Catholic in Recovery
General Recovery Meeting

2nd Sunday of Lent

We continue our Lenten journey together by reflecting upon the story of the transfiguration of our Lord as witnessed by three of his disciples. This Sunday's Gospel Reading tells us that Peter, James, and John were terrified at what was being revealed to them.

This combination of awe, terror, wonder, confusion, hope, and trembling might describe our feelings in the early stages of recovery or as we enter further into the Church. Spiritual experiences come in all varieties, and God goes to great lengths to bring us comfort when it's needed and afflictions when we get too comfortable.

Hear the mystical experience of the transfiguration, as described by Mark's Gospel:

Jesus took Peter, James, and John
and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.
Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,
and they were conversing with Jesus.
Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,
"Rabbi, it is good that we are here!
Let us make three tents:
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.
Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."
Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone
but Jesus alone with them.

Few of us will ever have an encounter as miraculous as described above, but we each get to witness God clearly revealing Himself in our lives and the lives of those around us. We are not able to stay in those moments forever, but when we align the fabric of our lives around the understanding that God is fully present to us, we will continue to see more of Him. It is as if a veil has been lifted and we can see the divine in all things. Life, lived in His grace, becomes more colorful.

Fighting to remain in a moment that has passed or looking to replicate a spiritual experience can prevent us from encountering the will of God in the present. We can certainly delight in the past and should carry moments of divine revelation with us, but we must not let that be a barrier to picking up our cross.

Peter, who wished to stay in the presence of the fully-revealed Christ, would later deny knowing our Lord who had been sentenced to death on a cross. Because God's mercy far exceeds our sinfulness, Peter ultimately became the rock upon which the Christian Church was built and remains today.

Lent gives us the opportunity to better know all aspects of Jesus Christ—our Savior and Higher Power. If you are finding that following him is not always easy—perhaps even confusing and terrifying, at times—then you are not alone. Let us not forget the resurrection that follows the crucifixion and let us continue to weave our recovery into the foundation of our lives.

Reflection Questions

- How has God revealed Himself to you through your recovery journey?
- What helps you remain in the present moment?
- How has life become "more colorful" as a result of your recovery?

Catholic in Recovery Retreat!

Save the date for the weekend of July 30 to August 1 and join us in Wichita, KS for our first national retreat

- Retreat to be held at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita
- Join CIR members from around the country for a weekend of recovery and renewal
- Lodging and meals provided
- Stay tuned for more information and retreat details
- To register, visit slcwichita.org

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

1st Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19
2nd Reading: Romans 8:31b-34
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10