

"Embrace trust"

God the Father speaks from heaven; He says that Jesus is his beloved Son and we should listen to him. That is the determinant. We must listen to him. Today we celebrate the divinity of Jesus, last week we celebrated his humanity. Jesus, who overcame the temptations of the devil, He who has given us example and walks with us through all the turbulent moments of history. Jesus's Transfiguration is a call to hope in eternal life. It is a future glimpse of the glorious triumph of Jesus. He keeps giving us a reflection of his face, "transfiguring" whatever worries us about ourselves. We can leave ourselves in Jesus's hands and He will continue working a "transfiguration," in us, at any stage of our lives. Jesus is our glorious Saviour - he came to change our lives, to "save us and call us to a holy life," as St Paul wrote in the Second Reading. All we need to do is "listen to him," to turn our gaze to him, to follow him, and we too will be transfigured. What we call the "transfiguration", is nothing more than the transformation, which must be realized in the life of each one of us, the believers, to follow Jesus, a foretaste of what his followers will afterwards understand with the resurrection. He is God

made man, whose glory is way beyond anything we can imagine. Peter, James, and John got a glimpse of it, and it terrified them. Jesus' face shone like the sun - try to imagine that! His clothes became as white as light - picture that! When they heard the Fathers `voice they fell on their faces, overcome with fear but Jesus said to them: **Stand up: Do not be afraid.** In difficult times; embrace trust. In recent weeks, you would have seen that 9 people from our parish went to the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress where the theme was **"Embrace Trust"**. It was evident to the group that in the American climate, and even indeed our own, there is a great deal of mistrust with government bodies as policies on migrants and refugees contradict Jesus' call to welcome the stranger. Imagine the fear that people who seek a safer life are feeling. Jesus tells us "Do not be afraid ... place your trust in me". Can we be people that others can trust? Can we be people who trust in God completely? We want to be like Him, reach Heaven so we can be with Him, it is wonderful for us to be here, and I will make three tents here....but can we pay the price of the Cross? Will we be able to conquer our routine and mediocrity? Will we persevere on the road of

faith that requires us to be detached from things, to persevere in the use of the proper means, and to abandon ourselves in God's hands to live in sanctifying grace our daily journeys? We need to be transfigured by grace to shine as a ray of light in this world, to be able to show with our holy lives the light of the risen Jesus. It's not a question of understanding the person of Christ, but of accepting him. Faith transfigures our personality more than we could ever imagine. Today let's renew our choice to listen to Jesus, to depend more on God than on ourselves, to "place our trust in him," as today's Psalm put it. *"Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you"* In the first reading we listened that *Abraham went as the Lord told him*. Abraham is described in the Holy Scripture as our father in faith "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go" (Hebrews) He placed his trust in God. Abraham not only believed in God's promise, he promptly obeyed and did as the Lord commanded him. God chose Abraham as his instrument of blessing. We might be instruments of blessing for our brothers and sisters today; helping to rebuild trust is one of

the challenges of our time and giving our whole lives to Him and foremost in difficult times could be a great solution to achieve slowly and constantly the trust we all need. We must trust and obey him. I believe we are on the way; we will have to go up and down, purify, pray, uninstall, and follow the desert of Lent, which leads to death and life. It is in the reality of each day, where we have to seek the transfiguration of people and society. May our face, like Jesus' face, reflect the face of a God who seeks that all men reach the fullness and the meaning of life, may we say yes to life and the constant transformation of the world. Jesus is about to renew his commitment to us through the sacrifice of this Mass and the gift of his body and blood in Holy Communion. When he does, let's ask forgiveness for the times we haven't trusted him enough. And let's promise that from now on, depending on his help, we will let him lead us up the mountain, and wherever else he wants us to go.