

## From Fr. Mike's Desk

On August 6, 1945, seventy-two years ago, the United States of America dropped the first atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in what would begin the last days of one of the worst conflicts humanity has ever known, the Second World War. With the dropping of this device the city was destroyed, many people died at once, many people died later, and many suffered the effects of radiation sickness for months and years to come. This was not one of the greatest days in humankind's history, and many people to this day debate whether this had to be done. We shall not enter into this debate on this day, but I do find it paradoxical that many of the events of the war in the Pacific followed closely to events and days that are very special to the Church's Calendar.

For instance, the day the United States officially declared war on Japan was December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother. The bomb was dropped on the day of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, and the day Japan asked for a surrender was August 15<sup>th</sup>, which was the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother's Body and Soul into Heaven. These very days on our calendar remind us that no matter how terrible the events of human history are, these will not be the last word on what is in store for humanity. These days remind us of the life waiting for us in God's Kingdom of Heaven, and they remind us of how much God has done for us to achieve salvation.

This day in particular, is a foreshadowing of what the Church celebrates on Easter and how we will be at the end of time, as Jesus was transfigured before the eyes of the Apostles. Just as Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah, so He appeared on the First Easter, and so shall we appear in God's Kingdom on the Last Day. Of course, some have taken on this Glorified State already, Moses and Elijah, perhaps the great figures of the Old Testament and the Saints of the New Testament, and most certainly our dear Blessed Mother. We know that at the end of her life, she was taken body and soul into heaven and we will celebrate that day on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> (as this is a Holy Day of Obligation). This is how she has been able to appear to so many people throughout the ages; as we see at Guadalupe, Lourdes, and especially during this centennial year, Fatima.

Today is a great day to celebrate because we are looking at the events of today as a promise of the fulfillment of all that has been told to us. Like the Triumph of the Cross, which we will celebrate next month on the 14<sup>th</sup>, this is a day we joyfully remember all that Jesus did for us through His Life, Death, and Resurrection. The Transfiguration was Jesus' gift to His Apostles who began to have doubts, when Jesus told them six days earlier that He would be betrayed, handed over to the Romans and crucified. Even though He told them He would rise three days later, they did not hear Him. They focused on the first part of His words, and they could not understand, accept or even think about the fact that the Messiah would die on the Cross. How could this happen to God's Chosen One? Therefore, Jesus and the Father had to get the message across to them, that all of this would indeed happen, but also that their sadness would be followed with great joy for them and for us.

Jesus changed before their eyes as a sign of what will happen to humanity, but we are not to wait for the Second Coming to be transfigured. We are to strive for it every day, we are to try to become like Christ in all we say and do.

*God bless you always and do not forget the Summer Festival coming on us next week (the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>). See you there!*  
*Fr. Mike*

