

# Fr. David's Weekly Newsletter



March 2, 2012

## Second Sunday of Lent

O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory.

### POPE'S SPIRITUAL EXERCISES FOCUSING ON COMMUNION

*Congolese Cardinal Speaks of His Meditations  
for the Curia*

Communion with God, as explained in the First Letter of Saint John, is the central theme of the Lenten spiritual exercises under way in the Vatican.

Until Saturday, Benedict XVI and the members of the Roman Curia are gathering in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel of the apostolic palace to follow the three daily meditations offered by Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, Archbishop of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As is usual, in this week all the Pope's commitments are suspended, including the Wednesday general audience.

According to Vatican Radio, the sole media outlet authorized to record the spiritual

exercises, Cardinal Monsengwo explained that it is communion with God, from whom the Church obtains "mercy" and a "loving guide."

Interviewed by Alessandro De Carolis of Vatican Radio, the archbishop of Kinshasa explained that "St. John gives much attention to communion in the Church, whether communion of the faithful with the Apostles, or of the faithful with God and of the Apostles with God."

"It is an interesting topic that is always valid because within this topic we talk about all the problems that the primitive Church encountered and that we can encounter today," commented the cardinal.

Cardinal Monsengwo Pasinya referred to the rupture of communion in the Church: a rupture of communion due to a lack of faith; a rupture of communion because of the lack of charity; a rupture of faith because the teaching of the Apostles is not followed.

*I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.*

In this regard he noted that “at the beginning of the Church there were persons that did not believe in Jesus, just as today there are persons who do not believe in Jesus: they do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah, they do not believe that Jesus became incarnate.”

Then John began to contact those who did not believe that Jesus had come and he said: “They were among us, but they left.”

According to the cardinal, “also today we have communities that were with us and have left: all those small communities that are called by us ‘churches of the awakening,’ or fundamentalists, etc., all this reality is touched upon in Saint John’s text.”

“Who finally,” added the cardinal, “begins to talk about faith in Jesus Christ, about communion with God and, in the meantime, gives the criteria so as to be in communion with God. Hence, we today are interested in seeing these things again.”

To the question on the way in which the words of the Letter of Saint John are interwoven with the topics of Lent, the archbishop of Kinshasa

replied: “Lent is, practically, a going to the desert with Jesus to be closer to God. Where the Lord conquered the devil, we also must conquer.

Where Israel, in the desert, was conquered by the devil, we also must avoid being conquered by the devil. Hence, this is the *raison d’être* of Lent: the fact that it helps us to live more intensely communion with God. Communion with God, then, in the heart of Lent, when the text of the Letter states: ‘You conquered thanks to the anointing of the Spirit, thanks to the Word of God that you received in Baptism.’”

Responding to a question about the Lenten Message for this year, in which Pope Benedict XVI stresses very much the aspect of concrete charity, Cardinal Monsengwo Pasinya concluded: “The Pope’s appeal, to us, is profoundly real: when one is in Africa and one sees the poverty, the misery, the wars, all the chaos that exists, one cannot fail to think of this. That is why we accepted without doubt the Pope’s Message: because it fits our reality.”

## **SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL - MARCH 3**

Saint Katharine Drexel, Religious ( memorial March 3) was born in 1858, into a prominent Philadelphia family, Katharine became imbued with love for God and neighbor. She took an avid interest in the material and spiritual well-being of black and native Americans. She began by donating money but soon concluded that more was needed - the lacking ingredient was people. Katharine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Black and Native American peoples, whose members would work

for the betterment of those they were called to serve.



From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, she dedicated her life and a fortune of 20

million dollars to this work. In 1894, Mother Drexel took part in opening the first mission school for Indians, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Other schools quickly followed - for Native Americans west of the Mississippi River, and for the blacks in the southern part of the United States. In 1915 she also founded Xavier University in New Orleans. At her death there were more than 500 Sisters teaching in 63 schools throughout the country. Katharine was beatified by Pope John Paul II on November 20, 1988.

