

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, June 03, 2019

Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Ascension Sunday

Meeting The Father

It is rare that most of us who are alive today are truly anxious when speaking about the idea of going to meet the Father. Yes, we may be frustrated with our life and the problem surrounding it, but few of us are very anxious to meet our Maker. Only Jesus Christ as God and man, knew what to expect when He returned to His Father. One may from time to time meet a young child or elderly person who can freely say with the assurance of their willingness to go to meet their maker." We share the anxiety for those people who die tragically, in a flash either by murder or an act of God. I guess these days with the frequency of mass murders in the US, there is a special need for all to keep in

mind the frailty of this life and to be aware that we can quickly pass on to the next.

This 7th week of Easter is such a journey. Jesus had completed all the tasks assigned to Him by His Father and it was now time to return Home.

After Jesus' resurrection, He did not disappear,

“He presented Himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3)*

It was very important that after His Resurrection, His followers would not fade away, they would be reassured that in fact that Jesus was alive and was doing the last minute teaching before He returned to His Father. Jesus was not going to leave them alone, He promised to

“Enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak.” (Acts 1:4)

When you know that a person close to your heart is about to leave you, there is rapt attention paid to their every word, you try to remain in their company as much as you can; this was the case of Jesus with His followers. Jesus was giving last minute instructions and words of encouragement to those

He will leave behind, letting them know that the Holy Spirit will remain to guide and support them in the times ahead.

A few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:5)

There were so many questions His followers wanted to ask Him, they wanted to put to rest the belief that Jesus' ministry and time on the earth were to re-establish the power and glory of the nation of Israel.

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

Some understood that this was not the purpose of Jesus' coming, yet others were hoping that Israel will be restored to freedom from oppressors and recapture the glory of the times of David.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,

and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,

throughout Judea and Samaria,

and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:6)

This was the most important mission for the followers He left behind; that they would receive and welcome the Holy Spirit which will empower them to share the Jesus' message to the rest of the world.

Remember to pray for the death and injury of residents in Virginia Bay, that we are mindful of life as frail and as we meet others to bring His Name throughout all the earth.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly sharing of Holy Week readings written by Brenda Chee Wah,
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Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com

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