

I A Hungarian writer once wrote an amusing but also very thoughtful dialogue which he imagined between two babies in a mother's womb. Obviously, they were twins. One twin asked the other, "Do you believe in life after delivery? Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later." "Nonsense" said the first twin. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second twin said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now." The first twin replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need...Life after delivery is to be logically excluded." The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore." The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere." "Well I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us." The first replied, Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is

She now?" The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist." Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist." To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

A. Is there a God? Is there life after death? How can we know? Certainly, our Catholic Faith provides us with some answers to these questions. Those answers are based on the Bible and our Holy Tradition. No one sat down and thought up our faith. It is not the work of philosophers or holy seers, but of preachers, prophets, teachers, housewives, fishermen and a host of common people just like us who were witnesses to events they could not completely understand but cherished in their hearts. We hear from three of those witnesses in today's Gospel from St. Matthew. Peter, James and John witness on Mt. Tabor, The Transfiguration of the Lord, which we celebrate today. Their eye witness testimony provides us with some insight into our questions about God and life after death. This Feast shows us the divine nature of Jesus. Yes, he was human in all things but sin, with a human nature. Yet, he also had a divine nature and we get a glimpse of that nature in today's Gospel.

The three apostles are told by Jesus not to reveal what they have seen until after he is raised from the dead. In a way, the Transfiguration give us a quick view of the end of the story before it actually ended. The Transfiguration is an anticipation of the Resurrection. The face of Jesus shown like the sun and his clothes became white as light, this is a description of Jesus appearing in glory, then a voice from a cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to him." Who can make this up? Who would want to? For what reason? The Transfiguration gives us the truth of the being of Jesus: he is God, Light of Light. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus confirm the truth of his being by proclaiming "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (Jn 8: 12).

- B. However, not only does the Transfiguration reveal the divine identity of Jesus, but it is a glimpse of the glory God wills to give to us. The Transfiguration reveals the fullness of life destined to be ours. For us to be in heaven means we cast off everything unworthy of our personal relationship with the Infinite and we take on the luster of the Son of God. The Transfiguration is about our glorious and eternal future. If we want

that end then we are to do as we are told by God in today's Gospel. We are to listen to Jesus.