

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

THE MISSION OF THE SALVATION OF CHRIST



Saint Luke composed two stories about this event of the Ascension: the first at the end of his gospel (24, 46-53), and the second at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles (1, 1-11). In both texts, before Jesus was taken to heaven, He blessed His disciples and promised them to "send upon them the Holy Spirit according to the promise of His Father".

The Ascension is a gesture of farewell, and in the Acts of the Apostles it constitutes the inaugural gesture of the mission of the apostles who will be sent after receiving the Holy Spirit. The Ascension does not mean the taking of Christ's leave but His permanence among us until the end of time. This presence of Christ is realized by the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost. **The**

absence of the visible body of Christ and the new presence of the Risen One by the Spirit Who makes Him present.

After the Ascension, begins the time of the Church. Jesus is both absent and present. He is absent in a sense that we cannot grasp. We cannot see Him with our eyes, nor touch Him with our hands, nor hear Him with our ears. But at the same time, He remains intensely present to men. He is not in front of us nor next to us. It is inside of us, in our deep intimacy. And He precedes us in the heart of all those He puts on our path. Like the apostles, we are all sent to testify of the Resurrected Jesus; but **the main work is what He does in the heart of those who understand His Word.**

We are going to celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. In these days or weeks, many of our young people will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. We will carry them in our prayer. May the Spirit of God guide them and guide us all towards the whole truth. We will live these days that prepare us for Pentecost as a time of retreat. We pray that they will all be inspired by Christ to make a choir to serve in His Church. Let our prayer be unanimous: **"O Lord, send Your Spirit that renews the face of the earth."** Amen.

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward of the Archdiocese Miami – June 1, 2025