

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – JUNE 2, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Families,

Pope Benedict XVI in his book **Jesus of Nazareth** insightfully describes the meaning of the Ascension. I borrow this from him.

“Jesus blessed the Apostles, then parted from them and was carried up into Heaven and they worshiped him with great joy...” (Luke 24: 51-52).

“This conclusion surprises us. We would have expected the opposite. We would have expected them to be left perplexed and sad. The world was unchanged, and Jesus had gone definitively. They had received a commission that seemed impossible to carry out and lay well beyond their powers.”

The Acts of the Apostles describe Jesus as entering into a cloud and taken from their sight. “This reference to the cloud is unambiguously theological language. It presents Jesus departure, not as a journey to the stars, but as his entry into the Mystery of God.”

“The departing Jesus does not make his way to some distant star. He enters into communion of power and life with the living God, into God’s dominion over space. Hence he has not ‘gone away’, but now and forever by God’s own power he is present with us and for us.”

We are living almost 2,000 after the event of the Ascension. The gift of the Holy Spirit has been given to us. We have faith that Jesus remains with us. “In the farewell discourse of St. John’s Gospel, this is exactly what Jesus says to his Disciples: ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ (John 14: 28).” He remains with us.

Abortion – Killing the Invisible

Konrad Lorenz, the founder of modern ethology and Noble Prize winner, noted that it is far easier in the human psyche to drop a bomb that kills hundreds of people in place of shooting them one by one, face to face. Killing a human being who is invisible does not wrench the conscience in the same way as a hands on face to face murder. But however murder is done, from a distance or more directly, from the invisible to the visible, the facts remain the same.

The abortion proponents try all kinds of strategies to avoid the basic issue. One sign recently said that “abortion is a woman’s right.” Another points out that the Supreme Court allowed it. Another says “ an embyo is not a human being.” Others say it is not human until you hear the heartbeat.

We do know that once the egg is fertilized by the sperm, the organism now becomes the first full stage of our species, *Homo sapiens*. For those who believe in God as a Creator, we do not know when God adds his image and likeness to what the human parents have made by conceiving a child in their human image and likeness. But we do believe that God has entered the scene and to deliberately destroy this early stage of a human being partakes of murder.

As Konrad Lorenz has pointed out, murder is much easier to do with what we do not see. But murder of a human being wrenches the psyche and conscience. One should not disguise with nice sounding words what a man and a woman together with God has created as a human being.