Ascension of the Lord — May 29, 2022

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

We celebrate this Sunday the fact that Jesus, our Lord, has been taken up into heaven. Through his obedient suffering and death Jesus had been raised from the dead, and in his ascension, he enjoys the fullness of life. On this feast, God wishes to enlighten our innermost vision so that we may know the great hope to which he has called us. We are destined to follow Jesus where he has gone before us. Our glorious heritage is to share in his spiritual wealth forever. Most of us desperately need this sign of hope.

In this life, we are much like a farmer who goes about the business of preparing the soil, planting the seed and cultivating a crop. A dry spell prevails. There is danger, a nagging fear, that the crop will fail, that all the work has been in vain. Then one day the farmer looks to the sky. He sees dark clouds, heavy with moisture, slowly gathering over his farm. The sun is obscured, but the darkness is not a sign of despair; it is filled with hope. He begins to pray that the clouds will bring much-needed moisture to his parched crops. He waits patiently. Then with a flash of lightning and a roll of thunder, the clouds pour down their life -giving rain. The storm passes and the warm-cheerful rays of the sun break through.

Whatever occupies our time -working at a job, being a homemaker, going to school – we are probably like the farmer who first looked only at the soil. We have a downward vision. That can be very discouraging because we run the risk of becoming bored or frustrated with life, fearing that it is not worth the trouble or that everything we do has a very little meaning. From time to time we need to look, not downward, but upward toward heaven where Jesus has gone before us. Our vision is obscured now by the dark clouds of the problems we face in life, but we must never despair. We must believe that, as suffering and death led to fullness of life for Jesus, so the clouds of this life will bring the life-giving waters of God's grace to us. In death, filled with greater awesomeness than a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder, the clouds will part for us and we will see the Son of God in all his glorious radiance coming for us.

The celebration is one of hope as we look forward to heaven. When we leave after Mass, however, we should hear a voice within us saying: "Why do you stand here looking up at the skies? This Jesus who has been taken from you will return." From the Mass we go back to looking "downward" as we again take up our everyday lives. But we should do so with a great optimism and firm hope.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**May 31**	**11:00AM**
Alma Echano		Lisa Urbano
Wed.	**June 1**	**11:00AM**
Christina Quiapo (Thankgiving)		
Thur.	**June 2**	**11:00PM**
Denise Quiapo (Thanksgiving)		
Fri.	**June 3**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Ed & Mae
Sat.	**June 4**	**4:30PM**
Sid Jensen Sr. †		Andrea Delsid
Sun.	**June 5**	**9:00AM**
Mary Pagni †		Franca Ponti
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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