

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## **ASCENSION OF THE LORD: HIS EVER PRESENCE IN THE LIFE OF HIS BELIEVERS, THE WITNESSES, AND THE CHURCH**



On this Glorious Ascension Day, we meditate on the last appearance of the Resurrected Jesus to His disciples. The readings tell us that His earthly life is over and that we will no longer see Him here on earth. He disappears from our eyes. For forty days, He manifested Himself to them to give them His peace and strengthen their faith. **Today is the sending on mission: Go throughout the world and proclaim the good news to all Creation; whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk 16:15-16).**

One cannot witness the Resurrection of Jesus without being sent. Anyone who has experienced a true encounter with Him becomes a missionary. There are more and more people who give us this testimony; we hear them say publicly: **“He changed my life.”** Finding the Resurrected Jesus, the disciples experienced great joy. This joy must be shared. The good news of the Gospel must be proclaimed to the whole world. This is our mission and our responsibility. Jesus sends His apostles to spread the Gospel, awaken people to faith and baptize.

After the Ascension, the time and the mission of the Church begin. **Jesus is both absent and present.** He is absent in the sense that we cannot grasp Him. 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 or next to us. He is inside us, in our deepest intimacy. He is present in the Eucharist and in the other. And He precedes us in the hearts of all those He puts on our path.** Like the apostles, we are all sent to bear witness to the Resurrected Jesus; but the main work is done in the hearts of those who hear His Word. Since the Ascension, Christ is no longer visible to our eyes. But the world must be able to see His face through us, hear His message through our words and our lives. And above all, they must discover in us something of God's passionate Love for all men. It is important that our hearts be more and more attuned to His infinite tenderness for all men. So, let's not waste a minute. It is at every moment that we have to radiate this light which comes from him. We are not sent to good Christians but to all those who do not know Christ. **He is “the Way, the Truth and the Life”.** It is through Him and with Him that our life will also be an ascension towards the Father.

My brothers and sisters, a week and half from now, we will celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. Many 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 to the whole Truth. We will live these days which prepare us for Pentecost as a time of retreat. **Let our prayer be unanimous: “O Lord, send your Spirit who renews the face of the earth.” Amen**

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

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