

## The Ascension of the Lord

My beloved brothers and sisters, I firmly regret that an option was made to move the Feast of the Ascension from Thursday to the following Sunday, because 40 days has such a powerful meaning in both the Old Testament and the New: 40 years in the desert, the flood of Noah which lasted 40 days, the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert wherein He was tempted, etc. On this day, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus, surrounded by His Apostles and disciples, Ascends, Body and Soul into heaven from whence He originally came! But that does not mean that Jesus' job and mission are over and done; that He has left us!

Indeed, Jesus has not left us! Rather, in His Ascension, and by the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, He has inserted us into the very mystery of His Divine Being! "I live no longer, not I, but Christ lives in me, and I live in Christ!" "I live and move and have my being in Christ, who is God...!" Jesus, the Son of God has taken us to Heaven with Himself, and in as much as I live in Him through prayer, through the Sacraments, especially Confession and Eucharist, through Mary and the Rosary, through fidelity to Him in His Church and my brothers and sisters in the world: I am already living in Heaven with Him! In as much as I open the door of my heart, mind and soul to Him, He empowers all of my living!

Mary was assumed, body and soul into heaven, by the power of God; but, only Jesus ascended. By doing so, He reveals the totality of His Divine Nature, just as did the Resurrection! Only Christ Rose from the dead by His own power; only Christ Ascends in His Divine Glory by His Divine Glory. As True God, He holds power over life and death; He is the Omnipotent One, all powerful, all Holy, and by His Humanity, through His death and Resurrection, He conquered our sin and death to win our salvation and to redeem us from the power of evil which seeks to hold us slaves to sin and death! In His Ascension, He brings His Human Nature into Heaven, and in doing so, He brings us, His Mystical Body with Him; that is why the apostles and disciples fell down and worshiped Him: they saw the face of God!

By His Ascension, He reminds us that there is no limit to His power, goodness and mercy; therefore, there is no limit to the confidence we can have in Him for His

power, love and goodness and mercy! That is what He commands us all to preach in His Name, and when we do that: we do so in His Divine Power! In Jesus Christ, not only has our High Priest passed through the veil of the Holy of Holies, but in Him, in the Eucharist we are now celebrating, we too, pass through the veil with Him. Jesus does not come back out, but we have entered with Him- that is the meaning of the Ascension. In as much as we live in a right relationship with Him through Sacraments, through Prayer, through our good works, we live, through Him in a constant right relationship with God. That is what we are witnesses of, and proclaim to the unbelieving world around us, that is so desperate for this message!