

REFLECTION FOR THE 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Our homeland is in heaven as St. Paul tells us in the second reading. Our life is a pilgrimage whose goal is to meet the One who is our life, our light, and our Savior Jesus Christ the Lord. On this pilgrimage, the Lord asks us to live our lives with faith, trusting in him, as Abram did in the first reading today.

In fact, we are told that Abram, who by trusting in God and God alone, left his land, his family, and set out for the land that the Lord had shown him. He left trusting only in the promises God had made to him. God makes a covenant with him and confirms to him the promises made of descendants greater than the stars in the sky, a land as a home for his people, and a blessing. Abram trusted, becoming for us a model of faith in the Lord.

In the second reading, St. Paul invites us to imitate him, to know how to live a life centered on God, since our homeland is in heaven. Let us therefore remain steadfast in the Lord, always seeking to follow the ways of Jesus, his teachings, until the day we stand before him to live with him forever. May the things of the world **not** be the focus of our existence; because as we know from the Bible, man does not live by bread alone, but by the values of the Kingdom of God: truth, justice, fraternity, peace, and love.

In the Gospel, we are told the story of Jesus' transfiguration. Jesus is not just a preacher, a simple "rabbi" or merely a prophet, but God himself who has come to live among us. He was transfigured into what he really is, right before the eyes of Peter, James, and John. They see Jesus with his divine face, with the Father asking us to listen to him, to follow Him. The Word of God, represented by Moses and Elijah, must be the one guide for us to understand the ways of Jesus Christ.

What we must not do is fall into the temptation of wanting to stay in our tents but set out to proclaim the Gospel message to the world. Christ is with us until the end of time. With him, we must learn to give our lives in service to each other and to the Kingdom of God. In a world where the culture of "I," a culture of violence, of division, of excluding others, is ever more present, let us allow ourselves to be transfigured in Jesus Christ. In Him, we must learn to love everyone as he loved all, until the day of our total transfiguration in the heavenly homeland.

Amen.