

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, May 29, 2017
Ascension of Our Lord

Year 1/Cycle A
Acts 1:1-11, Eph 1:17-23

Rising to Ascension Heights

Over the past few days, we continue to be rocked by the terror and pain other human beings are willing to inflict on innocent people in our country and around the world. To ignore the horror of people dying in defense of others, we will miss that they provide for us the story of modern martyrs of our times. Yes, the reasons maybe a bit different, but giving up one's life for the protection and safety of others is a form of martyrdom. Willingly creating a situation which will cause the loss of life of innocent teens and others, forcefully reminds us that dictators during the course of human history caused the savage death of so many..... Herod, Genghis Khan, Hitler, Idi Amin, Boko Haram. We look on as our USA's leader presents his position on the issues of our 21st century world, we may ask will this outlook lead to healing or continue to coat the old wounds with lime.

It is under this 'veil' of activities the Ascension story is retold. The first reading recalls that Jesus presented Himself to believers, so that there would be no doubt that the person they see, is the same Jesus who suffered, was executed and buried.

“He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days.” (Act 1:3)

There was the need to have the clarified facts and 'not fake news' to prevail on the truth; that the One who was executed on the cross, did rise from the dead and was seen by so many. So that rumors would not cast a shadow on the authenticity of the resurrected Body of Jesus, all saw that He broke bread and drank with them. Jesus had moved from among the living, to among the dead then to the resurrected living. He was moving on to 'higher heights' the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity was now playing a central part. Jesus was

“Giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen.” (Act 1:2)

Instructions were coming directly from the Spirit of God, to those especially chosen for a secret launching. His Apostles were not clear on what was to happen next, but they were to wait.

“While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait.” (Act 1:4)

What was to be the outcome of this waiting? What heights did they now have to reach?

“In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Act 1:5)

What heights would be achieved with the entry of the Holy Spirit? Would Jesus fulfill the coming of the Kingdom at this time?

“Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Act 1:6)

It was a mystery what would this Holy Spirit bring with it? So many questions.... There were so many things that were still not clear. There were to remain with these questions until – the Spirit comes.

“It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established.” (Act 1:8)

We recognize that the Spirit comes at the bequest of the Father, at His Will, in His time; there are no human controls. There is one reality promised by the Spirit, and it will bring all to the heights of a force of power

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Act 1:8)

The promise of this Spirit is that It takes you to the higher heights.

“The Father of glory, may give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of Him.” (Eph 1:17)

With the advent and coming of the Spirit there is work to be done, you are now supported by the Holy Spirit to direct you as Jesus' work is completed and He has attained the higher heights.

“As they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.” (Act 1:9)

What are you looking for in the Ascension of Jesus, are you remaining on the patio looking up at the sky, waiting for the return at a time you do not know? Are you going to ignore the reality of ever attaining the Ascension heights? Or are you going to get to work on this earth so as to earn the heights of your life on this earth, returning to the Father in Heaven? Well before that time we have work to do!!

Let us remember in our prayers victims of racial violence, injury and death. Heavenly Father we pray that peace will end in tragic killing, knowing that hate will not bring us to the heights we long to achieve.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to move us to hear God's summoning us to do His Will.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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