

Orators, writers, poets, sculptors and painters have endeavored to reproduce as accurately as possible the scene that passed on the mountain which St. Peter calls « Holy. » But how to express suitably what is beyond expression? Raphael, the painter of Urbino, has been the most successful of the artists. Several churches are proud of possessing copies of the original painting preserved at the Vatican. But this mystery has been represented not only on canvass. For the same object gold, silver and the most precious stones have been used. Thus, for instance, the churches of Lophem and of Winghene (Belgium) have a monstrance of which the following is a description : The base represents Tabor ; Peter and James are lying asleep on either side ; John is standing and forms the stem ; he holds a shining sun in the middle of which is the Sacred Host or Sun of justice. Moses and Elias are beside Our Lord. The upper part forms a luminous cloud in which is seated God the Father holding in his hands the crown of glory. He himself is between two angels who adore the Blessed Sacrament and who hold a scroll on which are inscribed the words : *Hic est filius meus dilectus !* i. e. This is my beloved Son. Is not this admirable work of art from the hand of Petyt the artist of Bruges, fashioned in 1750 and made of silver, a worthy pendant of the work of the great Italian painter ?

Several parishes, specially in the United States, have adopted this mystery as the titular of their church.

Let us now ask ourselves three questions : Why the mystery of the Transfiguration ? Why the presence of Moses and Elias ? Why the words of the heavenly Father ?

Jesus Christ was transfigured on Tabor to confirm his disciples in the faith of his divinity, and to prevent any weakening on their part when they would afterwards see him die on Calvary. He was also transfigured to encourage us, his members, to be patient in crosses and sufferings, and to teach us with what splendor our bodies will one day rise from the dead. ( 1 Cor., XV, 31.)

Moses and Elias appeared on Tabor in order that the law and the prophets might bear testimony unto Jesus Christ that it is He and no other who is the true Son of God, the promi-