

Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 21, 2023

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Many of us would remember celebrating the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord on a Thursday. As you now realize this feast has been moved to a Sunday. The short answer is to encourage more of us to attend. I know for some of us diehards, we feel the Church is bowing to the pressures of society, as this is a sign of secular society winning. Will we be forced to move all our holidays to Sundays? What about Christmas? This can be a real and a very understandable feeling, but it can also be an opportunity for catechesis, a moment of personal reflection for all of us.

What demands does secular society make on my time?
How does secular society impact my family?
How does secular society impact my faith and the practice of my faith?
Do I demand of myself that Sundays be kept holy?
Do I spend quality time with family and friends?

The reality is we live in this world, and while we live in this world we also must participate in this world, but the above questions are important. Even though we live in this world, we do not belong forever in this world. We should use the resources of this world, not to build wealth and power for ourselves here, but to prepare us and our family for a world with God, our loving Father, and Christ our Savior. It is true that some feast days may have been moved to Sundays but for two very good reasons: to encourage and provide a greater opportunity for more of us to attend and worship, and to also highlight the importance of Sunday, our Sabbath, a day to physically and spiritually recharge. Christ Jesus said to us, "The sabbath was made for humanity, not humanity for the sabbath."

Ascended Christ, we worship you; Christ, present with us now, we ask for your Spirit to make us brave in following your way. Reign as Savior in our hearts, and, in the foolishness of the divine love, make us wiser than the ambitions and power-games of the world. Sing to the Lord, who ascended above the heaven of heavens, our Christ, our Sunrise, our Joy, our Savior, crowned in glory – Alleluia!

Have a wonderful week, recognizing the demands of society, but not allowing it to demand more than you need to give. Your God, your family, and you deserve more.

Fr. Martín