

Good Morning!

So, how about that smoke machine?? You wouldn't believe how many hours some people spent trying to get the special effects just right. No really, my mom's insane.

All fire hazards aside, today's gospel is about the Transfiguration. As our talented troupe of actors showed us, this story revolves around the revelation of Christ's divinity to His disciples. Jesus led some of his best buddies, Peter, John, and James, up a mountain where he was transformed by the grace of God. He shed his earthly appearance and revealed robes of white that were so dazzling, the three witnesses knew for sure they were not of this world. A light from within Jesus Himself shone all around Him and solidified His friends' beliefs of His Holiness. Jesus brought these men up the mountain to strengthen their faith that He, in fact, was the Son of God.

(And as if a giant glowing Jesus wasn't enough, God swung by and spelled it out for them: "This is my Son, the Beloved!")

The glory of Jesus' divinity had been concealed by his humanity. Back in the village, He looked like everyone else: wore the same clothes, had the same kind of "shaggy-chic" hairdo... but on the mountain, God's light flooded from every pore and his true self was exposed. That's the thing, we aren't always what we appear to be. The human form our spirit takes on will probably never do us justice. I don't recall the Bible ever mentioning that Jesus was the Brad Pitt of His era, but we know through faith that he was impossibly beautiful. What we look like from the outside can never explain who we are on the inside. We were taught since childhood that it's what's on the inside that counts, and although it's hard to accept once we walk out of Kindergarten and enter the real world, I think there is some definite truth to that. There is a deeper dimension to everybody than what meets the naked eye. The light brought the disciples truth. It illuminated their understanding of the magnificent power of Christ.

The significance of light, as stressed in other parts of the Bible, still remains important in our society today. Our relationship with light is funny. We crave the spotlight, we want desperately to be seen in the "best" light, we sizzle in the sun's rays to tan our skin. We all seem to look for the light around us, and when we find it, we soak it up. Perhaps our priorities are a little backwards. Maybe we're too concerned with the

light shining on us than with the light that shines from within us. I think Jesus tries to remind us that it is the light *we* carry that lights the darkness before us. It is our responsibility to bear it proudly.

The light that was inside Jesus is inside all of us, and like Him, we may not be able to show it down here. Most of us don't have a mountain or a smoke machine to strip away the outside shell that encases us. Our light may never be seen in the literal sense, like Jesus' was on the mountain, but we need to let our light shine through our works. Our lives are the means through which we can shine.

One of my mom's favorite stories comes from a sermon given by Father Zelle on All Saints' Day several years ago: A little boy was sitting in church listening to the sermon, and as he tuned in and out, he heard the Reverend wax poetic about how a saint fulfills the wishes of God and perpetuates His glory. None of this really hit home for the little boy but as he gazed around, he began to notice the beautiful stained glass windows that graced the walls of his church. As the sun beamed in through the colored windows, he turned to his parents and said, "A saint is someone who the Light shines through." His simple observation said it perfectly, "A saint is someone who the Light shines through."

Like the little boy, we too need to see the light that shines through ourselves and others. Many believe that there are angels among us and that we live, everyday, beside a member of heaven without ever realizing. *I* believe we live everyday beside a bearer of the light of God and it's for our own spiritual benefit that we allow ourselves to realize it.

See the light in your neighbor.

See the light in yourself.

AMEN.

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