

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

If there is one mystery of faith that tends to receive little of our attention and meditation that mystery could be the Transfiguration. But in truth the Transfiguration which we are celebrating today is a mystery at the very centre of our faith. When St. John Paul II gave us the Luminous Mysteries, he considered the Transfiguration the mystery of light *par excellence*.

Why does this mystery strike at the heart of the Christian faith? Because it shows forth the full glorification of humanity.

You know, we tend to think that God's plan for humanity is almost exclusively about the redemption and forgiveness of sins. In most of our God talk and prayers we tend to narrow His plan to the redemption and forgiveness of sins. True, Salvation History is the drama of God trying to win humanity back to himself. For certain God desires to redeem and to forgive, but he also desires something much deeper and this is to *heal* and *transform* our fallen nature. It therefore means that He wants to make us radiate through and through with his divinity. What happens to Jesus at that mount of Transfiguration, therefore, is precisely the template for what the Holy Spirit wants to do in each of us. In this respect, the Transfiguration of Jesus is a foreshadowing of our own transfiguration not only after death but here and now. What Peter, John and James witnessed on that mountain is an invitation of all of us to that divine glorification. We are not just talking of the glorification of our souls, but of our bodies as well.

What do Moses and Elijah have to do with divine glory? They are part of what is going on. Both of these Old Testament characters experienced theophanies—manifest encounters with God's holy presence. In Exodus 33, Moses famously requests to see the very glory of God; and eventually God's glory manifests itself to him, even revealing divine attributes: Now, in Jesus, Moses and Elijah behold what they could not see in their earthly lives—the revelation of the very face of God (see CCC 2583). The goal of Salvation History is that we all finally share in the divine glorification