

May 19 – 2-, 2007

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Luke 24:46-53

If the children of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and then later the Constitution had not reaffirmed in their own lifetimes the zeal and goals of their parents...we would probably have pictures of the Queen of England on our money. In order for lofty ideals and dreams to reach fulfillment they must be passed from one generation to the next: revered, reformed, revisited and renewed. The early Christian Community, of whom we have been hearing in the Acts of the Apostles, could no longer run to Jesus and have him attend to issues. While Jesus was instrumental in the calling together of his community and implanting his teachings/grace in them, there came a point where it was necessary for him to depart and let his protégés run with it. Thus this weekend we commemorate the moment when the early Church (and even us still today) had to reckon with the physical absence of Jesus: The Ascension of the Lord. The early disciples had to wrestle with the notion that the only way people would hear of Jesus was through their words and actions. They could no longer simply 'let Jesus handle it', they had to do everything themselves. How unsettling it must have been! How courageous for them to trust the Holy Spirit! How, after 2000 years, remarkable that the story they began to spread still has vitality. In these weeks of May we attend and hear of commencements and graduations from assorted schools. Eventually those graduating will take our jobs as we each move on and retire...and eventually our grandchildren will take the jobs of their parents...and so forth. From one generation to the next, what is the essential message, the central truths, which we have come to understand about the person of Jesus? With what depth have we conveyed our relationship with Jesus to our children? In the Jewish Seder ritual meal there is a wonderful lesson, Those presiding at the Seder speak of Jewish history not as something that occurred to someone else in the past, they speak of God doing powerful deeds for THEM in the PRESENT...in the here and now. Thus, the Exodus story is a contemporary event. The tragedy of the Holocaust is still present, etc. Knowing that the only way our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren (and beyond) will hear of Jesus is through our commitments and effort...will the message and person of Jesus continue to live or will he perish? Are we coasting on someone else's beliefs or have we made them our own?

Spring, Spring, all around, wonderful Spring. Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community on this blessedly springful day. Bulletins await you, with which you may fan yourself...or actually read! Lots going on as we approach Summer, the All-Parish Retreat at La Quinta....make your reservations NOW. Have you made you FREE Parish Photo Directory Appointment yet? Go on-line to www.avcatholics.org. NEXT Weekend is the celebration of PENTECOST, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and our tradition here at Corpus Christi is to host a most wonderful MINISTRY FAIR. All our parish organizations and outreaches and groups will have a booth (with snacks...yum!) and provide you with an opportunity to consider how you might use your God-given gifts for the betterment of Corpus Christi. Make sure you schedule some extra time for perusing and browsing and chatting. As the warm weather limbers the spring in your step, remember, you are loved. FKB