

Catholic Church Bulletin Insert

Revealing Peace & Justice through Scripture from – “In the beginning...” (Gn 1:1) to “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen!” (Rev 2:21) TM

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Ascension of the Lord

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Acts 1: 1 – 11

Ephesians 1: 17 – 23

Matthew 28: 16 – 20

Today’s Gospel of Matthew 28: 16 -20 – The Ascension of the Lord is short; the shortest Gospel proclamation I can imagine without actually checking. It is referred to as ‘The Apostolic Commission’ – which Jesus receives from the Father.

The gospel begins with the eleven disciples at a mountain worshipping Jesus, “and when they saw him, they worshiped, ***but they doubted***” (v 17). This is human nature pure and simple... the fear of the unknown even though Christ has appeared to them on numerous occasions, ***but they doubted***. I can relate to that.

Then Christ commissions them to “go and make disciples of all nations” (v 19). This is passed down from age to age... to all the faithful in salvation history. Another bit of human nature makes me wonder if this actually refers to me – as in getting my hands dirty – or perhaps doing something other than attending Mass. Another issue is that salvation is offered to all. That is a whole lot of “all” that I might not love. Maybe that is the nature of the doubt. It seems much too compassionate.

Then as the curtain closes Christ says... “I am with you always, until the end of the age”. That is, even though I am leaving you, I am still with you. Christ promises to be present that whenever two are gathered in my name, I am there! (Mt 18:20).

232 words

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