

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 12, 2024

Gospel: (Mark 16:15-20)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature...These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

Reflection:

Jesus expects his disciples to walk in his footsteps. But Jesus always *invites* us to share in his ministry, never forces us. At the Ascension, Jesus *commissioned his disciples* to proclaim the gospel. At first this might seem an impossible commission: how can we expect to fill Jesus' footsteps? On our own authority we cannot preach the gospel, *we can* fill Jesus' footsteps only when we hear "the instructions given through the Spirit." What an awesome honor it is to be disciples of Christ – by returning to his rightful place at the hand of God, Jesus *entrusts* his mission to us. (Living Liturgy, p.136)

Vincentian Meditation:

The motto of the Society states that: "**No work of charity is foreign to the Society.**" And so in the Manual we read: Accordingly, the possibilities for Vincentian action are almost without limit. Being poor does not always, or necessarily, consist of being short of material goods. Being poor can also mean being physically and mentally handicapped, sick, crippled, old, ugly, or illiterate. There are poor who are or are made to feel alone...immigrants, transients, orphans, the abandoned or rejected, and all those who find themselves among others who are indifferent or hostile. Being poor may mean wanting to cry when others are laughing; being physically or morally chained, as prisoners, shut-ins, alcoholics, drug addicts; being defenseless against attacks, insults or accusations; being an innocent victim of crime or quarrels. The more the Society grows, the more it will reach the lonely and troubled who have need for care and friendship. (US Manual, P.45-46)

Discussion: (Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence)

How are we being called to carry the mission of Jesus in new ways, meeting new needs or creating new works of charity?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus is ever present with God, and ever present with us, and so we pray,

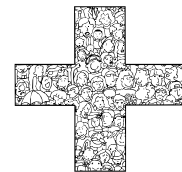
-Jesus is Lord of heaven and earth.

We ask for strength to continue as your faithful disciples,

-may we seek to speak your word and your healing presence.

We ask for the grace to live our motto "No work of charity is foreign to the Society",

-may we be aware of the poorest among us and seek to assist them. Amen.



Go into all the world and proclaim
the good news!
Mk 16:15