

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

# TRANSFIGURED LIVES

### In the Shadow of the Word

**“At that time, Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.”**

*(Luke 9: 28-9)*



The text of the Transfiguration of Jesus is an invitation to discover the beauty hidden in each person and in Creation. If we look deeply into many everyday and personal situations, we could unveil that beauty that is hidden beyond any limitations and shortcomings.

‘The soul that ascends towards God, goes from one beginning to the next, and at the summit hears a voice that says: **You have become beautiful by drawing near to my light**’.

*(Gregory of Nyssa)*

Consecrated life is **"an icon of the transfigured Christ who adorns and beautifies the Church, a unique experience of the light emanating from the Incarnate Word"**. *(Vita Consecrata, Exhortation on Religious Life. John Paul II)*

### There is a beauty and a “holiness” hidden in situations of dis-grace:

"In the midst of tragedy, the power of life prevails and, in spite of everything, the appeal with what is human. Alongside the drive to live one's own life, there is also the strength of solidarity. In that primary decision to live and give life, a primordial holiness emerges. It is the sacredness of suffering. This has a different but more fundamental meaning than the sacredness of virtue.

It may sound exaggerated, but in the face of these unfortunate people, we can repeat what the centurion said in front of the crucified Jesus:

**"Truly, these are the sons and daughters of God".**

The General Chapter of 2024 invites us to look at our reality in this way:

***“We discovered that courage goes hand in hand with vulnerability. We are not perfect; we are wounded, and it is our condition as wounded women that makes us capable of embracing our vulnerability and the vulnerability of our world...We are invited to discover the beauty of imperfection, to live resilient, authentic lives.”***

We make a space for that beauty and listen to  
[\*\*You are the Centre by Margaret Rizza\*\*](#)

## **Women who accompany us on our journey**

### ***The woman who anointed Jesus in Bethany (Mk 14:3-11).***

“While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.” In response to the criticisms, Jesus intervenes: “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a good/beautiful thing for me.”

The Greek adjective *kalós* means 'beautiful' as well as 'good', so the woman's gesture is an example not only of generosity or kindness, but also of 'beauty', and will be remembered 'wherever the good news is proclaimed'.

Jesus recognizes the beauty of the woman's action, excessive, overflowing and beyond measure, which was so similar to his way of loving. That is why he makes her a solemn pledge that her gesture, born out of the gratuitousness of love, will become a living prophecy from which we can all learn.

Perhaps at that moment, looking at the jar shattered into a thousand pieces on the floor, he had understood the silent parable that the Father was telling him that night: in that empty and broken jar, his whole existence was being summoned to its emptying and to death.



We listen to the Canticle of the Creatures of Francis of Assisi, a hymn of reverence for the beauty of Creation and the dignity of the Earth.

[\*\*Click Here.\*\*](#)

***“Our common home is like a sister, with whom we share our existence, like a beautiful mother who welcomes us into her arms.”***

*Dolores Aleixandre rscj  
Spain*

