



Living Water



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March 10, 2017

BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS • *OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD*

2nd Sunday of Lent

THEME

We overcome temptation when we listen to God's voice.

WORD

Gn 12:1-4; Psalm 33:4-5,18-22; 2Tm 1:8-10/Mt. 17:1-9

ORDER

- "This is my son, the beloved, with him I am well pleased, listen to him." (Mt. 17:5)
- "Get up and do not be afraid." (Mt. 17:7)

DIRECTION

- Rely on the power of God.
- Let us join together in suffering for the Gospel.
- Let us continue to persevere and be faithful to our calling.

REFLECTION

There is something about the mountains that provides us some awe – inspiring feeling of being closer to our Creator. No wonder that the



Bible mentions various instances when God chooses to reveal Himself and His plans in the mountain top. When He gave His Ten Commandments, Moses had to ascend Mount Sinai. Jesus gave His first teachings on the beatitudes during His Sermon on the Mount. When He wanted to pray to His Father in heaven, He usually retired in the mountain top. Our Gospel reading for this second Sunday of Lent tells us about the Transfiguration of Jesus at the top of Mount Tabor. From the mountain top, the air is freshly clean and it feels crisp.

The panoramic view of a city from afar and the surrounding country side down below and along the mountain slope helps us to forget for a moment the busyness and the anxieties of our lives. As we gaze up to the sky, one can feel the closeness of God and it helps us raise our hearts and minds to Him, who is our Creator and our Provider.

Jesus was transfigured as witnessed by HisP2

(Cont'd from P.1)

...three apostles Peter, John and James, who also saw the presence of the Old Testament respected figures, Moses and Elijah. Moses was the great law giver and Elijah was the great prophet. This moment fulfills what Jesus said that He did not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but He came to bring them into completion. He brings its fulfillment when He claims that He is the way, the truth and the life. He is both a true God and a true man. His accompanying apostles represent all of us Christians as to what God the Father instructed them when they heard His voice saying "This is my Son, the Beloved; with Him I am well pleased; listen to Him!". When the apostles heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." For all of us here in this present time, who are the followers of Christ, these are fitting words for us to persevere in our journey here on earth, not to be afraid but to get up each day and continue the work of Jesus that He left us to do until the time when we will be with Him in heaven.

It is good for us to find our mountain top experience where God's voice can come down clearly. We can overcome the differing voices of temptations through the works of the evil one by focusing our eyes on Jesus alone and straining our ears to listen to His Word. God speaks to us through the Scriptures. God shows His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. God gives Himself to us through the Holy Eucharist that we received in the Holy Mass. God's voice can be heard as we listen closely to the calls for help from our less fortunate brothers and sisters. God is always present in our

lives as we continue to live through His ways, through His truth and through His life. In return, God gives us a promise when He said "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless You." (Gn 12:2) Such a great promise to those who are willing to accept God's will for their lives. In the first reading, God calls Abraham to leave his country and go to the promised land. He put his own life and his family into the hands of God. For this unquestioning faith, God fulfills His promise to make him a leader of a great nation and to whom his own people will respect and obey.

During this season of Lent, let us make a personal transfiguration experience in our own lives as we ask ourselves these questions: How open am I to the will of God in my life?

Are there any standing blocks that prevent me from committing my life to Jesus? If there are any, how do I plan to overcome these blocks? We need to discern His will for each of us. We need to open ourselves to whatever His plans are for us. When we are ready to do this personal transfiguration, we can be assured with the same feeling of joy and consolation that the apostles who came with Jesus to the mountain top. We will wish for this experience to go on forever, even if we know that life in this world is not forever. Forever is where the place that Jesus has prepared for us in His Father's house. Then and only then that we can understand the apostle Peter's feeling when he said "Lord, it is good for us to be here".

PROMISE

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you" (Gn 12:2)

ANSWERING THE CALL OF WHERE I AM

BLD Toronto's Start-of-the-Year Retreat



By Jing Pabalinas - Singles Ministry

I really enjoyed our community's Start-of-the-Year Retreat last weekend. Fr. John Sullivan, the retreat facilitator, was not only vibrant and engaging, but he spoke with a passion and conviction that permeated through my heart and soul. With his amusing anecdotes and simple audio-visual aids, he made it easy for me to understand and internalize the complex subject of the Retreat's main theme: "The Call, Where Are You?"

As I listened to his talks and absorbed all the things he said, I found myself reflecting on my own identity and my personal calling from God. Many of us go through a time of reflection in our journey of faith to ascertain our identity both in the community and in the world around us. And it was during the retreat that I pondered on who I am in the context of the events that happened and continue to evolve in my life – things such as where I was born, the qualities I possess (ie. being super friendly), the job I do, the future I envision for myself, the role I play in the BLD community, and the place I hold in the Singles Ministry.

What struck me the most was **Fr. John's explanation** that whenever we look at ourselves as members of this community, **the question of "Who am I?"** must always come secondary to the critical question that Jesus

posed to His disciples: **"Who do you say that I am?"** As weird as this question seems, I realized that it is only through a clear understanding of Christ's mission in this world that we can answer that question and know God's purpose in our lives. And it is only through **the cross that we can experience God's love...** a kind of love that goes beyond our superficial attachments to names, birth places, hobbies, careers or even the work we do in the BLD community. It is a love that gives us the strength to keep walking our long journey through sin and grace...the unconditional love that allows us to be who we are without fear of rejection or condemnation.

So if you ask me where I am, my answer will come from a place where I share the joy and the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the Pastoral Services Ministry for organizing this event and I look forward to seeing everyone in the next retreat!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 2017 Lectors



March 10

1st ReadingEdna Nitoral
PsalmBong/Jojo Ortiz
2nd ReadingNestor/Imelda Vilela

March 17

1st Reading ...Eden Mercado
PsalmErlinda Gavia
2nd Reading....DianeMngalindan

March 31

1st Reading ...Merlo/Ellen Binoya
PsalmTildeng Cortez
2nd Reading ...John/Veronica Idachaba

YOUTH
MINISTRY



KORNER

YLSS # 18 SHEPHERDING SCHEDULE

March 10 – New Life/Receiving

God's Gifts

March 17— One on One
Shepherding

March 24 – Invocation Mass

March 25-26 – YLSS 18 Weekend

Proper (St. Martin Secondary School,
Mississauga)

March 31 – Growth/Transformation

**SINGLES
ENCOUNTER**
VALLEY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
MAY 5-7, 2017 #20
PICK UP FORMS AT THE SINGLES TABLE IN THE BASEMENT EVERY FRIDAY

The background of the text features silhouettes of people's heads and shoulders, and a white dove with a flame above it.