

While winter was imposing itself on us with its great snowstorms and its terrifying winds, its humidity and its absence of the sun, on the other hand the liturgy of Lent has been inviting us to fill what is empty, to blow on the flame that lies dormant within us, to shake up interior sparks of our life that they may create warmth for others.

The personnel of the Centre will take this time to welcome you in thought to the tomb of Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. May she share her ardors with you and care for your needs and worries.

In your joys, as well as in your pains, may she be with you!

As for us, we continue to carry you in our prayers.

May you and those you love be filled with joy at Easter!

Happy Easter!

Jeannine Serres, S.S.A.,
Marie Anne Blondin Centre

Born to be Radiant Light

The place of Light in the Liturgy and in the Word of God

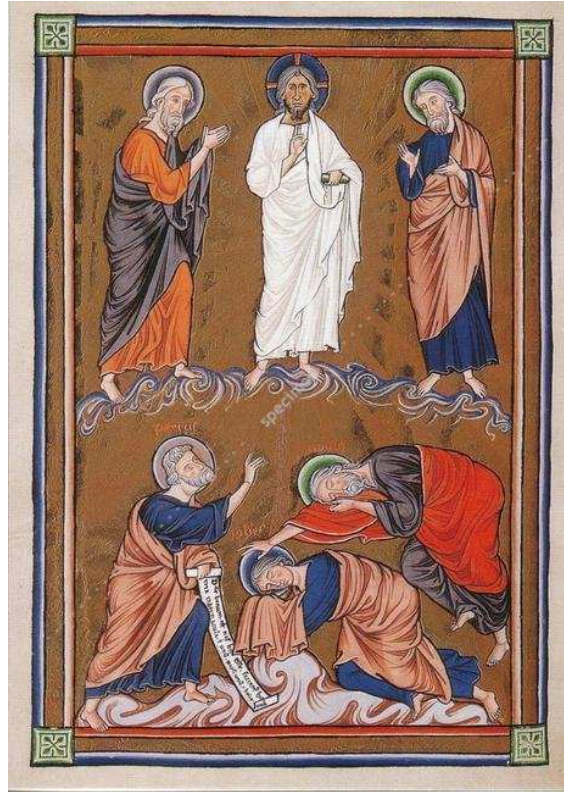
This particular message should have a preceding message : “Born into great joy!” For the Infant God, born in the darkness of night, has filled the earth with His peaceful light, a light that prolongs itself all through the liturgical year. At Christmas, Jesus, born in a very small place, cuts the darkness of that night with His light. “The light shines on in the dark, and the darkness has never mastered it.” (John 1, 5). Wonder of wonders! The shepherds came, awed by the glory of the heavenly angels! The magi were guided by a star! Jesus was setting up His tent among us, a tent of humanity and of light. “I am the light of the world. No follower of mine will walk in the dark; he shall have the light of life” (John 8, 12).

Just now, although we are in Lent, the light that is Jesus shines again. It is as if God finds pleasure in throwing a golden thread along the route of our pilgrimage. For truly, our Mother the Church, in her liturgy throughout the year, places before us mysteries about Christ that are meant to be rest stops of contemplation enhancing our spiritual life. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost succeed each other, as well as the secondary contemplative feasts : the Transfiguration, the Trinity, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart--each one a rhapsody of light, a beautiful beacon along our way. Such light-filled spiritual markers help to keep us on our way for it is very easy to leave that route . . .

On the second Sunday of Lent, the liturgy gives us a chance to contemplate the mystery of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The Church proposes it again on the 6th of August during the summer and forty days before the celebration of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Transfiguration of the Lord is a feast that plunges us into a shower of light, enabling us to face the shadows of the cross in our daily lives. Our eyes should not miss the light. On the contrary, our eyes should be so bathed by light that even when they are closed, they are again bathed with its radiance. Does not this mystery contain, as on a hard disk, all the mysteries of the Old and New Testaments? This mystery ought to serve as directional guide for our life! When there is no electricity, we run around spontaneously looking for candles or a flashlight. Just so, when our faith is shaky, we can turn to this mystery as to a strong beacon, a “lamp to guide my feet”, a light for my path.”(Psalm 119, verse 105)

