

Journey of Faith and the Luminous Mysteries

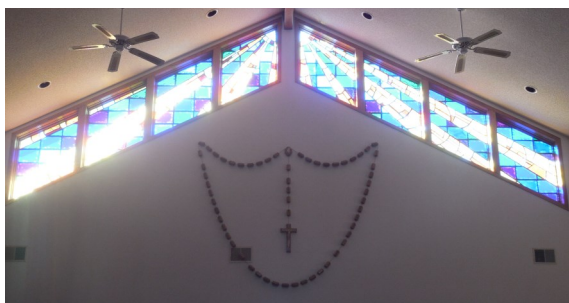
Meditations for our Pastoral Planning in the Archdiocese of Omaha

- The first vocation crisis is that of our baptismal call - The Baptism of the Lord.
- The second vocation crisis is marriage - Wedding Feast at Cana.
- These vocations must include the evangelization of one's family and neighbors - Proclamation of the Kingdom.
- When Jesus is shared by individuals and within families, our lives and parishes will be transformed - The Transfiguration of the Lord
- From within missional communities will come priestly vocations necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist - The Institution of the Eucharist.



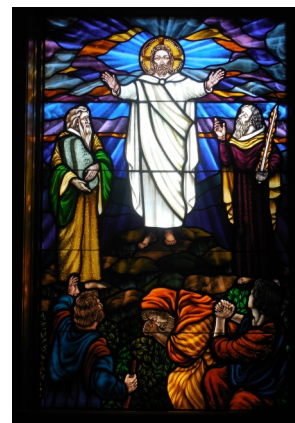
The Baptism of the Lord - We speak often of the need for more priests and a vocation crisis, but the crisis is first in the baptismal vocation - the failure of many Catholics to live out our baptismal promises. We say we believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, do we live any differently than our neighbors? Do they know the reason for our hope? Are we convinced that life is not the same knowing Jesus? That we have good news to share? Jesus, renew the spirit of our baptism in each of us, that through us, more of your beloved children throughout the world, and in our little place within it, may come to know you.

The Wedding Feast at Cana - Downstream from the baptismal vocation crisis is that of the marriage vocation crisis. There are so many wounded marriages and broken relationships. So many who do not know what constitutes authentic spousal love. How, O Jesus, can your children hear your call with such woundedness? So many couples have run short of the wine of love. Fill them again with the overabundance of new wine, the wine of your divine grace. Renew their marriage vocations that our families, parishes, and communities may become alive again with your presence.



The Proclamation of the Kingdom - We are called to be missional parishes, to proclaim Jesus and his kingdom. Too often our faith remains hidden, even choked out by the cares of the world. We are in the world, but not of it. We are to be salt, bringing the flavor of Jesus to a bland world, preserving it from the decay of sin, and to be light, bringing the illumination of Christ into the hearts of those overshadowed in hopelessness and gloom. Jesus, help us to have your words always upon our minds, hearts, and lips. Give us the gift of fortitude, that we might boldly share you with others.

The Transfiguration of the Lord - It is so easy to be depressed, to get lost in our seemingly hopeless current realities, so much of which we cannot change. But before your Passion, Lord, you showed your glory to your apostles, that they might be encouraged and not fall into despair. Jesus, you have the power to transfigure not just yourself, but transform our hearts. Transform our parishes to be more like you. May we shine the light of your face toward so many among us who are lost in the darkness of this fallen world.



The Institution of the Eucharist - Only if we renew the baptismal vocations of the lay faithful, only when spouses are living out Christian marriage, can we expect their children, and their sons in particular, to hear the Lord's call to be his priest, to be the ministers through whom the Eucharist comes to us. Help our devotion to you, Lord Jesus, ever grow. May your Real Presence be for us the source and summit of our Journey of Faith.