

**Homily for March 11, 2001
2nd Sunday of Lent Cycle C**

By Father Charles Bowes

**Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28b-36**

We are changed and through us the world is, too.

The expectancy that had been growing around John the Baptizer was now concentrating around Jesus to the extent that folks expected miracles and wonders right, left, and center.

In Luke chapter 9, Jesus takes Peter, James and John and says, "Come with me, I will show you something." No doubt they followed excitedly, proud to be chosen, sure it was about to start: a totally new world with Israel at the top. A totally new era, with rich harvests everywhere. A totally new order, with food for all. A totally new environment, with more water than was needed. A totally new ecology, with plenty of power and energy. A totally new economy, with health opportunities and social security for everyone. A totally new cosmos, economically wealthy, technologically robust, and politically full of peace, love and unity. At last! It was here!

They looked at him while he was discussing this changeover, this exodus, with Moses and Elijah representing the law and the prophets – the fulfillment of the Old Testament in the new.

Suddenly, the change *did* start, but the grass didn't grow more lush. The trees didn't grow bigger fruits. The maize did not increase the size of its cobs. The rain didn't fall more abundantly; the sun didn't get any brighter. It was Jesus who changed. It was he who started to shine, he, the son of humanity, the model of all.

In this way, Jesus made it clear to them – those privileged three and we who read this report – what would happen to this world: we humankind would change and start to shine. The new creation begins in us because we, through baptism and profession of faith, are rooted in Jesus. We become his glorified flesh and blood for the world.

This weekend throughout the archdiocese we are reflecting on the Annual Archbishop's Fund Drive – a way in which our world is transformed by those of us who participate both as givers and receivers. We are privileged to have with us today one of our parishioners, Mrs. Patricia Combs-Ogundirun, who has first-hand knowledge of what this fund means.

