

Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord

At the seminary, we have the Eucharistic Devotion weekend every year. When I was a seminarian, it was one of my favorite times of the year. It was a whole weekend of Eucharistic adoration. One of my brother seminarians used the great image of a family vacation to describe the Eucharistic Devotion weekend. Amidst of the busy academic life at the seminary, the Eucharist Devotion weekend was indeed a great spiritual vacation for all of us seminarians.

Last February, when I was a deacon, we had the Eucharistic Devotion weekend for the year. I was just a couple months away from the ordination so the weekend was particularly special for me. I spent a great time in the presence of Jesus Christ, prayed to him and worshiped Him. The weekend was filled with the grace and the glory of God. In Saturday night of the weekend, we had the festival of praise which was a holy hour with worship songs. I was filled with joy and consolation during the festival of praise just like Peter in today's gospel. Indeed, I had a great spiritual vacation in the presence of Jesus Christ and wanted to stay at that moment. ...Then...after the weekend, I realized that lots of papers and

academic works were waiting for me. However, I also knew that although I could not stay at that moment, Jesus will stay with me through every moment in my life.

The Transfiguration must have been a great moment of grace and glory for the apostles. Peter, James, and John had followed Jesus and listened to His teaching but they had never seen Jesus in such glory before. They were probably filled with great joy and consolation. They wanted the moment to last forever, so Peter said “Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

However, they could not just stay there. Jesus had to push on to Jerusalem. As Jesus taught them before they went up to a mountain, the apostles were called to take up their cross and follow Jesus.

Through the experience of the Transfiguration, the apostles had a foretaste of the great glory of God, then they followed Jesus’ journey to the passion and the cross. The Transfiguration was over but the grace of God remained through the journey in the love of Jesus. As we know, at the end of the journey, the apostles encountered the great glory of resurrected Jesus.

I think Transfiguration and the journey to Jerusalem show us the continuity of our spiritual experience and daily life.

Amidst of busy life, we can sometimes feel the separation of spiritual experience and our daily life. It is easy to forget about God's grace in our busy schedule.

However, our spiritual life cannot be limited to the specific moment of grace. Through daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, retreat or any other spiritual exercise, we experience the great grace of God but we cannot stay enclosed, wrapped up only in those moments. These moments should be the wellsprings of every moment of our lives. God calls us to leave to face the trials of the day. Our spiritual life is recognizing God's grace and glory through every moment of our life. It is recognizing the presence of Jesus in our life.

Therefore, my friends, we may always try to keep this in our mind; At the moment of Transfiguration on the mountain and through the whole journey to Jerusalem, Jesus always led the apostles and walked with them. In every moment of our lives, Jesus leads us and walks with us. Because of him, every moment of our lives is the moment of grace and glory.