The Gospel of the Transfiguration

Actually, three evangelists, Mark 9, (1-9); Matthew 17, (1-8); Luke 9, (28-36), write about the Transfiguration. In the Gospel stories, Jesus and His Disciples go up a certain mountain. We can judge from this that something very important is going to happen. Upon that mountain will Jesus manifest His glory! As witnesses, Jesus chooses Peter, James and John, who will also be privileged witnesses of His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. But on this day, Jesus reveals to the apostles the glory of His Divinity. For the first time, human eyes contemplate the glory of God shining from the face of Christ: Jesus, true God and true Man. He appears clothed in the majestic splendor of His Majesty, clothed also in a robe of light as is written in Psalm 104. Jesus, by His transfiguration, shows us our destiny: to discover our garments of light, to become like God. Suddenly, lo and behold! Two great figures now appear on the scene: Moses, who represents the Law, and Elijah, who represents the prophets. Before the eyes of the three apostles, the Old Testament and the New Testament come together. (...) “And then a cloud overshadows them.” This cloud that comes from heaven recalls the cloud that accompanied the Hebrew people during their journey through the desert. This cloud now covering the apostles (...) is the Presence of the Holy Spirit. Then there is a “return to normal” and the apostles are instructed to keep this a secret. The word “keep” means not to forget, but to live in faith until the day all will be fulfilled with the glory of the Resurrection.” The above paragraph has been a long section taken from the Bible for Families, (Bible des familles, page 672)! I have found that it best summarizes the three gospel accounts of the Transfiguration.



In the icon representation that I have chosen, taken from the psalm-book of Ingeburg, I was struck by the personages of Moses and Elijah turned toward Christ, Who is blessing with His right hand and holding in His left hand the scroll of Writings that fulfill it. He is dressed in white and on His halo is a cross. The icon resonates with light and this light dazzles the personages, even the two apostles who appear to be sleeping, or at least have their eyes half-closed, no doubt to evade this astonishing light. Of the three, only the apostle Peter is awake and he is looking towards the Christ.

If Jesus shows himself to His disciples in such a splendor of glory, it is because He wishes, ahead of time, to bolster the disciples with the glory of the resurrection, so that they will accept His passion and His death on a cross. Lost trouble! The same three apostles will sleep during His agony and could hardly watch one hour with Him...

The Transfiguration in the Life of Mother Marie Anne

And how has our mother welcomed the Light of Christ into her life? You know well that her life was not a “long tranquil river”. She experienced deceptions, crosses, difficulties. Her way through her life was not always very easy. She wrote a letter to Bishop Bourget, did she not, a letter dated November 29, 1858: “For four weeks, she (your very humble daughter) experienced very great spiritual pains. Boredom, disgust, very strong temptations on various subjects were so strong that her soul was in a sort of agony and, in that painful state, everything seemed lost; the light of faith no longer shone in her eyes; no light of hope came to relieve her depression; (...) not even a glimmer of hope assuaged a beaten courage.”

That letter needs no commentaries. The situation would correct itself with time and Mother Marie Anne would find again peace and serenity, even to the extent of forgiving those who so strongly tried her. We can glean from her letters several extracts welcoming the light that came back to her soul. It is in the Eucharist and in the Heart of Jesus that she is able to find again strength, courage, joy and consolation. Made strong by her experience, she writes to her friend Herline: “Rest in Him, like an infant in the arms of the most tender of fathers. Being in the arms of Jesus, you will be close to His Divine Heart which you love with so much ardor.” (August 18, 1875).

The life of Mother Marie Anne, marked by so much suffering, did not make of her a person “burned out” and taciturn. Just the contrary! She liked to rest herself for lengths of time before the Sun of Love—Jesus in the tabernacle –and she came away, shining like a new Moses, radiant from her encounter with the Lord. The Sisters attest with enthusiasm about her face shining with light. “I am sure that she was always in the presence of God.” “The exterior of Mother Marie Anne revealed so much sanctity and such a sense of the presence of God, that I was moved to act towards her as I did before the Blessed Sacrament.” (Extracts from comments about her from Martyre du silence, p. 363, by Eugene Nadeau.

