

1 March 2026

**BISHOP MANUEL ANTONIO'S HOMILY FOR THE 2nd
SUNDAY OF LENT**

Dear brothers and sisters,

On the first Sunday of Lent, we accompanied Jesus into the desert, where he faced the devil and his temptations of having, of fame, and of power. With this episode, the Word of God presents to us the path of Jesus as a path of struggle and temptation, a path of constant choices for the will of God. It is a path whose horizon is the cross. Doing the will of God means taking up the cross and following Jesus Christ.

Today, on this second Sunday, however, with the episode of the Lord's transfiguration, we are invited to live our path of the cross with Jesus Christ, but knowing that the goal is transfiguration in him, so that with him we may live the fullness of life in eternity. The path of Jesus is our path (our life is a journey with God and toward God), a path with temptations of fear, of flight, of refuge in our idols of having, power, and fame; a path with the cross, but with as its goal the "Promised Land," the heavenly homeland, eternal life, where we will be like angels, living the fullness of life in God.

Let us deepen these ideas through the readings that the Church presents to us today:

“Leave your land” — Faith begins with a step

In the first reading, God says to Abraham: “Leave your land... and go to the land that I will show you.”

Abraham does not receive a map; he receives a promise. He does not know where he is going, but he knows in whom he trusts.

Faith is this: it is not having all the answers; it is trusting the voice that calls and setting out.

Lent is also an invitation to leave “our land” of comfort, of sin, of excuses, of fear of changing...

God does not call us to take something from us, but to lead us to something greater, to the “Promised Land.”

The Transfiguration: a glimpse of glory

In the Gospel, Jesus goes up the mountain with Peter, James, and John, and something extraordinary happens there: the face of Jesus shines like the sun.

Why? Because the disciples needed to understand one thing: the cross is not the end.

They would see Jesus suffer. They would see the scandal of the cross. But before that, God grants them an anticipation of glory. The Transfiguration is a light placed in the middle of the darkness. And Moses and Elijah speak with the transfigured Jesus. The Word of God is the means we have to

perceive the project of salvation of Jesus carried out through his death on the cross.

Before the transfigured Jesus, Peter wants to remain there:

“Lord, how good it is for us to be here!”

But Jesus does not allow them to stay. Because faith is not an escape from the world; it is strength to pass through it and in it to live and proclaim the hope of glory in Jesus Christ risen from the dead.

“Listen to him” — The center of everything

Meanwhile, the Father manifests himself in a cloud that covers the disciples. And his voice is heard:

“This is my beloved Son... listen to him.”

The Father does not say: admire him.

He does not say: study him.

He does not say: applaud him.

He says: listen to him.

The greatest problem in our spiritual life is not a lack of information; it is the lack of listening.

Listening to Jesus means:

- Forgiving, because he commands us to forgive
- Loving, because he commands us to love
- Trusting, because he commands us to trust, even when everything seems dark.

Lent is a time to silence other voices in order to hear the essential voice, the voice of God.

“Do not be ashamed of the testimony” — courage to walk

Saint Paul, in the second reading, says to Timothy: “Do not be ashamed to bear witness.”

Following Christ is not always comfortable; sometimes it requires swimming against the current, overcoming obstacles, resisting the temptation to give up, to flee. But Paul recalls something fundamental: Christ has conquered death.

The last word is not suffering, it is life; it is not defeat, it is victory; it is not darkness, it is light.

The Transfiguration confirms this very thing.

What does the Word of God ask of us today?

Perhaps today God is telling us:

- “Leave” — something that holds you
- “Trust” — even without seeing everything clearly
- “Listen” — more deeply
- “Rise” — because the journey continues.

At the end of the Gospel, Jesus touches the disciples and says to them: “Rise, and have no fear.”

That phrase is for us. Faith does not eliminate the cross, but it lights it up. Faith does not show us an easy path, but it gives us strength not to stop walking.

Conclusion

Abraham walks without knowing the destination.

The disciples come down from the mountain without understanding everything.

We also walk between lights and shadows.

But one thing is certain: the One who calls is faithful.

The One who was transfigured is the same One who died and rose again.

And he walks with us.

May this Lent help us to leave our fears and abandon ourselves to the will of God, setting out for the “land” that he will show us. Let us not be afraid to take up our cross and follow the Lord, because the goal is full life in Christ, transfigured with him in glory—a transfiguration that already begins here, on the journey of faith that we are making.

Amen.