



Link between the Executive Council and the World Christian Life Community

**This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him
(Mk 9:7)**

Dear friends,

As spiritual preparation towards Lebanon we invite all of you to pray with the Biblical passage taken as the key text for our World Assembly. We consider here the account of *the Transfiguration* as given in **Mark 9, 2 – 8**.

The mystery of the Transfiguration is of great importance in the life of Christ. This is seen in the fact that it is mentioned in all three Synoptic gospels. It comes just after the prediction of the Passion and thus sheds light on the deeper significance of the whole Pascal Mystery. It is providential indeed that we shall be celebrating this feast during the Assembly in Lebanon (on 6th August). This will also afford us the opportunity to appreciate the great importance given to this mystery in the Eastern Churches.

- Contemplation of the transfiguration of Christ

In the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius suggests this mystery (n. 284) within the Second Week when contemplating the Life of Our Lord. We invite you to enter deeply into this mystery and allow it to touch your life and then apply it to your life in CLC.

- *First Prelude* is the narrative of the thing which I have to contemplate: Mk 9, 2-8
- *Second Prelude* is the composition, seeing the place: here it will be to see the Tabor Mountain where Jesus took with him Peter, James and John.
- *Third Prelude* is to ask for what I want: it will be to ask for interior knowledge of the Lord, who for me has become man, that I may more love and follow Him.

First Point: Jesus took with him his beloved disciples Peter, James and John, and he was transfigured before them. His face became resplendent like the sun and his garments like snow.

Second Point: He spoke with Moses and Elijah

Third Point: When Peter said that they should build three tents, a voice was heard from heaven saying, ***“This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him.”***

After contemplating this scene, we apply it to our lives as Christians and as members of CLC. Like the three disciples, we are granted the privilege of being with Jesus, gazing upon his face, and entering more deeply into the mystery of his identity. The Transfiguration teaches us about Jesus and the destiny of humankind. Can I recognize the Glory of God in the humanity of Jesus? Can I see God in the faces of those who suffer?

Moses and Elijah stand for the Law and the Prophets and thus represent the collective history of the people of Israel. When Jesus is seen speaking with Moses and Elijah, it recalls the many and diverse ways in which God had spoken to the people of Israel throughout their history. This year we are celebrating 450 years of Ignatian Lay Communities. Through CLC, have I felt like I am part of the History of Salvation? Do I feel proud and empowered by the collective strength of our community?

When a voice is heard from the clouds saying, ***“This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to Him”***, the disciples are filled with awe. They recognize the unique identity of Jesus and are reaffirmed in their own choice to follow him. The scandal of the cross remains a stumbling block which has to be overcome, but the disciples are given the grace required to persevere to the end. We are invited to enter deeply into the attitude of listening and allow Jesus to permeate our lives. Like Peter, do I have the temptation to avoid the suffering of the Cross? Why does God ask me to listen carefully to Jesus? What message does Jesus have for CLC today?

The mystery of the Transfiguration invites us to a personal transformation of our lives. It also reassures us that all things turn to good for those who have faith in God. We are sent out into a world that needs healing. The challenges may seem daunting, but we go with the reassurance that the world with all its problems will be transformed by the power of God’s love.

We wish you a fruitful time of preparation towards the World Assembly. May our contemplation of the Transfiguration deepen in us the disposition of listening to God and enthusiastically responding to his call, thereby allowing the Spirit of God to conform us to the image of the Son.

Sofia Montanez
World Secretariat

Luke Rodrigues SJ
Vice EA