

St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN

The First Fifteen

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Gospel Reading: Mark 9: 2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzlingly white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the clouds came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

Questions to Ponder:

The Transfiguration came 6 days after Jesus first predicted his Passion to the disciples and presents them the demands of the Cross. In some Jewish traditions an afterlife is not recognized. This was a new concept for the disciples.

1. What vision of heaven do you have? Is heaven someplace you work toward in your actions on this earth? What are some things you do to get to heaven?
2. Jesus and the apostles went up to the top of a mountain? What place have you gone to where you encountered the presence of Jesus?
3. As we experience denial of human pleasures during Lent what does this denial help you understand about Jesus' suffering and death on the cross?

End with the "**Glory Be**"

"Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen"