

HOMILY FOR ASCENSION

1. Wondered why at end of Mass we say thanks be to God
 - a. Not expression of relief
 - b. In fact theology of Church is that in Mass we have been given foretaste of heaven
 - i. We have been united with Jesus in his body,
 - ii. through his body we united with loved ones who have died in Christ
 - c. Eucharist comes to an end so that we fulfill our role in world
2. Just as at Ascension, Jesus had to leave so disciples could carry out their role in world
 - a. recall in first reading disciples are gathered with Jesus after Resurrection
 - i. Restore kingdom now?
 1. Your work must be done, you have even died and risen
 - a. can we celebrate now
 - ii. No I am sending you the Spirit, He will guide you to ends of world to be my witnesses
 1. Jesus suddenly floats away, leaving disciples staring
 2. two angels appear, why are you staring at sky
 3. Jesus will return, but you have instructions to fulfill, prepare for the Spirit who will guide
 - b. Angels telling disciples,
 - i. Jesus appearances after Resurrection, were not occasion for nostalgia
 - ii. Strengthened faith so that you be his witnesses to the world
 - iii. To proclaim His love which shown in sacrifice of death and conquered by resurrection
3. same way the Eucharist is our weekly nourishment
 - a. we are refreshed with the Body and Blood of Christ, and filled with the Spirit
 - b. so that we can become witnesses to faith that world has been changed
4. recognize reality of sin and suffering but we believe Jesus has redeemed the world
 - a. in the Eucharist we are renewed with the grace of God
 - i. Jesus strengthens us to live out our faith with our families and do our daily jobs as faith filled Christians
 - ii. We proclaim by our lives and behavior that we know that we are loved by God
 - iii. Our sins have been forgiven and we have been made whole again
 - b. If we believe this our family life and our work in world will evangelize the world

- c. We will tell those that we come into contact with that God has blessed us with good news
 - d. God is with us and nothing can ever separate us from Him
5. We say thanks be to God because now the real work of faith begins once again
- a. We announce to world the freedom and joy of faith
 - i. If God is with us nothing can ultimately harm us
 - ii. If we trust in God, He will do wondrous things through us
 - iii. May not always see them immediately, but as his instruments we can bring healing to a wounded world