

Ascension Sunday

A couple had two little boys, ages eight and ten, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be confident that if any mischief occurred in their town, their two young sons were involved in some capacity. The parents were at their wit's end as to what to do about their sons' behaviors.

The parents had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so they contacted him, and he agreed to give it his best shot. He asked to see the boys individually, so the eight-year-old was sent to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?" Again, the boy made no attempt to answer, so the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, "WHERE IS GOD?" At that, the boy bolted from the room, ran directly home, and slammed himself in his closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and said, "What happened?" The younger brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it!"

Dear Friends,

Today we remember the feast of Ascension. When we speak of the Ascension, we distinguish between an event that concluded Jesus' appearances after His resurrection and the theological meaning of the event. After the last recorded appearances, Jesus was no longer physically present within the church. It is the glorification of Jesus Christ. It is kind of a mystery of intimacy and love of Jesus Christ to God the father.

I would like to share two events that I witnessed in through the years. I had a parent share their son's letter during the time of graduation.

"Mom and dad, thank you so much for taking care of me so far. Your love and care is irreplaceable. Now it is better that I go away. You will be sad now, but your sadness will turn to joy. If I don't go, I will always be your little boy or little girl but I will be unable to give you my life as an adult. So please don't cling to the child you once had

or you will never be able to receive my adulthood. I need to go away now so that our love can come to full bloom.”

Another incident was that a daughter saying a good bye to her Mom on her death bed. I was called for the last rite. The whole family was there. I went and gave the last rite with the whole family. Once the prayers were over, one of the daughters went closer to her ears with tears and said, Mom, thank you for your love, we are all content and you can go and see Dad. He is waiting for you. Then she nodded and she passed away quietly.

The disciples were sad because Jesus left them, but they were given more power to do his mission. In the first reading we hear that the disciples were asked to be the witnesses. They got the power and the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel, the same thing was promised.

So the disciples changed their life style according to the mission of Jesus. Jesus promised to come back. We all hope and believe in this will happen. Until then, we have to do his mission by living worthy life as the disciples changed their life style.

All of us believing in the word of God have an obligation to spread the good news. We need to live by it. Everyone has a power to heal someone. It can be spiritual accompaniment, psychological healing or by being just a prayer partner. Ultimately, we need to become a witness to Jesus Christ. Witnessing is the millennial’s demand. We need more witnessing at this age. St. Augustine had said: “Believe what you preach. Teach what you believe and live it.”

How am I going to complete the work of Jesus through my witnessing?

Be a good witness in your family, community, and into the world.