

Lenten Reflection

Second Sunday of Lent March 12, 2017



By Sister Marilyn McMillin, CDP

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun.

St. John Paul II added five mysteries to the Rosary. He called them the Luminous Mysteries. The 4th Luminous Mystery is the “Transfiguration.” It is amazing what the evolving trends of society can do to a word. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary synonyms for ‘luminous’ include: beaming, bedazzling, brilliant, candescent, clear, dazzling, effulgent, fulgent, glowing, incandescent, lambent, lucent, lucid, bright, lustrous, radiant, refulgent sheeny, shining, shiny, and splendid.

Today, ‘luminous’ is commonly applied to makeup that covers imperfections that we all show as we age. If we use it, we are guaranteed the ability to push back time, to hide flaws and to become radiant. If you had asked our beloved Sister Genevieve Brandstetter how she was, inevitably she would respond, “Splendid.” Sister Genevieve was “splendid.” She was luminous because what you saw was what you got. She never tried to cover up anything but to uncover the radiance of Christ who lived in her and the rest of us.

Peter, James, and John! Those three again. Up the hill with Jesus, they were tired from the exercising and the celebration of the Feast of the Tabernacle. Peter, James, and John sound asleep and then awakened by a sight that dazzled their eyes and bewildered their souls. From under the cloud they heard that beautiful, sonorous voice that proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son...Listen to Him.” The three of them wanted to stay, to prolong that experience. They had to go back, to the crowds, to the others and to tell no one until Christ was risen from the dead.

Peter, James, and John needed that wondrous sight to strengthen them for the long road ahead. Despite their sinfulness and frailty, they would come to realize that the brilliance of the radiant Christ before them lived within them and all of God’s people. Those three were sent to eventually help people to uncover the Christ within.

Yes, Sister Genevieve was splendid. She was radiant with the love of the Source of love. This Lent, let us repeatedly bring to mind the Transfiguration. May we make a tremendous effort to see the glory of our Risen Lord within each and every person. May we rejoice in His presence within ourselves.

*“To love another person is to see the face of God.”
- Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables**