Prayer to the Transfigured and Transfiguring Christ

O Christ of the Transfiguration, You, the Burning Bush of our lives,
Be our magnetic pole, as You were for Mother Marie Anne.
Dazzled by Your Holy Face, drawn by Your glorious Cross,
We go to You with joy in the faith
You have put into the heart of our Mother. Amen.

Pierrette Petit, S.S.A.
Margaret Cantwell : translator

GRATEFUL TESTIMONIES FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED

A big word of thanks to Blessed Marie Anne Blondin for having given me the strength and courage to leave my home after living in the same place for 23 years. Throughout the years I have felt her help. She was one who accepted to live through great disturbances all through her own life. I continue to pray with fervor.

Mrs. F. B...Montreal, QC

I want to thank Mother Marie Anne for the favours she has obtained for me. She has given me many, but especially this one : when my dermatologist diagnosed me with cancer of the skin, I confided myself to Mother Marie Anne Blondin. I made a novena. Today, I am cured! A big "Thank you!" to Mother Marie Anne !

Mrs. V. B....Rigaud, QC

I come with many thanks to Mother Marie Anne, who once again has obtained two favours for my granddaughter and her two children: first, the sale of their house that was too small for two children and secondly, today they signed the purchase of their new house. Thank you !

Mrs. J. C...St.-Eustache, QC

I want to thank Mother Marie Anne for helping us with the sale of a vehicle that has been on the market for two years. I asked the help of Mother Marie Anne and she answered me. Two days after finishing the novena, a buyer came by and, just like that, the sale was concluded. A big thank you to Mother Marie Anne for this favour !

M.R.B....St. Felix-de-Valois, QC

Mother Marie Anne has answered our wish. Our grandson was admitted into a school with a specialty, music. We hope he will learn how to have his talent bloom!

Mrs. M. B. ...Montreal, QC

I would like you to publish in your bulletin a favour that I have received from Mother Marie Anne : the good results of a medical examination. Thank you!

Mrs. S.T...Alma, QC

I want to thank Mother Marie Anne for the sale of our neighbor's house. For five years he waited for a buyer. While making a month-long novena, a buyer presented himself and our neighbor was able to conclude the sale. A big thank you to your foundress, Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. She has obtained for us many other favours. Thank you!

Mrs. F...Rogersville, NB

Mother Marie Anne, thank you for saving my son and my husband from hypothermia when their canoe was wrecked. Besides this, thank you that I am finished with a fraudulent contract with my office. Thanks, too, for protecting the health of our family!

Mrs. C.R....Bourget, ON

I want to thank Mother Marie Anne for my son, who broke his collarbone while out with his bicycle. He healed very well; I also thank her for the sale of my sister's house and also for my driver's license that I was able to get after five years of no driving at all because of an operation on my right knee. I "talk" with Mother Marie Anne every day. Thank you!

Mrs. L. F. L...St. Boniface, QC

I made a novena to Mother Marie Anne and I thank her for the help she has given my son-in-law, father of a little girl who is 1 1/2 years old; he has just learned that he has cancer. He received radiation and chemotherapy for two months in Montreal. Today he has no cancer. Every night I ask Mother Marie Anne to help him; she has always helped me.

Mrs. R. B...Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, QC

Dear Marie Anne Blondin, I made a novena for my daughter S..., who was very sick, but presently, she is much better, thanks to you!

Mrs. J. L...Montreal, QC

Thanks to Mother Marie Anne for having responded to my prayer when my husband had open heart surgery. He is in good shape now and I hope that his health will last a long time. Thank you!

Mrs. L. S. B...Notre-Dame-des-Prairies, QC

THE MESSAGE OF MARIE ANNE BLONDIN

The Eucharist is celebrated quarterly for the intentions
of all our benefactors and friends.

The publication is not intended to anticipate in any way
the decisions of our Mother Church,
but wishes to conform entirely to her rules and spirit.

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