

Singing Our Faith Feast of the Transfiguration – August 6, 2017

One of the many details we tend to in our liturgies at St. Clare is silence and time for reflection during Mass. Although not silent, the Offertory is often reserved for reflection as we shift from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This weekend we sing a hymn which serves as a reflection on the Transfiguration gospel reading.

Set to the 17th century french tune “*Picardy*,” the hymn text “*Transform Us*” (found below on page 2) takes the magnificent event of the Transfiguration and applies it to simply, every day living. My take: this hymn represents our week. We live through our daily struggles, come to Mass on Sunday, and are sent forth with renewed hope. Bear with me.

In the first stanza, we ask God to “lead us up our sacred mountains,” and then to “lift us from where we have fallen, **full of questions, filled with fright.**” In other words, we conquer daily struggles and doubts by trusting in God’s providential plan.

We often forget that the Sacrifice of the Mass is prayed by the company of angels and saints in heaven – even though we hear that at **every Mass** just before the Holy, Holy! In stanza 2, the author uses the image of the Transfigured Jesus accompanied by Moses and Elijah as compared to the Mass accompanied by the angels and saints – “We surrounded by the witness...” Scroll down to page three to see an image which represents this theological truth. As St. John Vianney said, “If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.”

Finally, stanza 3 sends us out into the world, just as Jesus “would not stay within a shrine.” We ask God to “lead us down those daily pathways where our love is not confined.” These pathways are the

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experiences of discipleship that challenge us, bring others to God, and ultimately make us better followers of the Way.

May we all leave Mass this Sunday transformed by the love of Christ, and renewed to do his work in the world!

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy & Music

Transform Us

Transform us as you transfigured,
Stood apart on Tabor's height.
Lead us up our sacred mountains,
Search us with revealing light.
Lift us from where we have fallen,
Full of questions, filled with fright.

Transform us as you transfigured,
Once spoke with those holy ones.
We, surrounded by the witness
Of those saints whose work is done,
Live in this world as your Body,
Chosen daughters, chosen sons.

Transform us as you transfigured,
Would not stay within a shrine.
Keep us from our great temptation –
Time and truth we quickly bind.
Lead us down those daily pathways
Where our love is not confined.

