March 1 2015
Slovak Catholic Parish

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V žiarivom oblaku bolo počuť Otcov hlas: Toto je môj milovaný Syn, počúvajte ho!

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From the bright cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him.

Slovenský kostol Sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish

2. Pôstna Nedeľa.

2nd Sunday of Lent.

Pred tvárou Pána budem kráčať v krajine žijúcich.
I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Každodenná skúsenosť nás presviedča, že ľudia sa radi povyšujú nad iných. S úľubou vyhľadávajú prvé miesta, čakajú, aby ich iní pozdravili, túžia byť významní a slávni. U niektorých to však presahuje medze a ich túžba po úspechu, sláve sa stáva smiešnou až odpornou. Opravdivo významní ľudia, ktorí aj v živote čosi dosiahli, nemusia na seba upozorňovať, lebo za nich hovoria skutky.

Dnešné evanjelium hovorí o mimoriadnej osobnosti Ježiša Krista, ktorú vyzdvihol sám nebeský Otec a to udalosťou, ktorú voláme Premenenie Pána na Hore. Aby sme jej však dobre porozumeli, musíme sa najskôr pozrieť do dejín spásy. Tam nájdeme, že medzi najväčšie osobnosti židovského národa patril Mojžiš. Všetci Židia ho uznávali, lebo vyslobodil vyvolený národ z egyptského otroctva: Na hore Sinai sa rozprával s Bohom z tváre do tváre. Prevzal od neho Desatoro a vyhlásil zmluvu medzi ľudom a Bohom, ktorá spočívala v tom, že ak bude ľud plniť Desatoro, Boh ho bude za to požehnávať.

Druhou veľkou osobnosťou bol Eliáš. Židom zachránil vieru, ktorú prijali od Mojžiša a neskôr v ťažkých časoch ju stratili. Udialo sa tak na hore Karmel. Keď už vyše troch rokov nepršalo, Eliáš sa vrúcne modlil k Bohu. Hneď na to spadol z neba oheň ako blesk a zapálil Eliášovu obetu. Keď to všetok ľud videl, padol na tvár a hovoril: Pán je Boh! Potom začal padať aj potrebný dážď.

Tieto dve veľké postavy na hore Premenenia zastali vedľa Ježiša. Keby sa nič iné nestalo, iba toto, apoštoli by vyrozumeli, že Ježiš je väčší ako Mojžiš a Eliáš. Ale tu sa udialo ešte čosi významnejšie. Zjavuje sa jasný oblak, ktorý naznačuje, že smrteľný človek nikdy nemôže vidieť veľkého a nekonečného Boha, ktorý bol pri udalosti prítomný. Apoštoli sa o tom presvedčili, keď počuli Otcov hlas: Toto je môj milovaný Syn, počúvajte ho. V tej chvíli spoznali, že Ježiš je väčší ako Mojžiš a Eliáš, že on je Božím Synom.

Aj v dnešnom svete sa Ježiš javí ako najväčšia osobnosť. Len si pomyslime, koľko krížov je po celom svete na cintorínoch, v kostoloch, pri cestách, na vežiach, na retiazkach veriacich ľudí, na stenách domov…? Koľko obrazov a sôch Ježiša Krista je na svete? Koľko ľudí sa k nemu hlási a verejne vyznáva, že ho miluje?

Vy starší si iste spomínate, ako asi pred štyridsiatimi rokmi bola na vrchole slávy anglická skupina Beatles. Kde sa objavili, mladí ľudia doslova šaleli. A uprostred slávy, jeden z nich, slávny John Lennon, chcel vyzdvihnúť svoju veľkosť a zvolal: Ja som väčší ako Ježiš Kristus! A viete, čo nasledovalo potom? V katolíckych krajinách bojkotovali ich vystúpenia, Lennon musel odvolať, čo povedal.

Ježiš je stále veľký, najväčší na celom svete. V Ježišovi sa všetci môžu stať významnými, ak ho budú nasledovať v láske, úcte a ochote slúžiť druhým. To je opravdivá veľkosť.

What is the call of the mountain? The story of the Transfiguration makes me think of a Song of Transformation. It begins, "Transform us as you transfigured." Transform and transfigure are very similar words. In my mind though, transfigure is external, transform can have a connotation of internal change. This line also makes me ask the question, who was the "event" of the Transfiguration for? An argument could be made that it was for Jesus especially when we read the version from Luke. Luke tells us of the conversation between Moses, Elijah and Jesus being about his Exodus, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus about to take place. But then why bring Peter, James and John with him? They were apparently really tired. I think that Jesus wanted them to witness his glorification. He wanted to give them hope over the coming weeks but also to invite them into his glorification.

