

Homily – Mark 9: 2-10
Second Sunday of Lent
27th and 28th February 2020, Sooeey

“Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here; Let us make three tents, one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah”.

Robert Louis Stevenson tells the story about a ship that was in serious trouble in a storm. A passenger on that ship, defying orders, made his way to the pilot, who seeing the fear on the passenger’s face gave him a smile of assurance. Relieved, the traveler returned to his cabin and said, “I have seen the face of the pilot. He smiled, and all is well.”

There are times in life when we need to see our pilot face-to-face. And that’s what happened in this mystical story that the Church calls the Transfiguration of Christ. Peter, James and John were there. Moses and Elijah showed up from the past. And they had an experience that was mystical and out of this world.

Dr. Peggy Hartshorn, President of Heartbeat International, narrates a dramatic story about a woman who glimpsed the mystery of her unborn child. The young woman was seeking an abortion. She simply could not handle having a baby at this time. But, she agreed to an ultrasound. When the baby appeared on the

screen, the woman was amazed to see the perfectly formed body, the tiny legs and hands moving inside her womb. But the woman kept saying: “No, no, I have to have an abortion”.

Dr. Hartshorn felt sad. She knew that seventy-five percent of women who see an ultrasound decide to keep their baby. But, that a quarter, nevertheless, still have the abortion. It seemed like, this woman would be in that twenty-five percent. All of a sudden, Dr. Hartshorn’s assistant said: “Reach out and take your baby’s hand”. Dr. Hartshorn thought: “Oh Gosh, why is she saying that?”. But the woman raised her hand and touched the monitor.

As if by some divine cue, the baby stretched out his arm to the exact place of his mom’s hand. On the screen, his tiny fingers met hers. Needless to say, she kept her baby.

There is a mystery in each one of us - the mystery of the image of God. And today’s Gospel tells us how three of the apostles saw a glimpse, a tiny glimpse, of who Jesus was.

Yes! In today’s Gospel we catch a glimpse of what real love, God’s love looks like. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain. There, the Gospel tells us,

Jesus is transfigured before their eyes. Mark says: His clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Heavenly conversationalists begin to speak to Jesus. Something wonderful took place on that mountain top. And the disciples caught the glimpse of what Jesus would look like in the fullness of his resurrection. And in a way, that enabled Peter to go beyond time and time consciousness.

Some of you must have heard of the gambling dens of Las Vegas. Sometime ago, I happened to read an article on gambling in Las Vegas. And one thing that struck me is this: clocks are forbidden while gambling. The principle of the Organizers is: “anytime is gambling time”. Yes! Those gambling dens are opened twenty four, seven. They believe, time consciousness spoils the enjoyment of gambling.

Our modern life is so much controlled by the clock. We are so time conscious. All the time, we are trying to save time seeing how we can do things at a faster pace. And, this affects our spiritual life, our prayer life too.

God is eternal. God is beyond time. Spiritual guides tell us: “One of the biggest obstacles to prayer is time consciousness. As long as we are time conscious, we cannot enjoy prayer.

My dear friends, in the Gospel of today we have this wonderful response of St. Peter. He really experienced who Christ was in His Divinity and his immediate response was: “Lord, it is good for us to be here”. He forgot about everything else. He just wanted to remain there.

If we really enjoy prayer, then we will not be time conscious. When we have a good sleep, we never look at our watches. If we are enjoying a beautiful movie, we never look at our watches. When we are involved in something, we go beyond time. If we want to enjoy prayer, we should go beyond time consciousness.

And if we enter prayer, losing all sense of time, and like Peter we are able to say, “Lord, it is good for us to be here, then I am sure we will enjoy every session of prayer including this Eucharist.

God bless you all, **Amen.**