

Second Sunday of Lent
Gen 12:1-4 2Tm 1:8-10 Mt 17:1-9

Sister Catherine Marie Bazar

Every weekday evening at six o'clock, my mother would stand on our front porch and call my six brothers and me, scattered around the neighborhood, back home. The hungry ones came quickly, those having a good time straggled, and those with kitchen duty or unfinished homework dragged themselves in very late. We were all being called to leave something behind because even though we often couldn't see it, my mother had our best interests at heart.

All three readings today address this "God" work of being called that my mother performed. The three apostles must have eagerly climbed the mountain with Jesus, hungry for the privilege of His presence. Timothy and his followers perhaps had to pause and reflect on "sharing in hardship" for the sake of the Gospel message and consider what it would cost them. Finally, Abraham would have to surrender all that he had established and journey across a dangerous and unfamiliar wilderness into a vast unknown. And though God's promises went with him, it reminds me of everyone's raised eyebrows over our mother's admonition, "Someday you'll be grateful I did this!"

Our own lives, too, reveal that sometimes the call to the mountain top has been glamorous as we reflect fondly on our past journeys with their successes and achievements. Sometimes the call has held hesitation when we were asked to dismantle our "comfort zones" and push on. Sometimes it has been filled with darkness and loneliness as we are perhaps led to let go of everything through illness, loss, the death of loved ones, or the slow diminishing of independence. "Rise up," Jesus says. "Do not be afraid."

All these are precious moments of transfiguration in each of our lives. With every death of self interest in daily living, the "glorious appearance of Christ Jesus" is not only revealed with ourselves but is also manifested in the energy released for the transformation of the world. Let us embrace each Divine call joyfully, wholeheartedly, and courageously.

Do not be afraid to begin this Divine journey. . . .
The time will come when you will understand
how trifling everything is next to so precious a reward.
(Teresa of Avila)