

Have you been transfigured?

In today's gospel, Peter, James and John are privileged to see Jesus transfigured as he talked on the mountaintop with those great Hebrew leaders and prophets, Moses and Elijah.

Both Moses and Elijah had been agents of total and complete transformation.

And here they were on this mountain as Jesus was being transfigured from being the Jesus of our human brokenness to the glory of the risen Christ.

They were all there on the verge of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem, a journey that ended with His death on the cross and His resurrection into a new creation.

They were there and yet they **SLEPT!**

...

How in the **WORLD** could they have **SLEPT?!?!?!?**

How ... after all that God had done for them ... could they have slept not only in the presence of our Blessed Lord, Jesus Christ, but at such a time when He so desperately needed their companionship, their comfort, and their consoling presence with Him as He entered into His agony?

For that matter, how can **WE** sleep ... spiritually?

How can we come to Mass and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **STILL** snooze our way through our prayers, the Mass and, indeed, throughout our whole spiritual life?

We can be baptized and catechized and yet never be wide awake, never fully aware and alive to the presence of Jesus all around us.

And even **WITHIN** us.

We can say our prayers, perform all our religious duties and still be on automatic.

And you know what ... ?

The secular world **WANTS** it that way!!!

There are forces at work in our world that want us to **REMAIN** spiritually asleep.

They mock the Church at every opportunity.

They write snide newspaper articles and publish opinion pieces sneering at the Pope, mocking our Catholic beliefs, making fun of sincere Catholics, and making our clergy out to be either complete idiots and fools, or else to be demonic predators.

Celibacy and abstinence are denigrated whenever and wherever possible while the atrocities of abortion are celebrated.

The Pope is painted as a senile old man way over there in Rome who is completely out of touch with ordinary “modern” and “progressive” people.

Yet they fail to note, or – more accurately – they deliberately overlook, the growing interest in the Catholic Church and our Church’s stance against the purveyors of sin and evil.

Do you think you will ever see a secular newspaper report of the number of adults who will enter the Church this coming Easter? Did you see any popular TV coverage of the hundreds of thousands who attended the March for Life in our national’s capitol?

Peter, James and John are not alone in their lack consciousness. The same Adversary who induced them into physical sleep on the mountaintop is still at work seducing our modern world into a state of **SPIRITUAL** stupor.

The Adversary has been busy ... and quite effective.

Like Peter, James and John, we sleep while Christ is right here with us.

We sleep because of routine, because of boredom, because we've been overstimulated by the narcotic of the secular world's "fixes." We sleep because we're exhausted, drained, and running on empty. We sleep because we're bloated on spiritual junk food.

Peter, James and John are not really that different from us.

Jesus came down from that mountain and went immediately to Jerusalem, to suffer, and they went with Him.

But what do you suppose caused Jesus the **GREATEST** suffering?

Don't you think it could have been the fact that these three, those closest to Him, the most aware of who He was, went to sleep on Him?

How about us?

Do we continue to go to sleep on Him? To doze while Jesus suffers?

Or will we use this season of Lent for an awakening ... an awakening of what is going on around us and how we can stand up and say to our politicians and to the popular media: "Wait! That's **NOT** what we believe. That's **NOT** what we want?"

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