

## Homily – Feast of the Ascension

May 24, 2020

On this Feast of the Ascension of the risen Lord into heaven, our Scripture readings focus on the power of God. Jesus tells his disciples that “all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.” The power of Jesus is the strength of God. Jesus’ ascension connects earth and heaven. Jesus’ enters heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father as an intercessor. The risen Lord understands our pains and anxieties, our hopes and dreams, our weakness when left to our own resources. The Lord intercedes for us before the very throne of God. That is why our own prayers of intercession always end with “through Christ our Lord.”

St. Paul reminds us of the “surpassing greatness of [God’s] power for us who believe.” We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit through our Baptism and Confirmation. The power, the strength of God, dwells within us. We are so often only aware of our weakness, our vulnerability, our powerlessness, our sinfulness. But that is only part of the reality. As believers in the risen Lord, we are also given all we need on our pilgrimage through life – not only for

ourselves but also for others, especially those who are most vulnerable and needy.

In today's gospel, Jesus sends his disciples into the whole world to continue his mission and ministry. They are not yet ready! They still have doubts, questions. It has often been said that God does not call those who are ready to take up the Lord's own work. Rather, God calls those who are **willing!** We will learn along the way how to be better prepared, to proclaim the gospel more effectively. But we have to take the first step and go out!

Pope Francis has told us how we are to walk during our journey on earth: as "pilgrims, missionaries, meek but decisive in walking -- trusting and, at the same time, active -- creative, but always respectful -- resourceful and open -- hard-working and supportive." Jesus sends each of us as a missionary disciple – whether we are ready or not! Are you willing to join me in this greatly needed work in our world today -- proclaiming God's enduring, unconditional love to others – through our actions, not only our words. Our Lady of Guadalupe, intercede for us and show us the way to become missionary disciples. Teach us how to pray for others in this time of pandemic and crisis. *Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven*