

Last Sunday night the Grammy's hosted a tribute to the late Aretha Franklin. One of the headliners for the night was Jennifer Hudson. This woman started her career in a church choir in Chicago, from there she tried out for and won a spot on the hit show American Idol; only to be voted off a few weeks later. She went on to win an academy award for her performance in the film Dreamgirls. Now, on this stage before a capacity crowd she was transformed by the light that she discovered she had inside of her.

The story of Jennifer Hudson reminded me of the words spoken by Nelson Mandela in his Inaugural Speech. This leader of South Africa said, "Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually who are we

not to be? We are a child of God; we were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.”

Transfiguration happens when some inner quality or potential breaks through the surface of our life and is visible; that is when a person demonstrates their true colors. Both Abram and Jesus experience these moments in the readings we heard today. Abram a mere shepherd is transformed into the Father of a great nation and Jesus is transfigured right before the eyes of three of his apostles. This itinerant preacher is now seen as the Savior of the World. While it would have been nice to stay locked in that moment forever, Jesus realizes that the mountaintop

experience, while terrific, cannot last. There will be that moment when they will have to go back down into the world where he will have to face suffering and death. But because of his moment on the mountaintop he also understands that his death will not be the end. His resurrection will be the last word.

As we journey through these forty days of Lent we are called to search out the strengths that God has planted deep within us. This season of Lent calls us to come before the mirror of honesty and humility in order to acknowledge the good that God sees and loves in us. This is not an exercise in egotism; it is not a greater than thou moment. It is a time to recognize the talents, appreciate their presence, and then utilize them in order to better our world. We cannot stand in front of the mirror forever admiring the strengths we have received. There is a time when we have

to move out of the glow of the reflection in order to share the wealth with others.

In these remaining days of Lent, let us understand and embrace the message of the Transfiguration, the call to move on. Utilizing some quiet time every day let us delve into our inner selves, recognize and embrace the person we are meant to be and let our light shine through. Then with Jesus we can reveal the glory of God at Easter.