

The Transformers entertainment franchise can trace its origins to Japanese toy company Takara Tomy and a line of products dating from the early 1980s and marketed in the US by Hasbro.

It is hard to imagine that this summer's science fiction action film, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, has roots in a 30-year-old Japanese toy collection.

But such are things in the contemporary world, where we no longer have simply movies with plots, but rather summer block busters with world-spanning merchandising and interlocking multiverses that seek to reconcile the story lines of Saturday morning cartoons, comic books, and movie installments.

Despite receiving an average rating of 3.8 out of 10, *Age of Extinction*, still grossed over \$1 billion dollars in worldwide box office receipts.

Not bad for the lowest rated film in the recent collection of movies. And already, Hollywood is talking about a fifth motion picture in the Transformers series to be released in the next 2 or 3 years.

Today is the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, and in the Second Reading, we hear from St. Paul who urges us not to “*conform [ourselves] to this age.*”

Far from simply extricating ourselves from the busy-ness of the modern world ... unplugging ourselves from our media services and all of the electronic devices that interconnect us with the world – Saint Paul is not asking for us to merely go away to a quiet place.

After all, it is already the end of August ... Labor Day weekend ... summer is over, and for most of us ... we won't be getting away for any length of time for the next several months.

What Saint Paul is asking us to do is to “*be transformed by the renewal of [our] mind[s].*”

This doesn't mean that we should be able to change from an armored human-shaped robotic form into a Camaro or a helicopter ... or even a dinosaur. Rather the Greek word St. Paul uses here is where we get the

English word *metamorphosis* ... and its meaning is more than to change or transform - but rather it means to be transfigured.

It is the same word used in the Gospel, and applied to our Lord, when Jesus is transfigured on the mountain top in front of His disciples.

And as if this isn't enough, St. Paul goes on to tell us to "*offer [our] bodies as a living sacrifice*" ... as well as to live out our lives in "*the will of God.*"

No small task.

But God isn't asking for a couple of short resolutions now that the kids are going to be in school during the day. God wants all of you - body, mind, and spirit - to be transfigured by His grace, and mercy, and love.

In the first reading and in the Gospel we hear examples of what happens when the transformation is only done part-way ... or half-heartedly. The prophet Jeremiah complains about being duped and overpowered by God ... and St. Peter tries to keep Jesus from fulfilling His mission of redemption by avoiding His cross.

Our complete transformation in Christ requires that we begin to think "*as God does, [not] as human beings do.*"

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray to receive, in this Eucharist, the transforming power of God into our bodies, minds, and souls ... so that we may be transfigured by God's grace, and mercy, and love ... into the people God has called us to be through the waters of our own Baptism.

And then ... completely renewed in the Holy Spirit ... and transfigured by the power of God ... can we go forth from this place ... as the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ ... and transform the world ... into the Kingdom of God.