



Sunday Reflection With Fr. Rafal

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners and Visitors,

Some time ago, I was asked by a friend of mine to anoint his father because he was sick and so I went to the house of his father. When I arrived, I anointed his father and after the anointing, the father gathered together his children and gave them instructions on what to do if he will be no longer with them.

This was also what Jesus did to his disciples before he ascended to heaven, because today we are celebrating **the Solemnity of His Ascension**, on what to do after he will ascend into heaven. Jesus had disappeared from their eyes physically, but he had left a mission in their hands. This is what Jesus had instructed to them: "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8); "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.... And teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you..." (Mt 28:19-20); "repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all the nations," (Lk 24:47). These instructions are their mission to the whole world.

Ascension reminds us of so many things. One is, Ascension reminds us of our own mission. This does not mean that we have to go to other nations and become missionaries. But rather we can stay right where we are and try to influence people around us by our good example. If all of us would bring one unchurched person to church every year and if this unchurched person also brings one unchurched person to church every year, ten years after, there would be many who have embraced the faith and have become closer to God. Let us give it a try.

Ascension reminds us also of two important things we should have in life, that is, **to look up to God** and **to look down our eyes at people**. Let us look up to God especially in making important decisions in our lives, to pray for his guidance on what to do with our lives. We should also learn to look down our eyes at people and be ready to help them. A saint said that when we are inside the church, we closed our hands in prayer but when we go out from the church, we open our hands to help other people.

So, as we celebrate the Ascension of Christ today and expect the fulfillment of His promise on Pentecost Sunday, let us pray: "Send forth your Spirit O Lord and renew the face of the earth."

Have a Blessed Sunday!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza.

Pastor — St. Joseph Catholic Church