

REFLECTION



A missionary friend working in a country where many forms of violence are a part of the fabric of everyday life remarked to me recently that she was very conscious that she can choose whether to stay or leave. This is a choice that the people to whom she has dedicated her life do not have. Some friends and family members do not understand how she could choose to put her own life in danger for the sake of the people she has come to love as her own.

Such a choice faces Jesus in today's Gospel. In Luke's version of this story, which we hear every year on the second Sunday of Lent, there are unique details that point to an earlier source that tells us more clearly what really happened at the transfiguration.

The episode is set at an important turning point in the Gospel. Jesus has been teaching, preaching, healing, exorcising demons and gathering disciples as he traverses Galilee. But soon he will "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51). Something happens on the mountaintop that helps Jesus to know what is his next step in his mission. Luke alone notes that when Jesus goes up the mountain with Peter, James and John, his purpose is to pray.

A clue to the nature of Jesus' prayer comes in the content of the conversation among Jesus, Moses and Elijah. They "spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem." Jesus is wrestling with the decision whether he should leave Galilee and direct his efforts toward Jerusalem, the center of religious and political power. There is still much to do in Galilee, and he could continue to minister there, but he struggles to know whether his efforts could bring about greater systemic change if he were to go to Jerusalem.

But Jesus is no fool. The handwriting is on the wall. Opposition to him is already mounting, and it would only intensify if he were to go to Jerusalem. As at every major turning point in the Gospel, Jesus enters into deep communion with God as he discerns what to do.

In this profound encounter with God, Jesus receives surety about his next steps, and this "aha" experience is visible on his face. Notably, Luke does not say that Jesus was transfigured; rather, that "his face changed in appearance." Like Moses, whose face was radiant after being with God on Mount Sinai (Ex 34:29), and Hannah, whose face was lifted up after her prayer was heard (1 Sm 1:18), so Jesus' encounter with God is written on his face. He comes to understand that indeed, he is to go to Jerusalem and that he will be put to death there, but his death will not be the end of his life and mission. Rather, his exit from earthly life will bring the new liberation for God's people. The Greek word *exodos* (9:31) literally means "exit," connoting "death" (2 Pt 1:15), and also evokes the liberation of the Israelites from slavery.

During this intense prayer of discernment, Jesus is given sure signs that he is guided by God in his choice. A cloud, the sign of God's presence with the Israelites as they went forth from Egypt, overshadows him as at his baptism. Two heavenly messengers embody the divine presence, giving Jesus strength as he leans on God's word in the law and the prophets. The heavenly voice reassures both him and his disciples of Jesus' chosen status and the rightness of his choice. Thus assured of God's love and direction, Jesus turns his transformed face toward Jerusalem.

Placing his own life in danger, Jesus makes a deliberate, prophetic choice to continue to "proclaim release to the captives" (4:18), as he had declared in his hometown synagogue. His death is not an inevitable fate but a choice for freeing love.

- America Magazine, February 2010

CATHOLICS COME HOME



Are you Returning to Your Catholic Roots! Welcome Home!

Whether you've been away from the Church for 1, 5, 10, 15, or even 30 years or more, our parish family is delighted to welcome you home to the Catholic Church. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit the *Catholics Come Home* website in English at CatholicsComeHome.org. Don't remember how to go to confession? That's alright . . . when you enter the confessional, simply tell the priest you've forgotten how and he will guide you through the process, step by step. [Confessions at St. Joseph Church are held every Saturday evening from 6:30-7:30 PM or by appointment.] **The Catholics Come Home group continues meeting Mondays at 7:00 in the Church Meeting Room. This week we will be talking about the Sacraments. All are welcome!** For more information about Catholics Come Home call the Parish Office at 447-2354.

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECTS

As part of our Lenten journey with the Lord, please consider those less fortunate by supporting the following Outreach Commission Projects.

Monthly Food Drive for the Food Locker - The monthly food drive will be held during Lent the weekend of March 13-14. Items especially needed include: canned soups, ravioli, chili, peanut butter, oatmeal and boxed cereals. Please pray in earnest for those in need of this food and assistance.

Annual Paper & Plastics Drive for Opportunity House - The weekend of March 20-21, we will hold our annual Paper & Plastic Supplies drive at all Masses for the Opportunity House Homeless Shelter. Please "stock up" while doing your shopping in the next weeks to prepare for this drive. Paper and plastic products needed include: toilet paper, paper towels, plastic "food handling" gloves, plastic food wrap, Ziploc Bags (freezer storage bags and sandwich bags), 13 gallon kitchen garbage bags and "Hefty" Lawn & Leaf bags. Please pray for the homeless and those who assist them.

