



Immaculate Conception
Church

Homily for the Feast of the Ascension

Year B 2015

We celebrate today the Feast of Two Visions -- two completely different ways of looking at things -- two visions which are more than just passingly important for us.

The first is that upward vision of Christ ascending to the Father. It is that wonderful image that poets and painters have always tried to capture. It is important to us because it reminds us of that "better country" as St. Paul described it in his letter to the Hebrews. It reminds us of that place we have called heaven which is beyond Russian satellites and American telescopes. It is that place "out there" or "up there" which is the destiny of each and every one of us. It is a sense of promise that there is a better place where the loves of this earth are renewed and made perfect. It is that place where all that we find weary is no more and where all life is perfect.

This upward vision is the vision of hope -- the vision that God conquers all things both in this life and in the next in Heaven's glory.

But Heaven's all right for those who are there. The question is what about those of us left behind -- those of us still here? And this is where we find the second vision. The vision looking down. It is the vision of the disciples standing around and looking at the sky now empty of Christ. And this vision is important because in this vision we discover how we should live our lives. "Why do you stand here looking up at the skies?" -- the intent of the angel is clear. Leave now and go about the Master's business. Proclaim the good news in words, in deeds, in the very way we live our lives. Go and leave this place and begin the adventure of faithful living.

This is the message of today's feast -- two visions. One reminds us of what shall be; the other, of what we should be doing. May we never forget these two different visions. And may we always remember that how we live our lives today is only a beginning of how we shall live our destiny for all eternity in that place which Christ has now entered in glory.