

May 17, 2008  
Saturday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

James 3:1-10

Psalm 12:2-3, 4-5, 7-8

Mark 9:2-13

*And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.*

*"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."*

A moment when Jesus saw himself through the eyes of God! This raises a question, not so much about myself as it does about life in general? Am I able to see life through the eyes of God—life as God intended it to be for all of God's creation? What blinds me to the purpose of God's plan for the world? What hinders me from cooperating with grace to make that a reality? I believe that God wants us to be happy and enjoy the world given to us. I also believe that we have a distorted idea of happiness. Scientific research has now shown us what Jesus tried to teach us 2000 years ago: happiness is found in gratitude and purpose. Having something bigger than ourselves to live for is what makes us authentically happy. Seeing ourselves through the eyes of God is not enough, we must also see others through the eyes of God and recognize that God loves us all infinitely and equally. As I grow older, I am more and more sure that the only road to this awareness is Jesus. The only model for this kind of living is the life Jesus lived. I, just like Peter, James, and John would prefer to remain in the place where everything feels good and easy. I would rather stay on the mountaintop and avoid the difficulties, pain, and loss of everyday life. I would like to bury my head in the sand and remain ignorant and unaware of the struggles, pain, and injustice around me. But this gospel makes it clear that we are to remain in the world and do something about it all. We are to take a stand against injustice. We are to help those in need. And, most importantly, we are to face our personal demons and allow ourselves to be transformed into the person God created us to be. As I reflect on all of this, I am aware of the need of God's help to live it. So I pray:

*Holy Spirit, my light, my life, my love, my strength, be with me now, and always:  
in all my doubts, perplexities and trials, come, Holy Spirit;  
in hours of loneliness, weariness and grief, come, Holy Spirit;  
in failure and in loss, in disappointment, come, Holy Spirit;  
when others fail me, when I fail myself, come, Holy Spirit;  
when I am ill, unable to work, depressed, come, Holy Spirit;  
now, and forever, and in all things, come, Holy Spirit.*