

AUGUST 6, 2017



FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



DANIEL 7:9-10, 13-14

PSALM 97:1-2, 5-6, 9

2 PETER 1:16-19

MATTHEW 17:1-9

REFLECTION

Today is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Fans of the Harry Potter Series might be familiar with the subject of Transfiguration, taught by Professor McGonagall. In Harry Potter, Transfiguration is the art of transforming oneself beyond their physical appearance into an entirely different creature. McGonagall herself is known for changing into a cat! In the Christian tradition, Transfiguration means to change into something more beautiful in appearance to reveal something even more profound about God. That's what Jesus did on top of the mountain in the presence of a few of his disciples. Transfiguration is a word that's not really part of our everyday language, is it? It sure wasn't an everyday sort of experience for Peter, James, and John, either. Jesus took the disciples to the top of a high mountain where his clothes became dazzling white, his appearance completely changed right before their very eyes, and they were simply dumbfounded. Jesus chose this moment to reveal his divinity—that he is God. Jesus' divinity is affirmed by the voice in the clouds that says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5). What a direct command: "Listen to him!" While it's good to become comfortable with the image of Jesus as a friend, buddy, and companion, it's also good to remember that, in the words of today's psalm, "The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth" (psalm refrain; see Psalm 97:1a). This is the Jesus whom we worship and who brings us to our knees in awe of his presence!



Ad maiorem Dei gloriam ("For the greater glory of God") is the motto of the Jesuits and of their founder, St. Ignatius Loyola.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad_maiorem_Dei_gloriam

ACTION

While the vision of a transfigured Jesus in all his magnificent glory is essential for our spiritual life, we can't stay on the mountaintop forever—there's too much to do down here on the plains. But at the same time, we can't do good works here in the world without prayerfully encountering God on a "mountaintop" of our own. Strengthened by our "aha moments" with Jesus, let us go out into our classrooms, ball fields, and homes to dazzle like the sun.



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



● Have you ever had a "mountaintop" experience? That is, an experience so set apart and special where you encountered God? Describe it.