

Ascension of the Lord 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, after spending 40 days with His Apostles and Disciples, Jesus ascended into heaven. On the other hand, according to the Church's well founded tradition, Mary was assumed into heaven- so what is the difference? Because Jesus is truly God, as well as truly man, Jesus departs from this earthly existence to the Right Hand of God the Father in His Glory to His rightful place at the Right Hand of God, (this was the place of the Vice-Roy, like the King, but under the King, in the ancient world). Mary, because she is only a human being, is taken up by the power of God in Jesus, who has been given all power and Divine Authority.

You would think that the Apostles and the Disciples would have been devastated, once again, that Jesus has left them, instead, they are rejoicing! Why, what has changed? What is changed is that they now know the whole of the story: by His ascension into heaven, He who is both God and man, ascends in His Body as well. By ascending into heaven He brings His redeemed Body with Him in Heaven, even now we are never alone because we are always with Him. Where He is, so is His Body; wherein He pleads for us with the Father. The Father has given Him all power and all authority in Heaven and Earth; therefore, we are assured of our place with Him in Heaven, unless we choose not to be with Him by a life of unrepented sin! It means that we can trust that He will never, never leave us alone. It means that He is forever with His Church by the power of the Holy Spirit which He poured out upon us in Pentecost and remains forever in His Church, guiding and ruling. It means that He still rules and guides His Church, even in the difficult times such as these we are now facing, by His own promise: "Behold, I am with you all days!" It means that we can trust Him, for He the Lamb once slain, the Sacrificial Lamb, who gives Himself for us. It means that He is preeminently present with us in His Real Presence, and He is more intimate to us, than we are to ourselves. It means that He is the soul of our soul, and the Trinity itself has enthroned itself in our hearts and that throne can never be usurped, (unless we choose to abandon Him and reject Him). It means that now we continue His work until the end of time, and He has chosen to use us to unfold His Divine Kingdom in us and through us and we continue in our own lives, the work that Jesus did in His

earthly life, because we are members of His Body. It means that the more I am surrendered to His Divine Plan and His Divine Providence, the more and more He can use me to do His work on earth. Finally, it means that through prayer, and the Sacraments by using all of the graces He is infinitely pouring out upon our lives and our Church, He will triumph in me and the Church and bring me into conformity, more and more to Himself! That is why the Saints glow- they have been irradiated by the Divine Grace of God Himself!