

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith In Laity Corner*



*17 Sunday Ordinary Times*

### *Feast Transfiguration of Jesus*

## Transformers

Readings Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14/Mt. 17:1-9

On this 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Times, my mind goes to the drawings of a dear, 6-year-old that I know. This young man has been drawing and informing me of the difference between – Optimus Prime, Bumble Bee, Megatron, Bonecrusher and others Transformers..... I must admit he is very knowledgeable on the strengths and weaknesses of each of these transformable characters. He likes these changeable toys, and which ones he does not have, he draws. What does Transformers have to do with the celebration on August 06?

*“His clothing was white as snow,*

*the hair on his head like pure wool...” (Dan. 7:9)*

In the world of cartoon characters an ordinary car transforms into a menacing hero or villain robot. In the vision of Daniel, there would appear to be a transforming of the ordinary appearance of a human being to something-ethereal.

*“He was transfigured before them; his face shone*

*like the sun and his clothes became white as light.” (Mt. 7:2)*

These are the words of eye witnesses; those who had the privileged to have been there.

Like the cartoon characters, there is movement from being ordinary cars into warring heroes and villains. This Sunday’s readings point us to the era of the prophet Daniel and some six hundred years later to Jesus. As these encounters are throughout the Bible, we can throw our minds back to the time of Moses; he too had a transformational experience. When Moses stood

before God to receive the 10 Commandments, he underwent an altering of his physical self.

*“He did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant\* while he spoke with the LORD.” (Ex. 34:29)*

The Jewish people newly freed from Egypt, requested that when Moses went before God, the changes in his features were so dramatic, the people could not even look at Moses.

*“Israelites would see that the skin of Moses’ face was radiant;*

*so he would again put the veil over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.” (Ex.34:35)*

These occurrences altered not only the person it happened to, but those who were witnesses. It can be said that those who humble themselves before the Presence are validated again and again in the Scriptures. If we are summons before the Presence of God, there is a dramatic change. We will be altered in some way or the other.

*“Behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them....” (Mt. 7:5)*

What is clearly common for us all is each of these people had a direct encounter with God- Moses, Daniel, Elijah and Jesus. It would appear that when a person faces God, this has to become a life altering experience, we have gone under a transformation. Yes, whenever we meet God in our human state, through prayer, fasting, acts of self-denial and works of mercy a dramatic change takes place; that *rewires* us forever. Now one can realize that a *God-encounter* is what we all seek in our lives. Each of us have an inner desire to seek and search for God. Some of us do it diligently and daily throughout our lives; these are our saints (*those who are in heaven*); or we can do this on our *faltering time*-when we think of it.

One thing to learn about this transformation, we now become the *agents of change*— **‘Transformers’** !! When we come on the *‘scene’* things happen, bad is dispelled or it works out for the good for others. At no time can a *transformer* work for themselves; it must be for the good of others. Our *‘Transformer self’* need not do gigantic acts of saving the world from violent arch enemies’; but when we become a *Transformer* for God, He heals, changes and redirect every simple situation which becomes aligned with His Will. Seeking the presence of God in our lives, He will manifest Himself in ordinary situations which will demonstrate to us that He alone is God. The pleasure God showered upon His Son, will also fall on us, these words we too can own.

*“This is my beloved Son/daughter, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him/her.” (Mt.17:5)*

Is your life in the ‘rut’ going by, day by day? Then join those transformed by the Blood of Christ, draw from God’s Grace. have an encounter with the One True God and become a

'Transformer' so as to renew the face of the Earth. What are you waiting on-become a Transformer.....NOW!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

May we pray for peace from the various conflicts in our world. We ask for a transformational Grace to touch those who are victims of war, abject poverty, abuse and discrimination. Give us the Grace dear LORD to become transformers for You.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by  
Brenda Chee Wah, a parishioner of *Christ Our Hope Catholic Church*  
*Lithonia, Georgia.*

Available now on the Parish App. and webpage

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

**Now on Face Book** – *Christ Our Hope Catholic Church Atlanta*

Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to [faithinlaity@gmail.com](mailto:faithinlaity@gmail.com)

*Picture curtesy Kade Art*

Scriptures: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)