

Truth shines

Three stories on the celebration of the Transfiguration

Beloved father

At the swimming pool one day, I noticed a man, about forty years old, with his two daughters. The girls were playing 'trust dives'. One would stand at the side of the pool with her eyes shut while the other would nudge her until she fell in. Their father was obviously enjoying their antics and, much to the girls' delight, would sneak up and push them both in the water at unexpected moments. The scene was one big wet, splashing, humorous display of familial joy.

Later I came across the man at the kiosk and summoned the courage to speak to him. 'Are those your daughters, mate?' 'Yeah,' he said defensively, eyeing me (a male about his age) with suspicion. 'I couldn't help noticing how much they are enjoying the games with you; you're obviously a much-loved Dad.'

The man's whole demeanor changed. His eyes lit up and he 'shone' with a kind of deep-down recognition of something precious. He smiled graciously and explained, as I had suspected, that he is divorced and only has his children every second weekend.

As we shook hands and parted ways it seemed to me that, through our brief interaction, we had both been transformed in a small but significant way.

His truth had been recognised: he is a much-loved father. And I felt pleased, uplifted even, to have stated that truth. (VRC)

Beloved godson

As a birthday present to my 7 year old godson I decided to give him a gift of my time. Out of coloured paper and glitter I fashioned a rather gaudy gift certificate that entitled the 7 year old bearer to one 'Special Outing' with his godmother including lunch at his favourite hamburger place. I was prepared for the gift to be a bit of a fizzer amidst other more glamorous presents, however the certificate was met with glee and a very serious conference as to what our 'Special Outing' would entail and whether lunch would take place at McDonalds or Burger King. Our outing together was as much a gift to me and a reminder that it is not only parents who bear the responsibility of being a significant and formative presence in the lives of children. (TP)

Beloved child

A 39-year-old father makes the comment that one of the greatest gifts he can give his children is a positive self-esteem:

'Whatever "dark" experiences our children face during their lifetime I hope that a good self-image will be their sustaining light; helping them to see things more clearly, especially their immeasurable worth in the eyes of God.'

(Anthony)

Talk . Act

Describe a 'transfiguration' event in your own life.

- What did you see more clearly?
- How did you come away changed?

This week, find a practical way to tell your child (or niece, nephew, godchild) of whatever age that he/she is God's beloved son or daughter. Say it, write it or show it in an act of love. •

