

Ascension of the Lord 2021

My beloved brothers and sisters, the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord is one of the most important celebrations of the Church's liturgical year. It is normally celebrated on the Thursday after the 6th Sunday of Easter; however, the numbers of people who were coming to the Holy Day mass was dwindling so badly, the Bishops, in most dioceses in the United States, with the permission of Rome, moved it to the following Sunday; which is what we are celebrating today.

After forty days of remaining with His disciples after His Resurrection, Jesus now ascends to His rightful place at the Right Hand of God the Father, which He had with the Father and the Holy Spirit as the Son of God from all Eternity. God now crowns Jesus with the Glory of the Passion, Death and Resurrection, and all of Heaven sees that Glory, which, one day, by God's Grace, we shall also see with all of the Angels and Saints.

Furthermore, Jesus has not Ascended to the Father to leave us; rather, He now pleads for each one of us with the Father, interceding for us, that each of us may enter into His same Glory and reign with Him for all eternity. This is what we celebrate in every mass that is said 24 hours every day, throughout the entire world! He has not departed; rather, He makes Himself One with us, and us one with Him, so that we become "other Christ's in the World!" That is the meaning of our Chrismation at Baptism and Confirmation and our Holy Communion! Furthermore, in Jesus, the Church, the people of God, have already triumphed over the evil one, and we have triumphed over death itself. We shall, and like Jesus, provided we continue in His Grace, receive our Glorified Bodies at the end of time!

Like the disciples in the first Reading, we too are awaiting the Lord's return in His Glory, the final act of Salvation, for which the whole Church continuously longs. That is why we continuously pray the ultimate prayer of the Book of Revelations: "Maranatha, Lord Jesus. Come Quickly Lord!" In the meantime, Jesus is not just sitting at the right hand of God twiddling His thumbs. He is constantly sending their Holy Spirit into our lives, into His Church, which, first sending, we will celebrate in another week! Now, He continues His saving work for each soul, pleading and longing to complete His Divine Mercy for each and every human

soul! He does so by all the power and authority of God, the Three in One, who wants us to be with Him in His Glory.

However, by His authority and by His whole power, He empowers us through His Holy Spirit to go out into the whole world and continue His personal mission of Salvation. We are now entrusted with His very own mission, and with His power to bring others who do not know Him, into the very same Mercy and Love of God which sent Him to do the Father's will, that is: to save His people!

Even as He ascends into Heaven, He imparts His Blessing to all of us who will continue His Divine Mission. That is what is called the priesthood of all Believers! He doesn't stop imparting His Blessings; indeed, He has incorporated us into His Blessing, His Divine Grace for others; we too share in His Blessing! Each one of us has been entrusted with this Grace, this Blessing for others. Each of us has been called to impart this Blessing to the World, and as we do so, we too conquer the Evil One and the Powers of Darkness with Him! Amen, Amen, Amen!