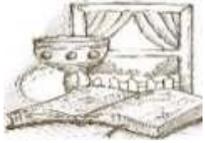


From My Rectory Window...



“Got the Pitcha”, using the local city dialect we will try to form in our minds what the story truly is. Hence the need of mentally picturing what we can not necessarily visualize without a little help from the “Heavenly multi-media”. The second Sunday of Lent brings to our attention the great sign worked for the select little group of Apostles, Peter, James and John, on top of Mount Tabor. There the Lord Jesus who always seemed to just blend into the crowd, now “distinguishes” Himself in what is called a “Theophany” like what happened on the banks of the River Jordan. This time it is not the craggy John the Baptist roughly pouring out a flow of river water over Jesus to regenerate renewed observance of the Jewish Law, unwittingly present for a manifestation of the Trinity, rather it is the Lord Himself who reveals something of His divinity to His utterly stupefied and totally overwhelmed followers. He begins to glow with unearthly light and is joined by two other holy beings who had predated him in time, but nonetheless were present to “discuss” the way that the Passion (Passover from death to life) was going to be the way in which the Lord would redeem the world (Moses from the perspective of the Law, and Elijah from the view of the fulfillment of all the prophecies concerning the Messiah). This Heavenly sight is granted to the Apostles who are so shocked that they become weak in the knees and literally fall backward, unable to process the visual information which is presented to them. The Transfiguration of the Lord helps them to deal with the utter scandal and shame which would befall Our Lord. It was meant as an encouragement and a portent of what would surely follow. “Say nothing about what you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead” Matt 17 V9. These were the words the Lord spoke to the “recovering” Apostles as they descended from the mountain to prepare them for what was to follow. They then pondered what “risen from the dead” could mean. The Apostles were slow learners. I have placed an iconographic image, a hand painted Icon of this event in the Sanctuary for everyone to ponder. It is a liturgical snapshot if you will, of the Transfiguration, showing the Apostles practically falling out of the image, so overwhelmed as they were. I supposed it would take a lot to overawe the best of us, but this event was literally “out of this world”. This Sunday’s Gospel is meant to set the tone for the rest of this “great season of Lent” While we may be continuing along on this Lenten Journey, the 17th of March is always a remembrance of the holy Apostle of Ireland: St. Patrick. While we are required to maintain the Lenten colors etc. we nonetheless will honor the very Catholic ancestry and tradition of so many of our Parishioners with a “Cozy Irish Tea” thanks to the grand Irish Soda Bread bakers of our Parish. This will take place after the 10:00 A.M. Mass in the Parish Center. Come and join us for a bit of “Home” The Solemnity of St. Joseph the Patron of the universal Church will be marked on its traditional day of March 19th with a Solemn Mass and the blessing of Bread in honor of the Breadwinner of the Holy Family at 8:00 A.M. in the Chapel, followed by a special “Coffee And” with the “**and**” being traditional St. Joseph’s pastries. Come and join us as we mark this “Oasis Day” in Lent. Our Lenten Mission was wonderful, spiritual and heartwarming. It was a joy to have the Franciscan Friars and Sisters with us to give us a Parish Retreat and a real assistance to our Lenten devotion. Thanks to all our nurses, our ushers, our sacristans, and all who helped to make it the spiritual event it was. It’s lighter now in the evenings so we will see what happens with our provisional 5:45 Mass. As I said last Sunday, if it is well attended then we will keep it in lighter times of the year, but if it is not then it will be discontinued. We’ll know pretty soon. Remember our weekly Lenten Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 3:30 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. both in the Chapel. Also, the wonderful Lenten Soups prepared each week after the afternoon stations by our own “Chef” David Milecki, we had some first-class Pasta Fagioli (or *Pasta Fazull* as pronounced by the old Jersey City and Brooklyn Crowd). Enjoying with you the singing of the birds in the early morning, reminding us of the coming of spring.

Your Pastor and servant: Fr. Pat Papalia