# CATHOLIC VOCABULARY

sup•pli•ca•tion

ˌsʌ•plɪ•keɪ•ʃən

*noun*

1. the act of supplicating
2. a humble entreaty or petition; prayer

Late 14c., from O.Fr. *supplication*, from L. *supplicationem* (nom. *supplicatio*), from *supplicare* “plead humbly.” In ancient Rome, a religious solemnity, especially in thanksgiving for a victory.



## Supplication

Supplication (also known as petitioning) is the most common form of prayer, wherein a person asks God to provide something, either for the person who is doing the praying or on behalf of someone else. This is because a supplication is being made, also known as intercession.

The concept of supplication is also perfectly at home in a secular context. The supplicant may also be described as a suppliant, but the former word is more commonly used. The key meaning is of a request by the lesser person in an acknowledged unequal relationship. For example, supplication is the final stage of thesis submission at Oxford University. Supplication is also closely associated with the secular notion of appeasement.

In Christianity, the prayer of supplication for health by and on behalf of the sick is referenced in early Christian writings in the New Testament, especially James 5:13-16.

One example of supplication is the Catholic ritual of novena (from *novem*, the Latin word for “nine”) wherein one repeatedly asks for the same favor over a period of nine days. This ritual began in Spain during the Middle Ages when a nine-day period of hymns and prayers led up to a Christmas feast, a period which ended with gift giving. A contemporary Christian example of supplication is the practice of the Daily Prayer for Peace by the Community of Christ where a member prays for peace each day at a specified time. Philippians 4:6 says, “Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

# 2nd Sunday of Lent

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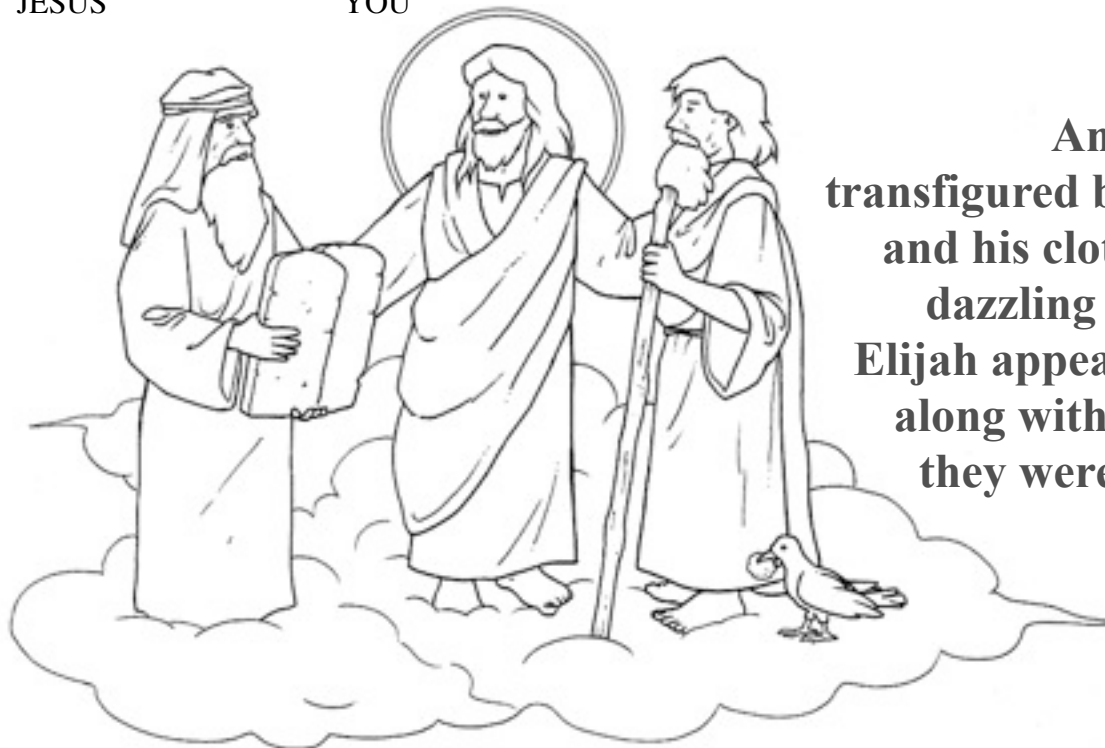
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**And Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.**