

## Second Sunday of Lent

February 17, 2008

*Gn 12:1-4a; 2Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9*

*S. Angelica Velez, OP*

The event of the Transfiguration is a moment of truth. Jesus conversing with Moses and Elijah, a voice proclaiming him as the beloved Son, and Jesus' healing touch that reassures the disciples not to be afraid. Why were the disciples so afraid and why did Jesus instruct them not to tell anyone the vision until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.

The profound truth which the Father revealed at Jesus' Baptism and Transfiguration is that Jesus is the unique Son of God. Peter, John, and James cannot see or know the truth because they do not yet understand that the Son of Man must suffer. The experience was too much for their frightened heart and so they must be assured by Jesus that they do not have to tell anyone. Might they have felt relieved not to worry about telling anyone or about finding shelter for the visitors who appeared out of nowhere. Did the voice from the clouds only confuse them which scared them to fall prostrate? Imagine the journey down the mountain: Jesus aware of their fear instructs them not to tell anyone about what they had seen. The disciples with questions which they could not speak for fear; Jesus with a clearer understanding of his uniqueness and sense of mission. Each person in their own heart pondering truths and doubts. Could the journey down the mountain be a moment of tension or perhaps a moment of profound silence. One can only imagine that, Jesus, so totally aware of his friends fear does what he alone can do...ease their fear. "Rise up, do not be afraid" and "tell no one until the Son of Man has been raised." How loving and compassionate! Jesus' love and compassion move Him from His own pondering of truth to the need of his friends.

Yes, the Transfiguration is an experience of truth in which Jesus is called, "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" and He *is* truth so we are invited to "listen to him". What fears do we face that keep us from seeing and knowing the beloved Son? What keeps us from listening to him? Do we have courage to raise our eyes to see and hear Jesus' words, "Rise, do not be afraid!"