

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent  
March 16-17, 2019**

Note that these reflections can be found in Word and PDF at [www.catholichawaii.org/inserts](http://www.catholichawaii.org/inserts)

**FREE Evangelization Inserts for  
Bulletins Newsletters &  
Websites**

## **Living Catholic in the 808: Find Your Mountaintop**

**Very Rev. Msgr. Gary L. Secor, V.G.  
Rector, Cathedral Basilica of  
Our Lady of Peace**

Last week, Jesus was in the desert being tempted. Today, Jesus moves from the desert to the mountaintop. He may have gone there to pray and seek his Father's approval for his journey to Jerusalem and his coming suffering and death. He took his closest apostles with him so that they might catch a glimpse of the glory of God. God invites us this Lent to find our own mountaintop so that we might glimpse God's glory. The experience of this vision was important for the apostles and is important to us for three reasons.

First of all, it prepared them to endure the scandal of the cross, Jesus' suffering and death. They were about to see their friend, Jesus Christ, be crucified and they would begin to understand how God was calling them to suffer for love of God and others. God wants us to see the glory of God so that we can deal with the challenge of suffering in our lives. God desires us to know that God's risen life is more powerful than anything that is death-dealing.

Secondly, the Transfiguration helped the apostles to sense the glory of a life beyond this life. They saw a momentary view of heaven that would cause them to see the things of earth in a new and different way. God wants us to see the glory of God so that we can see heaven as our ultimate goal and be able to see this life as a prelude to a life forever with the Lord.

Finally, this mountaintop experience was meant to communicate to them that they too were beloved sons of God. The words spoken of Christ by the Father were meant to be heard by them, not just so that they would know who Jesus was. The Father wanted them to know who they were: God's beloved sons as well. Today, God wants us to know that we are beloved sons and daughters.

Jesus was transfigured. We are invited to be transformed. If we will journey to the mountaintop, and if we are truly prayerful and repentant, God will give us a glimpse of glory. It is what we need to help us endure suffering, see heaven as our goal, and know that we are beloved sons and daughters.