Remember what happens when they come down off the mountain? They meet up with the other disciples who were not able to exorcise the demon. In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus gets perturbed. It seems he is saying, what do you mean you can't do it? Don't you get it yet? I wonder if he was sending the apostles out but they had not been transformed, changed in their being, to a state of belief that would allow them to exorcise the demon. I think the Transfiguration is, among many other things, an invitation to us for transformation. So how do we answer that invitation?

First, we must acknowledge that we cannot transform ourselves. Jesus is the only one who can transform us. We can only be open to being transformed. The reading from Genesis has a key to help us be open. The messenger from God tells Abraham, " . . . because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly . . ." I hear in this phrase the question what do I withhold from God that could get in the way of transformation? Said differently, what do I hold on to, what am I attached to, what is binding me? Is this not the call of the Lenten season?

As we enter the heart of the Lenten season, let's take some time to reflect on how Jesus is calling us to transformation and ask ourselves, what are we withholding from God? What is keeping us from being open to the love of Christ which will transform us if we let it?

Sources: Jan Adamus; Alex McAllister

Bulletin Announcements

***March 1 - 2nd Sunday of Lent** "'Here I am!' he answered." – Genesis 22:11 It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. Can we just as easily answer, "Here I am, Lord," when we go home, when a neighbor needs our help, when a fellow parishioner asks us to join a committee, or when a letter asks for our financial help? These are often exactly the places where Jesus calls us to be.

***Euthanasia Seminar** Listen to a panel discussion on the repercussions of the recent Supreme Court Decision on assisted suicide. What does this mean for Catholics? What is our pastoral response? How do we protect ourselves? How do we protect our loved ones in hospital or care homes? What is ethical palliative care? How will this affect the rights of the disabled? Featuring: Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; Dr. Margaret Cottle, physician; Dr. Will Johnston, physician. Friday, March 27 from 11am-2pm, John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way, Vancouver and 7-9pm. rcav.org/carter-decision/

***Marriage Enrichment Pub Nights for Couples with Frantic Families** Enjoy a date night with faith, food and fun, door prizes, merchandise, and a draw for hockey tickets to help with a future date night. See the Canucks on TV at Jimy Mac's Neighbourhood Pub in Langley and be inspired by our speakers during intermissions. On Tuesday, March 24, watch the Canucks host the Jets and hear Dominic and Lisa Price speak on "Teaming up for a joy-filled marriage." On Easter Monday, April 6, watch the Canucks host the Kings and hear Greg and Lesley Dumas speak on "Keeping the spark alive." FREE (on condition husband takes wife on a date!) Register at rcav.org/marriage-enrichment-pub-nights/

***Adoration** - spend a blessed hour with Jesus on Thursdays at our church from 7:15pm - 8:15pm.

***Hodinka s Ježišom** - príďte stráviť hodinku s Ježišom v našom kostole vo štvrtky od 19:15h - 20:15h.

Sunday's Collection from the Last Week

Our Weekly Goal	$1,500
Sunday's Collection	$ 1,058
Weekly (Excess) Shortfall	**- $442**
Building Found	**$427**

Thank You. Vďaka. God Bless Your Generosity.

Modlitba príhovoru v nedeľu v našom kostole od 12:30pm do 1:30pm.

Prayer Ministry every Sunday in our church from 12:30pm to 1:30pm until notified.

Sun 1 9:00am	**2nd Sunday of Lent;** Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Rim 8:31b-34, Mk 9:2-10	+ Neal Jason Cabahug	Mama and Ate
Sun 1 11:00am	**2. Pôstna Nedeľa;** Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Rim 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10	Za farníkov	Fr. Juraj
Mon 2 8:00am	Dan 9:4b-19; Lk 6:36-38	Mrs. Gilberte Knapp	Family Javier
Tue 3 8:00am	St. Katharine Drexel; Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12	+ Alice Measor	Bill Bette and family
Wed 4 8:00am	St. Casimir; Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28	+ Josefa Javier	Family Javier
Thu 5 8:00am	Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31	Healing Remedios Salita	Soli Salonga
Fri 6 8:00am	**First Friday;** Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43,45-46	+ Peter Shelling	Ed Starick
Fri 6 7:30pm	**Prvý piatok;** Gn 37: 3-4,12-13a,17b-28; Mt 21:33-43,45-46	Na úmysel	
Sat 7 9:00am	St. Perpetua & St. Felicity; Mic 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32	+ Ján	Andrea s rodinou
Sun 8 9:00am	**3rd Sunday of Lent;** Ex 20:1-17; 1cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25	For parishioners	Fr. Juraj
Sun 8 11:00am	**3. Pôstna Nedeľa;** Ex 20:1-17; 1Kor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25	Požehnanie pre farníkov a priateľov	Vilma Oravcová