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ENCOUNTERING "THE DIMENSIONS OF GOD"

John Dalla Costa

Mountains in scripture are not for scenic tourism. The toil of climb is for separation and preparation, to shed by the striving and struggle of ascent those habits that keep us stuck in the comfortable, and numb to God.

Climbing is prayer. As we learn from Abraham and Moses, that exertion in obedience and purification ultimately triggers a receptivity for the light and love of God to pour with transformative fury into our lives.

This happened to Peter, James and John. As the theologian Andreas Andreopolis explains, the Transfiguration did not change Jesus. The miracle on Mount Tabor was in the "perceptive capability" granted to the disciples to see Jesus only as he truly is - as the Incarnated Son of God.

We should probably kneel pondering this glimpse of the Trinity. The resplendent glory of the Father, which shines so brilliantly through the Son, is apprehensible to the cowering disciples only by the amazing gifts of the Holy Spirit. Fear is a good response to this theophany of love. But so is glee, because we have been baptized into this Trinity, and actively participate in Transfiguration with every Eucharist.

Lent is a process for reawakening reverence, using repentance and prayer to hone the "perceptive capability" to see God in all things. Our challenge this Lent is to experience this transfiguration materially as well as spiritually, in ways that transform perceptions about our precious planet, and all the life it sustains.

We have some great mentors for this task. One is St. Bonaventure, the medieval mystic and theologian who taught that the soul's journey includes encountering God in the beauty, diversity, interdependence, order, and dynamism forever unfolding in nature. Another is the Jesuit palaeontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, who discerned the pattern of transfiguring holiness in the very rocks and geological record of evolution. "Blessed be you," wrote de Chardin, "universal matter, immeasurable time, boundless ether, triple abyss of stars and atoms and generations: you who by overflowing and dissolving our narrow standards or measurement reveal to us the dimensions of God."

Today's Readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-35, 37; Mark 9:2-10

Dear Jesus,

Help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.
 Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.
 Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly
 that all my life may only be a radiance of Yours.
 Shine through me and be so in me
 that every soul I come in contact with may feel
 Your presence in my soul.
 Let them look up and see no longer me
 but only Jesus!
 Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine
 as You shine,
 so to shine as to be a light to others;
 the light, O Jesus, will be all from You;
 none of it will be mine:
 it will be You shining on others through me.
 Let me thus praise You in the way You love best:
 by shining on those around me.
 Let me preach You without preaching,
 not by words, but by my example,
 by the catching force,
 the sympathetic influence of what I do,
 the evident fullness of the love my heart bears for You.
 AMEN. - Cardinal Newman

QUOTABLE POPE FRANCIS

There is no sin that God cannot pardon. All we need to do is ask for forgiveness.

MUSIC CORNER: OUR NEW MASS SETTING

Who was Victor Togni? You'll notice this name at the top of the new Mass setting in the CBWIII hymnal in your pew. Togni was born in 1935 in Tanganyika (East Africa, now Tanzania). A gifted organist and improviser, he was posted here at St. Basil's from 1960 - 1962, and from 1963 - 1965 at St. Michael's Cathedral. He passed away tragically at the age of 30 when he was travelling by car from Toronto to Montreal to record an organ recital. His work lives on, however, in *A Parish Mass*, as well as a set of organ pieces titled *Five Liturgical Inventions* and a choral work, *Alleluia!*

MARCH 1, 2015

LENT AT ST. BASIL'S PARISH

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday after the 5:10 p.m. Mass
Each week will feature a different meditation from our Tradition.

ADORATION

Every Thursday after the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

DAY OF RECONCILIATION

March 4 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (excluding Mass hours). Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto at all parishes.

ECO-THEOLOGY PRESENTATION

March 4 at 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Dennis O'Hara will present an introduction and help us understand theological responses to the ecological crisis and will comment on Pope Francis' emphasis on environmentalism as it relates to care for the Earth and for one another.

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOLA CANTORUM CONCERT

March 16 at 7:30 p.m.
A choir and orchestra concert reflecting on the liturgical season of Lent. Music will include works by Handel and Allegri. Admission is free; donations are welcome to the USMC.

EARTH HOUR PRAYER SERVICE

March 28 at 8:30 p.m.
Join us for a special evening dedicated to the care of God's creation.

TENEBRAE & RECONCILIATION

April 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Latin for shadows or darkness, the ancient service of Tenebrae anticipates the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. This evening features a condensed version of the service, with prayers, readings, and choral music responses to usher in the beginning of the Triduum.

Statement from Cardinal Collins & Resources re: 2015 Health & Physical Education Curriculum

On February 23, 2015, the Government of Ontario released its revised Health & Physical Education Curriculum. Visit www.archtoronto.org to view a statement from Cardinal Collins in addition to a resource answering questions regarding implementation from a Catholic school perspective

SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY

Sunday, February 22, 2015 \$5,202.36

Social Media Fiends

Basil's is generating a serious buzz!
If you take a photo of the Church, have something to say, or want to connect to events and updates, find us on:
Facebook: **St Basil's Church, Toronto**
Twitter: **@StBasil_TO**
Instagram: **@BasilsToronto**
See you online!



March 1st – 7th

2nd Sunday of Lent

9:00 – Go Tiem Siem +
10:30 – Pro Populo
12:00 – Rae, Marie & Sandra Forrester +,+ +
4:30 – Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kerwin +, +

Monday

7:30 – Jacques Quistwater +
12:10 – Clare & Jim Gnecco +, +
5:10 – Amalia Tartarugan +

Tuesday

7:30 – Souls in Purgatory
12:10 – Mr. Stefan & Mrs. Anna Papez +, +
5:10 – Don LeSage +

Wednesday

7:30 – Thalheimer family
12:10 – Mike and Frank Gregoire +, +
4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Thursday

7:30 – Stefania Solodko +
12:10 – Michael Corridan +
4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Friday

7:30 – Ronnie Schneider +
12:10 – For Vocations
4:00 – Televised Daily Mass
5:10 – Televised Daily Mass

Saturday

5:00 – Anne Gregoire +

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Sharon Han, Doris Marcon, Ancoreta Amigleo, Don Alvaro, Rita Moran, Rev. Kenneth Decker CSB, Clare DeMello, Edna Fernandez, Kenneth Heath and Marina Kazakis.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.



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