

## **2nd Sunday of Lent - March 8, 2008**

**Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18/Rm 8:31-35, 37/Mk 9:2-10**

**Theme: *Learn to say YES to God.***

Brothers and sisters in Christ, today we enter the second week of Lent. In our first reading, taken from the book of Genesis, we are presented with the story of Abraham and God. Here we see how God tested the faith of Abraham by asking him to offer to Him, as a burnt offering, his only son Isaac. Abraham accepted; at the point of offering his only son, Isaac, to God as a burnt offering, God called him and told him not to lay a hand on the boy, but to offer a ram instead.

God blessed Abraham for his faith in Him, that his offspring will be as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. He blessed Abraham further, that through his offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessings themselves.

It is from this story that Abraham is referred to as 'our father in Faith'. Taking a closer look at this story, one notices that Abraham is really a man of strong faith. Abraham really knows who God is, and that with God on your side, there will not be any question of reaching the end of the road in one's life. There is always another road for one who puts his or her faith in God. There is always an alternative. For with God everything is possible.

St. Paul, in our second reading today from his letter to the Romans, reminds us again that with God on our side, no one can be against us or condemn us; for Christ is there always to intercede for us. He advises us to remain steadfast in our relationship with Jesus. For with Christ on our side nothing will separate us from the love of God. For all these temptations and trials now in our lives will come to pass.

From the gospel message today Mark tells us that after the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus, God the Father calls us again today to listen to His beloved Son, for in Him is the answer to our prayers, for his power to save us is absolute. He has the message of our salvation.