

Father Rudy's Reflections

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6, 2023

### **Listen to God's Voice**

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

My question to you today is this: In this frenetic world, where busyness and distractions abound, are you carving out intentional times for solitude and silence so that God may speak to your heart and help guide your decisions?

On this Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, we are granted a glimpse of the glory and majesty of Jesus Christ who, in Matthew's Gospel, is illuminated in blinding light alongside the important Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah. This extraordinary occurrence not only reveals Jesus's divinity but imparts a profound message about the importance of listening to God's voice: "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17: 5).

God utters this simple statement amid the fears and confusion of Peter, James, and John about what they had just witnessed. It is a message to all of us in our individual journeys of faith and in our ongoing relationship with our Lord. We are called to actively listen to Jesus, the one whom God sent to us to guide and transform our lives. Listening, however, involves much more than just hearing the words—it involves attentiveness, openness, and a willingness to align our thoughts and actions to Jesus's will. Through the Scriptures, prayer, and promptings by the Holy Spirit, God speaks to us, offering wisdom, comfort, and guidance. It is always the presence we can count on.

The Transfiguration of the Lord also highlights the significance of the mountaintop experience in our spiritual lives. Just as the disciples were transformed by encounters with Jesus's glory, we too can be transformed through our special encounters with him. How many times have we experienced the light of Christ in our lives to help clarify and resolve crises and uncertainties? These moments in time have empowered us to face and bear witness to the light of Christ and ultimately guide our path. May we always strive to cultivate a listening and open heart as we experience these moments, to propel us, armed with our faith and attentiveness, to support those who need us with the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

*"This same Jesus then accompanies his disciples back down the mountain and walks with them in the ordinary rhythms of their lives. This is the Christ who wants to reign as Lord of our lives in every detail."*

Bishop Robert Barron

Yours in Christ,

Father Rudy