

Homily for the Feast of Ascension

Leopold Pfefferberg was one of the fortunate Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust. After the War, he emigrated to the United States where he started a successful business. He changed his name to Page and was determined that the Holocaust never be forgotten. He had a story to tell -- a story of how light overcame the horrible darkness of such an unimaginable evil. For 30 years he would tell his story over and over again to any who would listen.

One day in 1980, Australian novelist Thomas Keneally heard Pfefferberg tell his story. Keneally listened and was profoundly moved. He immediately grasped the importance of bringing this story to the wider public. Two years later the book was published. It later became the film which we know as "Schindler's List." It is perhaps one of the most powerful films ever created.

In an interview with Newsweek Magazine, Leopold Pfefferberg said the following:

"A human being – a single person – can change the world. That's what I've been trying to do since 1945 when I promised Oskar Schindler I would tell everyone about his story."

On this Feast of the Ascension Christ asks us to tell everyone about His story, about His mission, about His Father's kingdom. He asks us to be that singular person who can change the world.

Unfortunately, we are too often like the disciples who simply kept staring up at the clouds. We need to hear the message of the angels who rebuked those same disciples for standing idly around. We need to commit ourselves to bearing witness to the presence and action of Jesus Christ in our world.

This is the meaning of this great feast – the work of Christ is now our work. It is our turn to tell His story and witness to his presence in our world today.