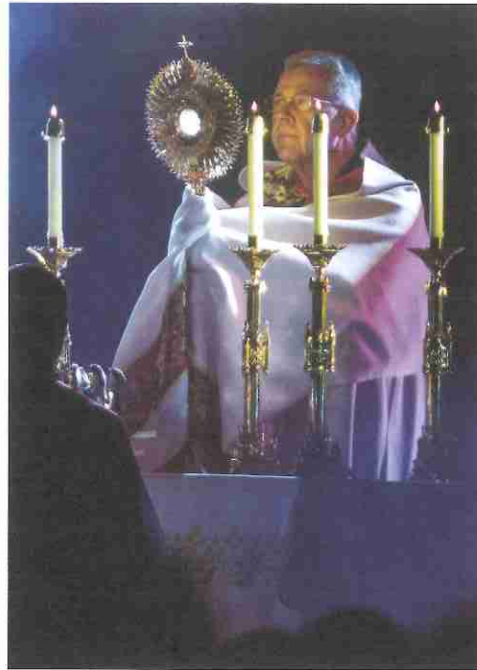
When I was young, we never had eucharistic devotions. Why are they so popular now?

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, many Catholics found solid food for their spiritual lives in eucharistic devotions, which include visiting the Blessed Sacrament (eucharistic adoration), attending Forty Hours devotion, and assisting at benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

However, as the modern liturgical movement began picking up steam, scholars and theologians began questioning the amount of energy and attention going toward eucharistic devotion. They urged us to focus our spirituality more clearly on the Mass—the action of the sacred liturgy and the Eucharist itself—and to understand that all eucharistic devotions outside of the sacred liturgy are meant to direct us back to the action of the Mass, the eucharistic sacrifice, and its high point of Communion.

The drop-off in eucharistic devotions after Vatican II can be positively understood as an attempt to take the insights of liturgical reform seriously and develop a more liturgical piety. At the same time, the resurgence of eucharistic adoration is a worthy retrieval of a beloved practice that both scholars and the faithful understand as complementing a full, conscious, and active participation in the sacred liturgy that is the “source and summit” of our lives.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSSR
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CNS PHOTO/ANDREW BIRBAL CATHOLIC STANDARD



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We do well to spend time in adoration before the Eucharist....Let us allow Jesus the Living Bread to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigidity and self-concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow him wherever he would lead us.

HOMILY, BUDAPEST, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 8

St. Dominic, Priest

Ez 1:2–5, 24–28c

Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday

AUGUST 9

Weekday

Ez 2:8–3:4

Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday

AUGUST 10

St. Lawrence,
Deacon and Martyr

2 Cor 9:6–10

Jn 12:24–26

Thursday

AUGUST 11

St. Clare, Virgin

Ez 12:1–12

Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday

AUGUST 12

Weekday

Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63

or 16:59–63

Mt 19:3–12

Saturday

AUGUST 13

Weekday

Ez 18:1–10, 13b, 30–32

Mt 19:13–15

Sunday

AUGUST 14

Twentieth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4–6, 8–10

Heb 12:1–4

Lk 12:49–53



Liguori Publications is celebrating 75 years of ministry throughout 2022.

Follow progress toward our October 23 anniversary date in *Liguorian* magazine and at Liguori.org.