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& St. Anthony's Mission Church
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May 22, 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

We are already in mid-May, with bright sun shining. But due to Covid-19, with all the restrictions by the Government (which is for our own good) life is going on. I am sure and certain that many have come closer to God either by family prayer or personal prayer by reading the Bible or watching the daily Mass on T.V. This weekend is the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

The Gospel of St. Matthew 28:16~20, tells us the eleven apostles worshipped Jesus. And Jesus commissioned them to go into the world to proclaim God's Kingdom, with a promise that He would be with them to the end of the age.

The word "worship" Catholics do not use it very often. While other denominations describe their liturgy as "worship", we Catholics tend to use it only in a more secular way as in "hero worship". The concept behind this word however is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed towards our Creator, Savior and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not, we are commissioned to go out into the world after each Eucharistic Celebration: "Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord." This changes our worship. Whenever we gather for a Eucharistic Celebration, we are not just there for ourselves. The word "Mass" means "to be sent," indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

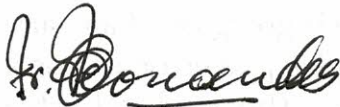
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Let us thank God for the mountaintop of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let us rejoice in Christ's presence that abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever, Amen.

NOTE: Our Bishop Most Reverend Vincent Nguyen was taken to the hospital by ambulance on Thursday May 14th in severe abdominal pain. He went through many tests and finally around 11:30pm they did emergency exploratory surgery. They found he had a perforated ulcer. He is recovering now but still in the hospital for a few more days, please keep him in your prayers.

A gentle reminder that I am here for you if you need any spiritual guidance or even just to call and let me know you are doing well and please remember your church in your contributions. Until we can be together again...

Yours in the Risen Christ,



Rev. Oswin Fernandes
Pastor