LENTEN SCHEDULE



Daily Mass - Daily Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 PM in the Chapel throughout the Lenten season in addition to our regular morning schedule.

Daybreaks - Please pick up your complimentary copy of Daily Reflections for Lent & Easter to help you with your Lenten Resolutions. We have provided only one copy per household.

Friday Night Soup - Each Friday night during Lent at 5:30 PM you are invited to enjoy soup and bread in the Notre Dame Gym before praying the Stations of the Cross.

Stations of the Cross - You are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday evening at 7:00 PM The service will conclude each week with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Joseph Relay for Life Team - This year's Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010 at Vacaville High School. Team St. Joseph is already registered to participate and our online link is up. It's not too early to join our team and start fundraising to find a cure. Go to: www.RelayForLife.org/VacavilleCA team name: St. Joseph. Sign ups will also be done after Masses beginning in April. Please pray for all those affected by this disease. For more information or to join the St. Joseph's Team by phone, please call Donna Novak at (707) 447-6797.

Alpha Pregnancy Center Needs Volunteers - God is presenting many new and exciting opportunities to serve at alpha. As we grow in areas to serve God and the people of Solano County, we also grow in places to be filled with God's people. If you have a heart to serve or know someone with this gift, please call or come into the center in your area and pick up an application. Training will begin in April. Contact Diane Leslie at (707) 449-8992, 138 S. Orchard Avenue, Vacaville, CA or dianeleslie@alphaprc.org for more information.

Lifeline Ministry - Losing a job, the loss of a loved one or family struggles can be overwhelming for many of us. Sometimes talking about our difficulties can ease our troubles and help us move beyond our pain or relieve our stress. We at the Lifeline Ministry can help you during this difficult time. We offer one-on-one confidential meetings with you which are a free service offered through the parish. Please contact the Lifeline Ministry at (707) 447-2354.

Memorial Easter Lilies - Flowers will adorn our church during the Easter Season this year. Please consider purchasing an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. Names of loved ones and donors will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$20. Please Return this form to the Parish Office with your payment.



In Memory Of: _____

Donor Name: _____

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Dn 9:4-10; Ps 79:8-9,11,13; Lk 6:36-38
 Tues. Is 1:10,16-20; Ps 50:8-9,16-17,21,23; Mt 23:1-12
 Wed. Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6,14-16; Mt 20:17-28
 Thurs. Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4,6; Lk 16:19-31
 Fri. Gn 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43,45-46
 Sat. Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Ps 103:1-4,9-12; Lk 15:1-3,11-32
 Sun. Ex 3:1-8,13-15; Ps 103:1-4,6-8,11; 1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12; Lk 13:1-9

FAITH FORMATION

The Youth Group is working with "Blue Star Moms" on a community service project sending care packages to support our troops. This weekend 2/20-2/21 and next weekend 2/27-2/28 we will be collecting snack sized, individually packaged items such as mints, candies, cookies, granola bars, energy bars, cereal, fruit snacks, powder drinks, beef jerky sticks, canned foods and meats (with pop tops). We also need gallon size plastic zip top bags to collect all the donated goods, packing tape and monetary donations made payable to "Blue Star Moms." Blue fliers are located in the Narthex for additional information or log on to www.solanobluestarmoms.org. Thank you for your generous donations!

NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

Notre Dame School is now accepting applications for Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year. These forms are available in the school office. You need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records, and a letter from your parish. Notre Dame School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national/ethnic origin in admission policy or employment practices. For information, call the school office at 447-1460, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday-Friday.



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Please give generously to the Annual Catholic Appeal - 25% comes back to our parish.



Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the 2010 Catholic Annual Appeal. Seminarians currently in formation, Catholic school students, the sick, the aged, and people in need—they all depend on our generosity. Thank you for pledging today to help meet our parish goal. Greatly increasing participation here in our parish assures the continuation of these efforts.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM-----Arthur Braida, R.I.P.
 Mon. 12:15 PM-----Int. of Phuong Larson
 Tues. 7:00 AM -----
 Tues. 12:15 PM-----Int. of Dottie Deramo
 Wed. 8:15 AM -----Wilfredo Santa Elena, R.I.P.
 Wed. 12:15 PM-----Corky Carlise, R.I.P.
 Thurs. 7:00 AM-----
 Thurs. 12:15 PM-----
 Fri. 7:00 AM-----Joan Singer, R.I.P.
 Fri. 12:15 PM-----
 Sat. 8:15 AM-----Johnie Owings, R.I.P.
 Sat. 5:00 PM-----Theresa Fernandez, R.I.P.
 Sun. 7:00 AM-----Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8:30 AM-----Sick Members of the Parish
 Sun. 10:00 AM-----World Peace
 Sun. 12:00 PM-----Vocations to the Priesthood