



## June 5, 2011

# The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

## Easter Time

*"Men of Galilee, Why are you standing looking at the sky?..." Acts 1:11*  
*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:19*

Dear Friends;

I recently was reading an article that described the Christian vocation to follow Jesus. The image the author offered is one that we here on the Delta would relate to very well. He said, that Jesus has gone ahead of us as in a fast moving boat. We know the direction that he has gone because he has left a wake behind him. We follow in his wake by continuing his mission to proclaim the Good News.

We await Jesus' return in glory however we do not wait passively. As Fr José Antonio Pagola says in his wonderful work *Jesus, An Historical Approximation*:

We must "go back to Galilee" and follow his steps: curing those who suffer, accepting those who are excluded, forgiving sinners, defending women and blessing children. We must offer meals open to everyone, and go into people's houses proclaiming peace; we must tell parables about the goodness of God, and denounce all religion that work's against people's happiness; we must go on proclaiming the nearness of God's reign. A different, more friendly, and abundant life is possible with Jesus. There is hope for everyone: "Go back to Galilee. He is going ahead of you; there you will see him."

We have been baptized to be sent on this mission. If we follow carefully we will know the joy of Jesus, as well as his suffering. However, we too will leave a wake that will make our world a better place. And we will know the same vindication that raised Jesus up beyond death.

This Second Vatican Council called all the baptized to accept the mission to proclaim the Gospel. We are the priesthood of all believers. As part of our mission we are to go to the ends of the earth proclaiming the Good News of God's reign. This is not only the purview of the ordained clergy. The ordained clergy's job is to equip the priesthood of all believers for their mission to the world.

So our job is not to just stare up in the heavens, or silently praying in church. Sometimes people use piety as a way of not having to do something. But our job is not to be pious, our job is to be about the work of the Kingdom.

Someone once gave me a "t" shirt that I really liked. It had a picture of Jesus with arms stretched out coming down on the clouds. Beneath the picture were the words, "Jesus is coming! Look busy!" This is really the message of the Ascension Jesus has gone ahead to be our strength and our hope but he has also entrusted his mission to us. So get busy!

Peace,

*Fr Ron*