2nd Sunday of Lent (Yr. C). March 13, 2022. Gen. 15: 5-12; 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28-36.

**“This is My Beloved Son, hear him”. “Lord, give me the grace for transformation.”**

 The common theme of today’s readings is metamorphosis or transformation- **LIKE “FROM A CATERPILLAR INTO A BUTTERFLY!!!”** The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent so that they radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

 **Scripture lessons:** The first reading describes the transformation of a pagan patriarch into a believer in the one God, the transformation of his name from Abram to Abraham and the first covenant of God with Abraham’s family as a reward for Abraham’s obedience to God. In the Transfiguration account in today’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult his Heavenly Father in order to ascertain His plan for His Son’s suffering, death and Resurrection. The secondary aim was to make his chosen disciples aware of his Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial.

**Life messages:** (1) **The “transfiguration” in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength:** In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become “transfigured” or “transformed” into the living Body and Blood of the crucified, risen and glorified Jesus. Just as Jesus' Transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. (2) **Each time we receive one of the Sacraments, we are transformed:** For example, Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness. (3**) The Transfiguration of Jesus offers us a message of encouragement and hope:** In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our own transfiguration in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: "This is my beloved Son; share the glory of His transfiguration”. 4**) We need “mountain-top experiences” in our lives:** We share the mountain-top experience of Peter, James, and John when we spend extra time in prayer during Lent. Fasting for one day can help the body to store up spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can help us have thoughts that are far higher and nobler than our usual mundane thinking.

**WHAT ARE WE TO DO THEN?** Today’s readings challenge us to radiate the glory of the transfigured Jesus by renewing our lives in the observance of Lent. And so we pray, “Lord, give me the grace for total transformation”- a word which Biologists call “Metamorphosis”- which means “A radical change in form or appearance.” I always remember as children in our Biology class in school, curiously watching the process of the Caterpillar turning into a Chrysalis, and then bursting into a beautiful “Monarch Butterfly”. Yes! This is what God intends us to be-a metamorphosis, a total transformation. This is what Matthew Kelly means when he says: “GOD ISN’T INTERESTED IN OUR TWEAKING; HE IS INTERESTED IN OUR TOTAL TRANSFORMATION”. (I.E. God doesn’t want to change some parts of our lives but he wants to transform every aspect of our lives!) In short, don’t pick and choose, but give them all! And ultimately, our transformed lives will enable us to radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives. **Yes, “FROM A CATERPILLAR INTO A BUTTERFLY.”**