

Ascension of the Lord 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, before He ascends into heaven, Jesus tells us that He is going to the Father: “so that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in my name...” Thus, the Ascension of Jesus completes the work of reconciling fallen humanity to God, because it brings our fallen human nature, not only into a right relationship with God, but brings us into the same intimacy that Jesus, in His two natures, human and Divine has with God. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost, we are made the Sacred dwelling place of the Holy Trinity in our Baptism and Confirmation, and we are already living in God and God in us!

Our Reconciliation with God has always been the main work of Religion, first in our Ancestral Jewish Faith and now, in its completion in our Catholic Faith. In Judaism, the High Priest offered the Sacrifice of Atonement, which achieved this right relationship, making sinners, once again, one with God. It took place in the Holy of Holies, which was separated from the whole world by huge curtain, that veiled the throne of God on earth. The ancient ritual foreshadowed Christ’s Ascension; however, the High Priest would go in once a year, in great fear for his life, and then, after offering the sacrifice, would immediately leave.

In His Ascension, Jesus goes into the real Holy of Holies, the eternal, inner chamber of the Universe, into the very reality of the Godhead from which He descended, now, never to leave! Rather, He now stays in the Divine Presence in His Human Nature, and makes us present to the same reality in Himself, as our eternal reconciliation, an everlasting bridge between God and man. Through our faith in Him, we no longer have any fear that our sins are forgiven and we can now live constantly in a right relationship with God. Thus, the deepest human longing is fulfilled in Christ, because Christ’s sacrifice has been eternally accepted by our God and Father.

This is now our mission: to bear witness to this Reconciliation and to invite others into the same mystery that we now live in the Eucharist- this is why the Apostles and Disciples returned to Jerusalem in great joy. It is why each of us are called to

live in perpetual joy. In our relationship with Christ, we are even now sharing in His intimacy with the Father, even now sharing in His Divine Life!