

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT REFLECTIONS 2021.
CALL OF THE MOUNTAIN.

Last Sunday our Gospel spoke about the desert where Jesus spent 40 days. It spoke about the call to the Desert. It gave us the tools of our Lenten warfare of **Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving**. These are the basic pillars of lent.

Today's Gospel is a **call from the mountains**. The theme of the mountain is running through the first reading and the Gospel. We could classify the Sunday as *The Sunday of the Three Mountains!* We have Abraham the father of Faith on Mount **Moriah**, the redeeming Christ on mount **Calvary**, and the Transfigured Christ on mount **Tabor**. During this Lent we are invited to climb these mountains. Climbing mountains might be very challenging but once we are at the top we have **clean air, clearer light, good vision, and broadened perspective**. We are closer and nearer to God. We are able to communicate with Him without much disturbance and distraction.

Abraham in our first reading is challenged to leave his own people, land, and his comfort familiar zone to go to an unknown zone. He is further challenged to go and sacrifice his **ONLY SON (Isaac)**. Out of obedience to that voice he proceeds to actualize the demands of this voice. I would imagine what was transpiring in his mind! Is this a real voice? Am I dreaming? Am I in my right Mind? Is this God serious in what he is demanding?

What of the son? When they reached that mountain he must have been excited to have the view of the mountain and also to go and to be initiated in offering sacrifice, **NOT KNOWING he is the victim**. Consider the father and the son in this situation, Abraham unexpectedly holding the boy, tying him, lifting the knife to sacrifice him and the voice of son pleading Daddy, Daddy. How many times are we faced with such a challenge, to offer to God what is valuable to us?

Are we ready to submit ourselves to the will of God? ***Can we stand firm to our catholic faith and beliefs? Are we ready to stand for our values?*** What a great test of faith. No wonder Abraham is the father of faith indeed.

We are called this Lent to be courageous despite the challenging society and stand for what we believe. We have to move from the low ground of worshipping other gods in our present day society, in this world of cultural permissiveness, at the cost of our religion. We are called to direct our worship to that one true God of Mt. Moriah. We are called to embrace fully the Love of Christ on Mt. Calvary. We are called to embrace on that mountain the ***passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus***. We are called to Mt. Tabor, the mountain of ***transfiguration, to go beyond the limits and scope of vision and see the glory of God***.

We are called to open our eyes and ears to hear the voice of God saying, ***“This is my son, the beloved one, LISTEN TO HIM. We must listen to Him as he tells us to *care and love others*. He was transformed and strengthened during the transfiguration on that mountain. We need to go to these mountains this Lent through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. We need that strength and transformation to make our faith Dazzle in the society. We need to face the challenge with determination and courage. We need to hear that voice again saying to us “THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, LISTEN TO HIM.”***