

FR.TK, REFLECTIONS SECOND WEEK OF LENT 2023.

THE MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE:

Last Sunday, the gospel talked of the wilderness/Desert experience, where Jesus spent forty days and nights. We could term this as **call of the Desert of prayer, fasting and self giving.** Today's readings are taking us to another call of **promise and union with God in the mountain.**

In the first reading we see a great man of **faith and trust in God in the person of Abram.** He is asked by God to leave his own home, clan and land to unknown destination. Is this not an expression of great faith? **detaching himself from known and attaching himself to unknown voice!** No wonder he is called the **the father of faith and indeed he is.**

Time and again God is calling you and me to **renounce vices of pride, selfishness, attachment of materialism and hurting others.** He is calling us to leave our Haran, **comfort familiar zone of good time and pleasure, set aside our plans and listen to that voice of His plan.** It is a call of **trust and confidence in God.** **what is your response to this call.**

In the Gospel, Jesus knowing what was going to happen to him as he proceeds towards Jerusalem, had this great moment of **call of the mountain.** He withdrew to the mountain (Tabor). He had a moment of detaching himself from the world and attaching himself to his father. He **prayed for strength for his journey to Calvary and enlightenment. He poured his soul to the father and he had a marvelous experience.** The father's voice assured him, **His appearance changed, his face shone like sun and his**

clothes became bright(Mt.17:2).This is what we call **Transfiguration,His heart and spirit are strengthened and he is ready to face the next mountain of Calvary.**

His personality and mission is **defined and confirmed** by His father ***this is my son,the beloved,my chosen one listen to him(Mt.17:5)***.The apostles who were with Him saw a **new Jesus on the mountain,a preview of His glory beyond the cross**.Moses and Elijah offered him **assurance by the virtue of their presence**.

We are **called today to listen to that voice of the father despite many voices distracting us in the world.which one are you going to listen today as we enter the second Sunday of Lent?**

We all have moments in our Christian way of life.Dont we all have **good,bad and challenges moments as followers of Christ? Don't we all face disappointments and challenges in life** especially in our current society with all the **scandals,social, doctrinal and financial issues facing our world and the church**.we all need that **mountain experience,our (Tabor) so as to get strength especially those moments we are low,we need that union with our creator**.

Martin Luther King when he was tired, exhausted and despairing throw himself on his knees before God and said: ***Lord I have taken a stand for what I believe is right,but now am afraid.The people are looking for me for leadership.If I stand before them without strength and courage,they will too falter.But am at the end of my powers,I have nothing left.I can't face it alone***.After this he experienced the presence of

God and he continued with the struggle for civil rights. He had his mountain experience and got strength.

GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US.