

Go Transfigure

Many of us have either made changes to our lives or had significant events alter our circumstances. Perhaps some of the biggest changes have revolved around work and retirement. For others, it could be when we got married and had children. I know that some are divorced, while others have dealt with the death of a spouse. Maybe some, for various reasons, were never married. We've lost weight, changed jobs, bought and sold homes, and so on. These things all represent change. They may even have caused us to transform.

People transform, and things can also be transformed. We bought our home over twenty years ago. It is difficult for me to remember exactly what it looked like when we first bought it. I will say, though, that Mark has transformed nearly every aspect of the house and helped turn it into a home. I am sure this has happened where you live as well. Look around our church. In Westfield, we worship in a sanctuary that was built in 1860. Surely, this looks

different than what it looked like then. In Southwick, we worship in a building that was constructed and opened in 1824. While the pews in the balcony look as though they could be original, the rest of the sanctuary has been transformed over the past 200+ years.

Our churches have both transformed over the years as we have changed our music, worship style, and how we live out the Gospel message. We have made great strides in how we minister to our neighbors. I think we can say that we are truly in the midst of transformation. However, have we begun to transfigure?

Transfiguration is when there is a specific, elevated, or glorious change in outward appearance, i.e., a heavenly glow that reveals the Divine. I believe that transfiguration requires the power of the Holy Spirit. So, is it possible for us to transfigure or to have a transfiguration in our own lives? I think we can do this, but it may work hand in hand with transformation.

Let's backtrack a bit with transformation. One of the things that has happened to so many of us as we grow older is that we

have become less independent. Our bodies have transformed such that we cannot do all of the things that we had done for years. Or, maybe our dependence is temporary as we recover from injuries or illnesses. We rely on others to do for us. This could be considered part of their ministry to us. Now, if Christ is in every person we meet, couldn't their acts of ministry to us allow us to see them as Christ? Couldn't they "transfigure"--if even for a bit--in our presence? On the same level, as we minister to others, couldn't we all transfigure for someone else, even if it is just for a moment? Also, we can allow those to whom we minister to also transfigure for a moment.

In our ministry to spread the Gospel message, we are called to minister to those around us. We also have to allow others to minister to us. You have heard many people use the phrase, "Go figure." What if our message today were "Go transfigure?" Let us all continue our ministry of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, crucified and raised from the dead. Let us "go transfigure" to be the

face of Christ to others. Let others transfigure to be the face of Christ as we minister to and allow others to minister to us.