



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily – Seton Home Mother's Day Mass

May 7, 2016

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus. For 40 days following his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples, sharing meals and preparing them for the coming of the Holy Spirit and helping them to understand that this was the beginning and not the end of the great mission before them.

His last appearance after the resurrection was atop the Mount of Olives, surrounded by the apostles. He tells them that they, "...will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Then Jesus was taken up to Heaven as he returned to the Father.

But where did Jesus go? Did he leave us for some far away and remote place in a distant corner of the cosmos? The clue to the answer to this question comes when we read in Luke's gospel that "...They did him homage and returned to Jerusalem with great joy." If Jesus was going away; if he would never be present to them, why would they be so joyous? Jesus was indeed with God the Father, and because we know

that God is present everywhere, then we also know that Jesus remains with us in a new and glorious way.

Jesus is with us in every moment of trial and happiness. He remains beside us to comfort and bless us. Let us rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus ascension is an event that brought him closer to us. We needn't look to the sky to find Jesus for he is here, just as he promised; "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

On this Mother's day we become keenly aware that He is here at Seton home. We see him in the love that is shared among you. He is with you as you tenderly hold your child, learn new things, and face the challenges of each day. Jesus has not gone away, he is here with us. He hears your prayer, heals your heart, and with the power of the Holy Spirit he is transforming your lives, giving you the courage and wisdom to live each day in faith.

Just as the disciples were called to be Jesus' witnesses on earth at the moment of his ascension, you are also called, in your vocation as loving mothers, you to proclaim Christ in your life. Your loving response to his call has brought you here and has given new meaning to your life. You are called to be the first teachers of your child, sharing with them the faith that gives you hope, leading them to an encounter with Jesus that will guide them each day.

Pope Francis reminds us of the intimacy with God we share that comes from Jesus ascension; “Just as he came down from heaven for us, and for us suffered and died on the cross, so for us he rose again and ascended to God, who therefore is no longer distant, but ‘Our God,’ ‘Our Father.’”

So let us feel God’s loving and merciful presence when we pray, when we speak to Jesus of our most intimate worries and dreams. May our prayers reflect the prayer of St. Paul to the Ephesians, “May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call.”