

Homily

Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

It is so good to see you here, in this place, after so many weeks apart. Watching Mass online just isn't the same as being here. Seeing familiar faces, sitting in these seats, hearing Fr Trinity pray the Eucharistic Prayer, listening to Steve and the choir sing; this is what community is about.

And, as prayerful as the Spiritual Communion Prayer is, it doesn't replace the Eucharist; it isn't the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord. Fr Michael commented recently how spoiled he was during the quarantine to partake of our Lord in the Sacrifice of the Mass, but even then, it wasn't the same without you; not being able to share Jesus sacramentally. This is what community is about.

In today's first reading, we are given an account of what Jesus did after His Resurrection, presenting proofs of being alive after He suffered and died, and instructions about the kingdom of God. But they still concerned themselves about the here and now. They wanted to know if now God was going to restore the kingdom to Jerusalem.

Isn't that just like us? We concern ourselves with the here and now. And we have a lot to concern ourselves with. Many of us had our jobs pulled out from under us or we are working fewer hours. Some of us are working from home. All of us have been affected in so many ways.

My first grandchild was born 12 days ago; I still haven't been able to hold her.

Most of us know someone who has caught the coronavirus. Sadly, some of us know someone who has died from it.

Our country is struggling to reopen after closing up restaurants, movie theaters, malls, parks, beaches, sporting events and more; nearly everything we do as a society has changed dramatically. And, realistically, we are looking at a new normal when we do reopen.

This isn't the first time the whole world has been so devastatingly changed, and it won't be the last.

The 1929 stock market crash, Pearl Harbor, 9/11; each of these events shocked the world, brought us to our knees and changed things forever.

We must remember that we are in the world, but we are not of the world.

Things will happen in this life, good things, bad things, but this is not what we are about. God created us because He loves us and wants us to be with Him. Yes, we want to make this world a better place; yes, we want the good things God wants for us in the here and now. But what God has in store for us, we can't even imagine.

Today we remember that Jesus, the head of the church, goes before us to where we, the Body of Christ, will follow, to the place God has made for us, with Him in heaven. The Ascension is a necessary part of Salvation just as His Incarnation, Passion and Resurrection because Jesus leads us to the Father, where we all belong.

Today, Jesus calls us to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you," and reminds us that we have a place in heaven. So, let us love God and each other and thank Him for leading the way.