

'ASCENSION OF JESUS + MOTHER'S DAY' – HOMILY - 13th MAY 2018

This weekend we remember

- ❖ Mother's Day
- ❖ Ascension of Jesus

WE CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY

We thank God for the inspiration and love and nurturing and courage and witness of our many Mothers and Grandmothers and those who have a special mothering role in our lives. We pray for them today. Thank you.

We celebrate the month of May as the month of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

WE CELEBRATE THE ASCENSION

Let us reflect on SEVEN points today about the Ascension and the surrounding events.

1. COMMISSIONS

In this weekend's Gospel of [MARK 16:15-20](#) we hear that Jesus commissions the disciples:

"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

DO WE TREASURE OUR OWN BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION EVENTS WHEN WE WERE COMMISSIONED BY JESUS?

And on Easter Sunday when we renew that mission annually.

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY SAYING THE "WHOLE CREATION"?

Not just to people but to the "whole creation"

2. SIGNS AND ACTIONS

Jesus speaks of belief and unbelief, saved and condemned. Then he lists signs and actions that will accompany believers. Only after commissioning and briefing the disciples, does the Risen Jesus ascend into heaven. Take some time this week to write down the signs that you see of God working in us. And the actions that Jesus does through us.

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God."

3. CHOICE

There is a choice – Jesus has ascended.

DO THE DISCIPLES BECOME LAZY AND FORGET THEIR CALLING?

OR DO THEY LIVE OUT THEIR MISSION?

The Gospel answers that question

*“And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them
and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.”*

AS CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES, HOW DO WE PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS DAILY?
AND WHERE DO WE PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS?

In today’s first Reading from [ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 1:1-11](#)

we gain more insights into the briefing by Jesus.

Luke’s Gospel and Acts of the Apostles are written by same author.

Luke’s Gospel first, and then Acts of the Apostles.

Let us note some of these insights.

4. BRIEFING INSTRUCTIONS

*“I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning
until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions
through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.”*

WHAT INSTRUCTIONS HAS JESUS GIVEN US?

HOW WELL DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE?

WHAT COULD WE DO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIBLE IN GENERAL,
AND THE INSTRUCTIONS OF JESUS IN PARTICULAR?

5. CONVINCING PROOFS

*“After his suffering he presented himself alive to them
by many convincing proofs,
appearing to them over the course of forty days
and speaking about the kingdom of God.”*

WHAT ARE THE CONVINCING PROOFS FOR US?

We find proofs in the Scriptures.

And sometimes in the writings of others in church history.

Sometimes the proofs are in the people around us.

6. BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’
‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

We have received the Holy Spirit.

DO WE TRY TO RESTRICT THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES?

HOW DO WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLING US FORTH DAILY?

DO WE THANK THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY?

7. ASCENSION

*“When he had said this, as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven,
suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.
They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?
This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’”*

WHAT ARE THE DEPARTING MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES?

MOMENTS OF LEAVING AND EMPOWERING AND TRUSTING OTHERS.

OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO US, LEAVING US?

OF REMEMBERING WHAT THAT PERSON TAUGHT US,

AND WITNESSED TO US, AND EMPOWERED US?

In the Holy Spirit we pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://usccb.org/bible/readings/051318-ascension.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook13052018>]



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