

“What the Ascension of the Lord Jesus means for us”

1. **By ascending back into Heaven, body and soul, Jesus shows us that He has won the victory over satan, sin and death**, and now He is going to prepare a place for us, His followers, in His Father’s House, in Heaven. This is the final piece of **the Paschal Mystery**. Where He is now, we are someday called to be: this is truly the source of our hope in this “vale of tears.” May we keep our eyes fixed on the goal of Heaven and final victory in Christ in our own earthly battle with satan, sin and death.
2. **Jesus has fulfilled His mission on earth, now we must fulfill ours**. It is only in the power of the Holy Spirit that we can do so. Once we encounter the Lord personally and experience the reality of Divine love then we are willing to offer our lives in service to Him and our fellow human beings. The Catholic Faith in its **essence** is not an ethical decision, but rather **an ever growing encounter** with the Divine love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are called to be Jesus’s witnesses to the ends of the earth - this is the mission we are given in our Baptism. Both priests and laity have a special role to play in bringing the truth of the Lord’s love contained in the gift of our Catholic faith to those around us. *We do this through our words, our actions, and by our faithful embracing of the trials and tribulations that come our way in union with Christ*. Never forget: God wants to use us as instruments of His Divine Mercy.
3. **We become good witnesses to the Lord only in the power of the Holy Spirit**. As we enter into the original Novena of prayer leading up to Pentecost which is the birthday of the Catholic Church, which Jesus desires all to be part of as His one family, let’s always pray for unity in the Church under Jesus: that in these difficult times we will support one another in Faith. The Lord will confirm our witness to Him by accompanying signs – if we are in tune with the Holy Spirit. Often these signs are interior graces of peace and joy. Truly the more we open our hearts and minds to the reality of the Holy Spirit, the more difficulties and doubts of Faith are dissipated, and the more we will make of our lives a living sacrifice to God’s glory (see Rom 12:1-2) – bravely witnessing for the salvation of souls, our own and others. God bless you.