



## PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

*Second Sunday of Lent:*

### LOOKING FOR GLORY? – FOLLOW JESUS!

The Gospel reading for the second Sunday of Lent is the story of the Transfiguration of Christ taken from the Gospel of Luke. We often read in the Gospels that one of Jesus' favorite places to pray was on a mountain. One day, Jesus took Peter, James, and John along with him up a mountain to pray. According to tradition, the place of the Transfiguration is Mount Tabor, a solitary mountain that rises over 1600 feet in the lower Galilee region. At its summit is the Basilica of the Transfiguration, highlighted by its twin towers, double altars, and gorgeous mosaics of the Transfiguration. The Basilica of the Transfiguration is owned and maintained by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, who receives financial support from the Good Friday Collection that is taken up in parishes all over the world.

In the Gospel account in Luke 9, we hear that as Jesus prayed, His face became radiant, and his clothes became "dazzling white." Two men appeared at His side, identified as Moses and Elijah. The disciples had fallen asleep but awoke to this magnificent and somewhat frightening sight. Peter, always quick to speak what he is thinking, blurts out that they should build three tents on the spot in order to stay and savor this glorious event. Is not Peter's suggestion reminiscent of what we always wish to do with the good, true, and beautiful moments of our lives? But in the Gospel story, as with each of us, though the disciples could savor this incredible "mountain-top" moment, they could not stay there.

Our earthly lives are most often lived in the plains and the valleys as we face the challenges and difficulties of everyday life. But the key to facing life with both its joys and sorrows is given to us in at the end of Luke's account as a cloud overshadows the disciples, and a voice is heard proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him" (Lk 9:35). It is our mission as Christian disciples always to listen to Jesus - to unite our will to His holy and perfect will. The reward for that surrender is to be able to see Christ and share in His glory in heaven forever.

All Catholics are challenged each Lent to be drawn into a closer and more personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Christians who still live in the Holy Land face incredible, and most recently, life-threatening difficulties each day as they struggle just to stay alive amid the scourges of war. Our brothers and sisters in Christ, many of whose families are descended from first century Christians, are being driven from their homes and have no access to health care services, work, food, and water. To help our brother Christians in the Holy Land and to preserve the Holy Sites such as the Basilica of the Transfiguration, please make a generous contribution on Good Friday to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.



*The inside dome in the Basilica of Transfiguration, Mt. Tabor, Gallilee*

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