



KEEP ME COMPANY FOR 15 MINUTES

Our Lady to Sr. Lucia, 10th December 1925

First Saturday of the Month



The Fourth Luminous Mystery

Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

We will be transfigured like Christ on Tabor

Introduction:

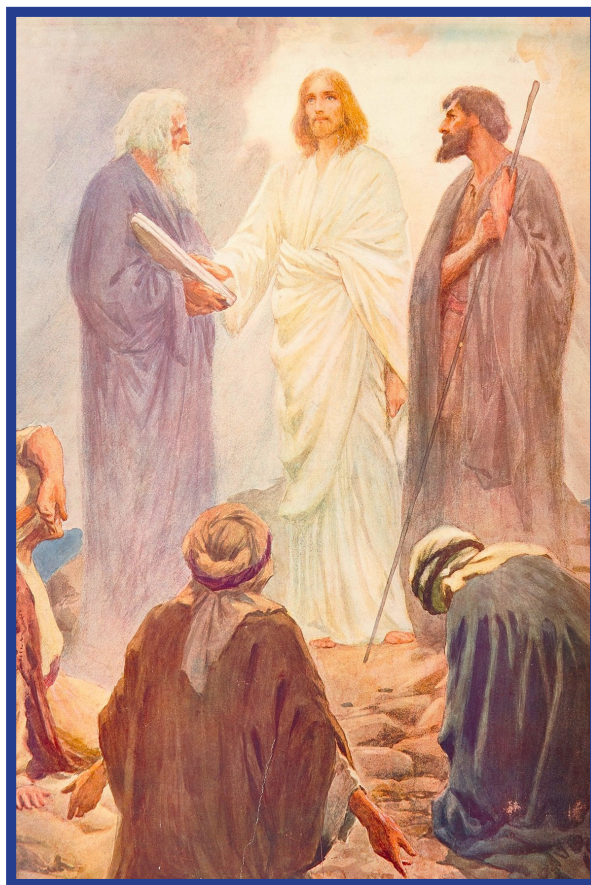
Let us make our First Saturday devotion on the 4th Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ. King of all things visible and invisible, whose kingdom will have no end, Jesus manifested his glorious divinity to three of his disciples on top of Mount Tabor, revealing to them for a moment the indescribable happiness that is reserved for us in Heaven.

Meditation Setting

For our Meditation setting, let us imagine a beautiful hill rising in the middle of fields and plains that stretch into the distance. At the top of the mountain, we can see Our Lord resplendent with light and glory, as the three disciples contemplate Him, and Moses and Elijah, at the time of the Transfiguration.

Preparatory Prayer

O glorious Lady of Fátima, Queen of Heaven and Earth who intercedes for us near to the throne of Christ the King, obtain for us the necessary graces to meditate well on this luminous Mystery of the Rosary. May we desire always to seek virtue and good, along the path of holiness to which we are called. With your maternal help, we pray that we will achieve eternal happiness of which the Transfiguration of the Lord was a foreshadowing. Amen.



"The Transfiguration"
Margetson

Gospel of Saint Mark (9, 2-13):

"At that time Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, to a separate place on a high mountain. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as the light. Then Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. Then Peter took the floor and said: "Lord, it is good for us to

stay here. If you want, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” Peter was still speaking when a bright cloud enveloped them and a voice came out of the cloud saying: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!”

I - HOPE OF OUR OWN TRANSFIGURATION

On the summit of Mount Tabor, in the presence of his disciples Peter, James and John, Our Lord showed them a vision of his glorious divinity, transfiguring himself before them. The Master’s face became as bright as the sun, and his garments became white as snow.



“The Transfiguration of Christ”
Netherlandish School

1. Figure of what happens with each baptism

The transformation that took place in Jesus on that mountain of the Holy Land, appearing resplendent with light in the eyes of the apostles, happens in a certain way to every Christian at the moment of their Baptism. In fact, when the baptismal waters fall on the new child of God, the Holy Trinity takes possession of his creature.

This, spiritually speaking, shines through the divine presence in that soul, to which God communicates His infinite beauty and light. Hence the inestimable importance and richness of this Sacrament which introduces us to the Christian life, and which we must honour with the holiness of our lives.

From now on, we must ask ourselves: how have we lived this condition of ours as baptised children of God, called to transfiguration into eternal glory?

2. Anticipation of our own transfiguration

We are, indeed, destined to be transfigured like Christ, for His glorification on Tabor is a foretaste of our future glorification in Heaven. The consequence is that our way of life must also be transformed. We Catholics must be spiritualised and transfigured, following the teaching of Pope Saint Leo the Great who warns us:

“O Christian, become aware of your dignity. And since you participate in the divine nature, do not go back to the mistakes of the past by a behaviour unworthy of your condition. Remember that you were plucked from the power of darkness and brought into the light and kingdom of God.”

Let us therefore bear in mind that it is up to us to live in this world exercising a “continuous spiritual transfiguration.” In this way, the fact of the Transfiguration offers us a message of hope: if we strive for a virtuous life, if we are holy and faithful to our baptismal promises, we will be transfigured like Christ on Tabor.

II – A FORETASTE OF PARADISE

“Oh, sweet hope!” Saint Alphonsus de Liguori exclaims for this reason. A day will come when we too see God as he is, that is, we will see the uncreated beauty, which contains, in an infinitely perfect way, all the beauties scattered throughout the universe and “we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is” (Jn. 3, 2).

1. Detach yourself from the things of the world

Let us consider first that the ascent of the disciples to Mount Tabor leads us to reflect on the importance of detaching ourselves from the things of the world in order to tread a path upwards, to contemplate Jesus in His divinity and in the manifestations of His eternal goodness towards us.

We must, therefore, be willing to have moments of prayer and meditation that allow us to disconnect from the occupations of this earthly life, and to raise our thoughts to Heaven and the eternal realities that await us.



2. The Beauty of Paradise

Let us also consider how the apostles enjoyed the beauty of Paradise on Mount Tabor: Saint Peter and his happy companions tasted just a drop of heavenly sweetness and then they begged Jesus to allow them to remain always in that place. What then will become of us, when the Lord satisfies us with the abundance of his house, and makes us drink from the stream of his delights? (Ps 35, 9), asks Saint Alphonsus of Liguori.

St. Peter and the other two apostles saw only a single ray of the divinity of Jesus Christ, which shone from his sacred humanity. However, not being able to sustain such a brilliance, they were dazzled and fell face down to the earth. What then will it be when the Lord lets himself be seen face to face by his chosen ones, as he is in himself? Once again, let us remember that such beautiful destiny awaits us too, if we strive to deserve it in the time we still have left.

III - SOURCE OF COURAGE TO FACE SUFFERING

However, the glory enjoyed by the three fortunate disciples was short-lived. With this the Lord wants to make us understand that the consolations that he gives us in this life are intended to encourage us and give us strength, since the present time is a period of preparation and not one of ultimate fulfilment.

1. Before the Passion, the certainty of divine glory

To accomplish the Redemption through His death on the Cross and to establish the Church, Our Lord Jesus Christ would subject the Apostles to severe trials. It was therefore fitting that He first reveal the splendour of His glory to at least three of them. Thus strengthened, they could better endure the horror of His Passion and, in turn, more readily fortify their brethren, thus sustaining the Holy Church.

The Transfiguration of the Lord was, therefore, an exceptional grace granted to the three chosen apostles, on top of Mount Tabor, to prepare them for His Passion and

death. The memory of what they witnessed became a bedrock of unshakable confidence, sustaining them through the severest trials—for in beholding it, they had glimpsed eternity's full, radiant splendour.

2. We are also granted extraordinary graces

It is true that God also grants us extraordinary graces at certain moments in our lives. Who will not have felt, at some time, an interior joy, a throbbing of the heart, a calm but deep emotion when sensitive grace visits us and grants us interior contemplations, anticipatory tastings of the perfect happiness that awaits us in Heaven? Let us pause for a moment and try to remember some of these graces and the salutary effects they have had on our hearts.

Saint Teresa of Jesus and Saint John of the Cross, teachers of the spiritual life, say that Providence usually grants these special graces to strengthen us when we must go through periods of trial. It is a common way for God to act when he gives us a consolation – the Tabor – so that, when the time of our personal Garden of Olives comes, we will have the strength to endure, knowing that ultimately we will experience a fullness of joy and happiness. They are graces that encourage us to face the sacrifices of this life.

3. Being strong in difficult times

Let us understand, therefore, that it is good to stay with Jesus when our life is on "Mount Tabor." But do we feel the same dispositions when we are in the Garden of Olives, that is, when the time of our ordeal approaches? It is easy to stay with Jesus when everything in our lives is going well.

But when the time of tribulation comes, do we have the same courage and faith to continue with Him? Do we have the same disposition to sip the bitter chalice of sacrifice and not just taste the light of Tabor?

Jesus gives us the consolation to be strong in times of difficulties, to be faithful to Him when He calls us to share the suffering of His passion. It is in this faithfulness during pain—and not just in consolations—that we can say that we love Him with all our hearts.

Conclusion

Let us, therefore, be encouraged and try to patiently accept the tribulations that God sends us, offering them to the Lord in union with the sufferings Jesus Christ bore for our love and in union with Most Holy Mary, our merciful Co-Redemptrix. When crosses afflict us, let us raise our eyes to heaven and console ourselves with the hope and expectation of paradise.

At the Transfiguration, the voice of the Father was heard saying: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!" Let us turn to the Glorious Lady of Fatima, the Mother of her beloved Son, who always knew how to welcome and keep in her Immaculate Heart every word of His, and let us ask her to help us also to hear the words of Christ addressed to us, to respond to all the graces He bestows on us, so that Jesus truly becomes the guide and light of our whole life, until we are transfigured with Him into the glory of Heaven.

