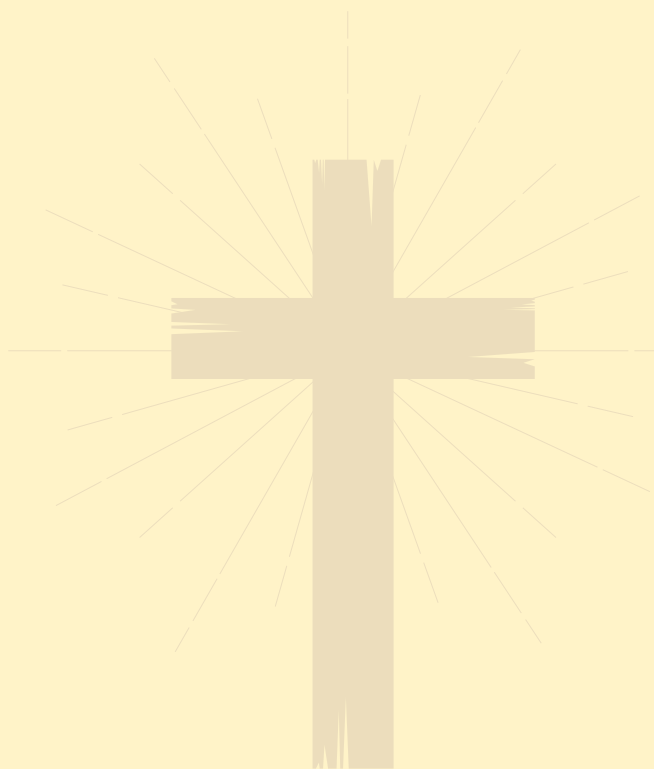


2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT, 13 MARCH 2022

# What remains?



## Message of *Laudato Si'*

Encountering God does not mean fleeing from this world or turning our back on nature. This is especially clear in the spirituality of the Christian East. "Beauty, which in the East is one of the best loved names expressing the divine harmony and the model of humanity transfigured, appears everywhere: in the shape of a church, in the sounds, in the colours, in the lights, in the scents".

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*Take time to consider how we understand beauty within the context of our lives today. Is it something purely external or can we consider a harmonious relationship with God as something beautiful? Can we also consider that if we fail to see beauty in the world, it is because we have not cultivated ourselves to recognize and acknowledge beauty within and around us. If the ugliness around us has its roots from sin, similarly, can the beauty around us be partly contributed from the beauty within us?*

## **GOSPEL – LUKE 9:28-36**

### **Jesus is transfigured before them**

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were

leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

## REFLECTION

Moses represents the law that the people of God had received before the time of Jesus. Elijah represents the prophets, the mouthpiece of God who came to remind people of the law. Jesus surpasses both as God incarnated. One understanding we can give to the incarnation, the Word made flesh, is that God entered and became part of creation. By his incarnation, Jesus became as we are in order to show us what we can be. The transfiguration is a glimpse of our destiny.

Peter and John wanted to stay on the mountain, but they could not. In the end, everything fades, and they had to press on. Tradition tells us that Peter died a martyr's death, but John lived to the entirety of his natural life. Similarly, we can only press on in our lives with faith. Jesus inspired our imagination that we can now imagine our life as a pilgrimage until we become fully what God calls us to be. As one saying goes, who we are is God's gift to us; who we become is our gift to God.

Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever." In the transfiguration, when everything fades, Jesus remains. This is true too for our life as Christians. We believe that in the end, when everything fades,

only Jesus remains. The question is, what remains of us when our life here fades away, and we stand before Jesus? What do we have to show?

## **LENTEN EXERCISE**

*Laudato Si'* speaks harmony and communion with creation. The Pope writes, "If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn "realize that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith" (LS#64). For our reflection, we can ask ourselves, are we moved to do our part in our care for the environment?

## **MY STAND**

- Vigilance against being wasteful and extravagant. For instance, being watchful against excessive use of water and electricity. Water from washing rice and vegetables can be reused to water our plants. Always turn off the air conditioners and fans when we leave our house or rooms. Car-pool when possible.
- Sometimes, installing a ceiling fan, even though it may not fit with the interior design of your home, cools your room in such a way that you do not have to turn on the air-conditioning.

*Action for first-timer:*

- Try Carpooling once, watering plants with reused water, or turning off air conditions when we leave the room. Resist the temptation to leave air-conditioners on so that we can return to a cool room or house.
- Try starting to recycle. Find out at a personal level where you can recycle your aluminum cans and plastics? Some shopping malls have big containers where you can dispose of used batteries safely.



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