

One of the most comforting and reassuring phrases in the English language is: “Everything will be okay.” We hear variations of this like “Everything’s going to be alright.” And when we hear expressions like this, we tend to be put at ease and we begin to have a great sense of calm and peace in our heart and mind, knowing that somehow, in the end, “everything will be okay.”

Well in today’s Gospel from Luke, we hear of the mysterious event known as the “Transfiguration,” when our Lord Jesus was “transfigured” before the eyes of His closest disciples: Peter, James, and John on Mt. Tabor. We’re told that while Jesus was praying, “his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white” and that the three Apostles saw Jesus in a glorified state conversing with Moses and Elijah, two of the greatest figures from the Old Testament representing the Law and the Prophets respectively.

So why did this happen? Why was Jesus transfigured like this before His closest Apostles, Peter, James, and John? Simply put, brothers and sisters, the Transfiguration was Jesus’ way of comforting and reassuring His closest disciples that, *in the end*, “everything will be

okay.” For the sake of fully understanding this, what we don’t get in today’s Gospel is the larger situational context in that shortly right before the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor, Jesus explicitly makes the first prediction of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection to His Apostles. As Luke records it, we’re told that eight days before the Transfiguration, Jesus tells the 12 Apostles that, “The Son of Man must suffer greatly, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, *and be killed* and on the third day be raised.”

I mean can you imagine how shocked and horrified the Apostles must’ve been upon hearing this? They must’ve had so many thoughts running through their minds like, “What’s the point of following this guy with our whole lives if ultimately He’s gonna be arrested and killed? And what He is talking about being ‘raised on the third day’? What is going on here?” So the Apostles must’ve been greatly confused, scared, and uncertain about what the future might hold, *especially for them*, who’ve given up everything to follow Christ!

In His divine foreknowledge, our Lord Jesus knew that the Apostles’ faith in Him would be seriously shaken by His own horrific

suffering and death. And so Christ wanted to prepare His closest disciples for the harsh reality and shock of His crucifixion and death, which He knew would devastate them. And so out of His great love for the Apostles, Christ wanted to strengthen their faith by being Transfigured before their eyes on Mt. Tabor. Therefore, the Transfiguration was Jesus' way of bolstering the Apostles' faith in Him and reminding them, *that in end, everything will be okay.*

In fact, the Transfiguration is a divine preview, if you will, a powerful foreshadowing of Christ's Resurrection, His definitive victory over sin, suffering, and death! The Transfiguration is a reminder to the Apostles of *Who Jesus is*—He is the Son of the living God Who came to destroy sin and death! That's why we hear the voice of the Father say, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." This spectacular manifestation of Jesus' divinity foreshadows His great triumph over the forces of evil that are about to be unleashed on Him in Jerusalem. The Transfiguration is all about the glory of Christ's Resurrection and victory that would *only* be achieved *after His crucifixion and death on the cross!* This mysterious event was truly Christ's way of reassuring

His closest disciples that, ultimately, in the end, “trust Me, *everything’s going to be okay.*”

Not only was the Transfiguration designed to strengthen the *Apostles’ faith*, but it was also intended to strengthen *our own faith in Christ* and in His identity as the Son of God who came to save us from our sins and from death itself. The Transfiguration is Jesus’ way of lovingly reassuring and comforting us in the midst of our own challenges and suffering, that *if* we follow Him and remain faithful to Him *and* His Church, if we gracefully persevere in this life with faith, hope, and love, then *ultimately, in the end, whether in this life or in the next, everything will be okay.*

Let’s face it, brothers and sisters, not everything turns out the way we want it to in this life. The reality is that in the midst of our fallen world and our fallen human condition, things don’t always work out the way we want them to in this earthly life. We don’t always get what we want—and to that, the French and Fr. Guency would say, “C’est la vie” or “That’s life.”

You know, one day, one of our parishioners shared with me an extremely accurate observation I've never forgotten and that is this: ***Jesus never promised us an easy life, He promised us eternal life!*** ***How true is that statement!*** Indeed, through the Transfiguration, our Lord Jesus reminds us that this earthly life is not about “always getting what we want,” but rather, this life is about responding to Christ’s love for us, ***especially*** in the midst of suffering, and answering His call to follow Him with faith, hope, and love so that we can be happy with Him now and forever in Heaven, which is our true homeland.

Remember, as the Lord reminds us today through the second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, “***our citizenship is in Heaven.***” And so brothers and sisters, if we lovingly heed the words of St. Paul and “stand firm in the Lord,” then ultimately, in the end, if not in this life, then ***most certainly*** in the next, in the Kingdom of Heaven, ***everything will be okay.***

At every mass, we hear those beautiful words of victory as the priest raises the Body and Blood of Christ: “Through Him, with Him, and in Him, o God Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all

glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever!” So as we prepare to worship and encounter our victorious Savior in the Most Holy Eucharist, let’s abandon ourselves completely to His love, knowing that if we firmly root our entire lives in Christ and in the mission and identity of His Church, then ultimately, in the end, *through Him, with Him, and in Him, everything will be okay.*