

## HOMILY FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

“Tell me the weight of a snowflake,” a coal mouse asked the wild dove.

“Nothing more than nothing,” was the answer.

“In that case I must tell you a marvelous story,” the coal mouse said.

“I sat on a fir branch, close to the trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not in a raging blizzard. No, just like in a dream without any violence. Since I didn’t have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,471,952. When the next snowflake cropped onto the branch – nothing more than nothing, as you say – the branch broke off.”

Having said that the coal mouse quickly disappeared. And the dove was left alone pondering the meaning of the weight of a snowflake.

What difference does it make when I raise my voice to protest an injustice? What difference does it make when I refuse to be silent when everyone else refuses to speak? What difference does it make when I am attentive to the poor and those in need when everyone else passes them by? What difference does it make when I witness to the gospel when everyone else prefers to ignore the gospel?

There are many, perhaps most, who would answer these questions by telling us that it makes no difference at all. I would argue they are wrong. For just as the weight of a snowflake seems insignificant so are the actions of our lives. But just as the accrued insignificant weight of snowflakes are able to tumble the branch so also the accrued insignificant weight of our actions can break the bow of injustice, signal a new way to peace, bring new attention to the poor and make the gospel present in our world.

If the call of this feast is to follow the instruction of the angels and stop just standing around and go out and do something, then we need to realize that God depends on each one of us to build His Kingdom. And what we do is not “nothing more than nothing” ....rather it is everything.