

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
August 6, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 17: 1-9)

Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

Reflection:

In the Gospel we read: "This is my beloved Son...Listen to him." "Prayer is one of the privileged ways of listening. But it must always be validated by life. One who listens to 'what God is telling me' in prayer, but pays little heed to what others are saying in daily life is surely suspect. Prayer must be in continual contact with people and events, since God speaks not only in the silence of our hearts, but also (and often first of all) in the people around us. It is only when what is heard is pondered, that its full meaning is revealed. Listening includes seeing, hearing, sensing, feeling, and perceiving. Indeed, attentiveness is one of the most important signs of respect for others. It is indispensable foundation of Vincentian spirituality." (Maloney, He Hears the Cry of the Poor, p.24, 26)

Vincentian Meditation:

Conference meetings can be a time of grace or a time when sin threatens grace. "Meetings are a time of grace only through a communal quest to listen to God and communal attentiveness to the words of others. When there is listening there is a climate of freedom for discussion and discernment. When there is no listening, meetings create strife and division. They disrupt rather than unify. When listening wanes, meetings degenerate rapidly. Among the signs that sin is at work in meetings is fighting, strife, bad feelings disillusionment and bitterness. (Maloney, He Hears the Cry of the Poor, p.28)

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

Are our Conference Meetings a time of grace or a time of division?

Closing Prayer:

O God, give us the grace to listen to you in prayer,
-and to each other in our Conference meetings.
Amen.

