

Jubilaem



A call to conversion!

2

[TO TRANSFORM MY LIFE, TO RENEW THE MISSION]

Second Week

Forty days to leave your comfort zone.

Prayer Guide



Gospel Text

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK (9:2-10)



After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; then from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Pray with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience

Prayer Transfiguration

Lent 2021

What and how do you pray so that your life is in transformation?



Meditation and text of St. Paul of the Cross

(FROM HIS SPIRITUAL DIARY)

Prayer Guide

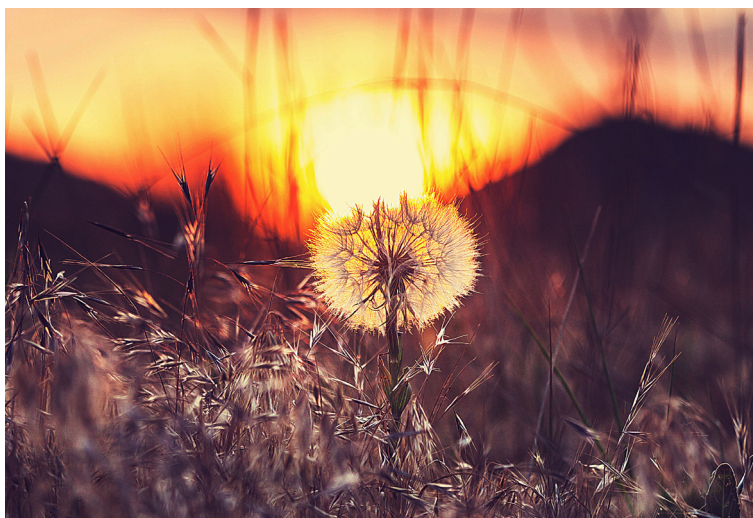
After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. The mountain is the place par excellence of encounter with God. These three disciples are the ones who perhaps had the greatest difficulty with Jesus when He spoke to them of his painful destiny of crucifixion; they needed to intuit in their “dark night” the mystery of Jesus’ divine condition, crucified by his adversaries, but raised by God.

+ **He was transfigured** before them with a resplendent, victorious, glorious presence. It is a happy and encouraging image so that the disciples are not overwhelmed at the “scandal” of the cross they are experiencing.

+ **Jesus is accompanied by Moses and Elijah**, signs of the Law, and Old Testament prophets; appear conversing with him. The Old Testament finds its fulfillment and fulness in Christ.

+ **It is good that we are here.** Peter expresses the happiness and desire to remain contemplating this vision, he wants to stop time, to settle comfortably in the religious experience. Flee from the earth? The scandal of the Cross? He understood little, he was afraid of going to Jerusalem.

+ **“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”** Do not confuse Jesus with anyone. Only he radiates light. He has the ultimate truth; he knows why



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and how to live and die. His word is the only one we need to hear to regain our identity, even when He speaks of the way of the cross that ends in resurrection.

The experience of listening to Jesus can be painful but also comforting and exciting. Sometimes Jesus is not who we imagine him to be based on our structures and issues. Listening to him, gently, He takes us out of our security zone that is comfortable for us, in order to attract us to a more authentic life according to his values and criteria.

To be believers is to listen to Jesus; only this listening brings forth life and the Christian faith is nourished. Today it seems that we have less and less time to truly listen, calmly and without prejudice, to the heart of the other and the heart of God. In the midst of our problems or interests, we may forget the art of listening.

+ **They no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.** Maintaining a with Jesus of Nazareth, the conscious and committed encounter we have with him, is decisive. Only this communion with him gives light and transforms our identity and our criteria, it heals our way of seeing life, it frees us from slavery. From Jesus we can see our personal situations differently (joys, problems, and sufferings), others, and how we are to live our life and mission.

+ **As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead.** It is necessary to descend the mountain (prayer) and resume daily life. The encounter with the transcendent God is not an

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escape from the earth and from our responsibilities. “Whoever opens himself intensely to God loves the earth intensely. Those who encounter God incarnate in Jesus feel more acutely injustice, helplessness, and the destruction of people. Fidelity and love for the earth must not take us away from the mystery of God”. (José Antonio Pagola). We can only understand Christ Jesus in the light of his resurrection, which illuminates his whole life.

“As a man of great prayer, Paul of the Cross inculcated its importance most forcefully by word and example. He wished his followers to pray without ceasing and desired our communities to become real schools of prayer, leading to a deep experience of God. From him we learn the value and practice of an inward and outward silence that gives depth to our lives. This silence fosters the inner peace and calm necessary for the spirit of prayer to grow; it frees us from harassing cares and hushes the clamour of the demands made daily upon us.” (Const. 37)

From the forty days of his retreat in Castellazzo, Paul leaves us with an example of the profound experience he lived in prayer-encounter with God the Father-Mother and with Jesus Crucified, even in situations of suffering, distractions, consolations, and lights. It involves a whole spiritual journey, going from the night of the spirit to the heights of transformation.

In his Spiritual Diary of 29 November, we read: *“Again, unworthy, I received Communion and was dry and distracted in prayer. I would like to explain what happens in my distractions. When I am distracted, my soul remains at peace with God, neither more nor less, no matter how disturbing the thoughts may be that molest me. At night I say to my mind: “Go wherever you wish – here, there, everywhere – you will always go with God.”* **And on 6 December:** *“I was especially recollected, particularly during Holy Communion. Afterward, I had great peace and tranquillity, along with a feeling of intense love. I was especially fervent in praying for sinners and for God to hasten to found this Congregation in the holy Church.”*

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Does Jesus Crucified occupy a unique and irreplaceable place in my life? How do I recognize it?

Do I have times and places reserved to ensure, regularly and qualifiedly, my encounter with Father God? How can I (we) continue to grow as a community that is a “School of prayer”?





Gesture [THANKSGIVING]

Place a thurible or another suitable container in the center of the chapel with lighted charcoal, and at the appropriate time, PRAY THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING found below. Meanwhile each person places with his fingers a little incense on the charcoal to be burned...



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Prayer Guide

Prayer

In gratitude to St. Paul of the Cross

For the **INTUITION** of Founding the Passionist Congregation (Family).

For the **DECISION** to remember the Passion of Jesus Crucified.

For the **INSPIRATION** to gather companions who would live in common.

For the **PERSEVERANCE** in teaching meditation on Jesus and on all creation.

For **COMPASSION** while being aware of the evils of your time.

For the **CONFIDENCE** to announce the love that transforms.

For the **OPENNESS** to seek prayer that connects transcendence with reality.

For the **OPTION** of living in fruitful solitude.

For the **CHALLENGE** to welcome poverty that nourishes and enriches.

For the **NEED** to acquire commitment (Penance) that transfigures.

For the **AVAILABILITY** to promote the mission that converts and engenders love.

For the **COURAGE** to write with great insight and depth what defies written words and which only a mystic can genuinely appreciate.

For **TENACITY** when spiritually accompanying souls in all that is lost in the nothingness that is gain.

For the **SENSITIVITY** to contemplate the name of Jesus on the foreheads of the poor.

For the **CONVICTION** to share the Charism with men and women of all times in the search for answers to the LOVE that beautifies LIFE.

For the **TRANSFORMATION** that you allowed Jesus in his Passion and Cross to bring about within you.

St. Paul of the Cross, pray for us. Amen.

Lent



Gubilaeum