

## Homily - Second Sunday of Lent

It's rare that we fully understand the importance of all the small daily decisions and ordinary choices we make.

If we stop to think about it, though, so many of the important relationships or events in our lives would never have happened if we hadn't been in the right place at the right time, or chosen to do the right thing.

How many friendships, marriages, or careers began by striking up a random conversation, or choosing to go one place and not another?

In retrospect, we can see the impact these decisions made.

But in the moment, chances are that even if we knew we were at a turning point, we had no idea where that choice would lead us.

If that's true for the ordinary details of our life, how much more is it the case with our relationship with God?

So many of the pivotal events of Scripture itself were confusing and virtually incomprehensible to the people living through them.

Abraham, not knowing that God would provide a miraculous solution, struggled to make sense of the command to sacrifice his son, and certainly could not have known that this event would itself prefigure the climactic moment of salvation history, when Christ, the Lamb of God, would one day be offered to redeem sinful and broken humanity.

Peter, witnessing the glory of the Transfiguration, could barely find the words to articulate the wonder and terror he felt, much less know how to respond in that moment.

And yet, these were pivotal moments. And there were other moments of significance throughout their lives, choices to respond to the Lord's call, choices to face suffering and oppression in order to remain faithful, and choices to live in accord with his will even when the ramifications of those choices were still unknown.

It's so important that we realize that this is a necessary and even constant experience in living our call to holiness.

We can't know everything. We can't predict every outcome, or know the full weight of every cross we will be asked to carry.

But the Lord still calls us and places us on that path, giving us just enough light to take the next step.

Chances are, especially in this season of Lent, we will be invited in significant ways or even very small ones to step out in faith and make that kind of choice, to make that sacrifice and reorient our lives to follow Christ.

There is a danger, however, that we will not listen to that invitation.

And the reason is simple: we like to be in control.

We like to know where those choices will take us, what we will get out of the arrangement, and how we can remain comfortable and content where we are.

But that's not how life, or God, actually work.

And I can tell you from experience, either you can choose to step out in faith, or chances are, God might just push you off that ledge anyway - and one of those alternatives is a lot more pleasant than the other!

There is one thing we can learn from Peter, however, as confused as he was.

He didn't understand what the glories of Christ's Transfiguration were pointing toward, and wouldn't appreciate them in full until after Jesus's Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church itself.

But he was right about one thing: it was good that they were there.

For all the fear, the mystery, and the wonder, in the providence of God it was good that he and his brothers were exactly where they were, because that was where the Lord would continue his work to lead them to a deeper love and understanding.

So, when Christ speaks to our hearts, when he invites us to take up our Cross, as heavy as it may be, remember: it is good that we are here.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us, when we are on the path the Lord has set, nothing can truly be against us, and all things can be redeemed for his glory.

There's no way we can know all the twists and turns of that path, but we can know that it will lead us to his heart, and deeper in his love.

Above all, it is good that we are here with him in his Eucharistic presence, because it is here that he will enlighten us, fill us with the courage to seek his will, and the holy sorrow for sins so that we may turn away from all that is not of God.

Let's bring that mystery to prayer this week.

Where is the Lord inviting you to step out in faith, especially in this Lenten season? Where is he challenging you, and where are you afraid to say yes?

Whatever that place may be, and however he speaks to your heart, remember: wherever our Savior may lead, if we remain anchored to his heart, here in his sacred presence, then we can know in faith - it *is* good that we are here.