

August 6, 2006
Transfiguration of the Lord
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We are no longer going to be recording by tape anymore, we are going to be recording digitally, so, you will immediately be able to go to the computer and pick it up...there will be no selling of the tapes anymore, so if you are not computer literate, you are going to have to find somebody who is. They will be posted every Sunday afternoon. Anyway, today we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, and it's a pretty simple feast, Jesus goes before the Father, and the Father sends down Elijah and Moses, and this is to prepare Jesus to die. And Elijah and Moses are the ones who represent the Old Testament – Moses the Law – Elijah the prophets, and to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament – He is the complete representation of the Father's Will. And what that Father's Will is...is complete self-giving. That the when the Father came, he gave us everything – He revealed the law and the prophets of the Old Testament – He revealed Himself – He revealed His will. So now, when He reveals Jesus – when He says “this is my beloved Son” He is revealing here in the second reading “with whom I am well pleased...” He is revealing “this is who I am – this is what I am about – self-giving love.” So He then looks at us and says...what does He say to us? “Listen to Him.” So the first way we are to listen to Him is to be just like Him. Listen to Him by becoming His example. And because of our baptism – when you and I were baptized, the sky opened up and the God of the Universe sat there and said “you are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter.” Now what that means to be the representation of the Father is what being a son or daughter means – to be the representation of the Father means to listen to Jesus. It means that we live a life for others – we live a life of giving our life away every day. So, if we are not giving our life away in joy then we are not a representation of the Father, we are not living who we are called to be as daughters and sons of the Father. So, the first thing today when God the Father looks at us and says “this is my Beloved Son, Listen to Him...” That means am I living the life of Christ... in how I live everyday? But then it comes to the second part when it says “listen to Him...” That means in my prayer and I am obeying Him in all things. Now, like I said in the beginning of Mass, a lot of people listen to everybody else but Jesus. Why? Because Jesus might tell us something we don't want to listen to. So, you know, whatever we listen to on TV or the radio or whatever we listen to when we read the newspaper or a book – we usually, most people - nobody here, I know – but most people listen to that which they agree with and people agree with them, right? I listen to FOX News – why? Because I am a conservative. Why? We are usually going to agree. And so, I don't like to see something different! Just tell me what it is! Stop picking on the president, stop going against all this stuff. Stop it! Let me hear something – I just want the news. And so, I am bigoted enough – I only listen to what I like, huh? And so, when I go before the Lord, He is going to tell me to do stuff that I don't want to listen to. And you know in your heart of hearts, that is why we don't listen to Him - because He might now agree with us. And you know so many people follow Jesus the way they want to follow Jesus – “ok Jesus, I'll follow you as long as you agree with me...” And I know my views and Jesus' views are the same, correct? Oh, yes this is what Jesus wants for me and this is what Jesus wants for you!

And that comes from listening to ourselves and projecting that on to the God of the Universe what I believe. “Well, I believe this and I know God believes this.” Well isn’t that nice? And yet, we need to sit there and every day spend time listening to Jesus. Now, again the number one way we are going to listen to Jesus is by reading His word, or listening to His word. So, if you attend daily Mass, you listen to Jesus every day because He speaks His word to you. If you go to Mass you listen to Him, at least once a week, because He speaks His word to you, but it isn’t enough! It is not enough to just hear His word once a week! Every day we listen to different people, is that not true? Every day you are influenced by who you listen to. So, if you watch TV, you listen to the world! You listen because they tell you how to live your life! And so, if I ask you did you watch TV yesterday? “Yes Father.” Did you listen to God in His word today? “No Father.” You are listening to the world more than you are listening to Jesus, so you are going against the will of God! Or, do you read every day? “Yes Father.” What do you read? “Well, stories that I like.” Ok, are you reading the word of God every day? “Well, no Father.” Well, you are letting that influence you instead of the word of God! And if you don’t read or watch TV, then you listen to the radio. Well, what do you listen to? Well, I like to listen to Public Radio – there is an agenda, huh? I don’t know if you got it before, but there is an agenda, and so, I listen to it and ok, and I go on. But I mean, I am influenced by that, and so are you! And if you don’t read the paper, watch TV or listen to the radio, well, you listen to the people at work and they have opinions, and their opinions influence you! You and I are influenced every day by the world and what we listen to! Can you imagine you and I prove that we listen to Jesus every day by spending time with His word? Listen to Him! How are we listening to Him if we are not spending time in His word? Someone please tell me! “Well, I learned on Sunday and I just let that carry over, Father.” Ok, so just watch TV for 45 minutes, once a week on Sunday, or read, or listen to the radio or talk to someone – 45 minutes a week, and that is it for the rest of the week! Then you can do the same with God – because the world influences us almost 24 hours a day – at least 12 hours a day – 7 days a week, and God influences us 45 minutes – or at this Mass 1 hour – a week. Whoa – who are we listening to? Because who we listen to is what we will be influenced by, and God our Father doesn’t give us an option today. This is My Son – and the word of God is Jesus Christ, correct? Jesus is the word. So to listen to the word – to listen to Jesus – we have to spend time reading the word – every day! Again, this is a practical application of what God told us today in the gospel, but whether we take this practical application is totally up to us. Whether we obey God or disobey God is totally up to us. May each of you know his love today and forever. Amen!