

2nd Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2009

In today's Gospel passage we read of the mystical experience of three of Jesus' apostles as He allows them to see Him in glory. The experience is brief, dreamlike and beyond the disciples' understanding as it occurs. It is only in hindsight, after the resurrection, that Peter, James and John begin to see the significance of the event and comprehend its meaning.

I believe that when we spend time in prayer the Lord also reveals Himself to us in ways that we do not immediately understand, but which become clearer with hindsight. These moments may be brief and very ephemeral, but somehow stay with us and keep coming to mind. Sometimes these revelations are fleeting thoughts; sometimes they are vivid dreams. Sometimes we think they are just tricks of our imagination, but if they are real, they linger. And the memory of them makes us, like Peter, feel that "it's good to be here" and we want to stay in that moment for awhile.

I remember when I was finishing college, and wondering if I really wanted to pursue priesthood or go into education, I prayed a great deal about it. I remember being in Madonna della Strada Chapel at Loyola saying the Rosary. In my mind I clearly saw the open front gate of Mundelein Seminary, and beyond it, standing back under the trees, Jesus beckoning me to come in. The image was so vivid that I can still see it clearly, thirty seven years later. The image still brings me peace, even on trying days.

I believe the Lord is trying to reveal Himself to all of us, trying to lead us when we turn to Him in prayer. This Lent spend a little quiet time with the Lord. He is longing to reveal His glory to you, just as He did for Peter, James and John.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat