



**St. John Fisher Rectory**

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**A Message from our Pastor,  
Fr Regulo Imperial:  
May 23, 2020**

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Dear Parishioners:

Greetings of Peace!

How are you doing? I hope that you are all safe and well. In this extraordinary time, the best support that I am able to give you is by way of my private daily mass and prayer for the intention of all parishioners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who dropped their donations in our mail box and continue praying for me.

Today we celebrate the *Ascension of the Lord*. Prior to his ascension, the disciples were worried, depressed and devastated to know that Jesus was leaving them for good. The absence of Jesus was keenly felt by his disciples.

I'm inclined to believe that the fearful experience of the early disciples is becoming a reality for present believers. In the midst of this pandemic, we started to believe that the absence of Jesus in our ordinary lives is very depressing and fatal. The lesson is becoming very clear that we are not in control of all the things around us and that we need God in every inch of our life.

Upon Jesus' arrival in heaven, a vast host of angels greeted him. After the formalities, they asked him who he had left behind on earth to finish the work he had begun. Jesus replied, "*Just a small group of men and women who love me.*" "THAT'S ALL?" asked the angels, astonished. "WHAT IF THIS TINY GROUP SHOULD FAIL, DO YOU HAVE A PLAN B?" Jesus replied, "*I have no other plans.*"

Dear people of God, hear the voice of the angels: "WHY DO YOU JUST SIT THERE LOOKING UP AT THE SKIES?" "ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GO! NOW, BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WE ARE COMMISSIONED TO GO AND BE HIS WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, IN ALL OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH." We are given the opportunity as we are locked down in our own houses to teach our children and members of the family the Christian way and tradition, to eat our meals together without gadgets and share stories with each other. Start to pray before and after meals. Kids: try to help with chores around the house and try to be kind the elderly in our home. And all of us should teach ourselves and the children to do something for the poor and the needy. Our task is to observe His commandment of love and service. May a good result come out of this negative experience.

Finally, we all miss the community celebration of the Eucharist. Let us pray to God to eliminate the pandemic in our midst in order to begin living once again our normal way of life. Our relationship with Jesus "is intimate, it is personal, but it is in a community," and this closeness to Christ without community, without Eucharist, without the people of God assembled together and "without the sacraments is dangerous," Pope Francis said.

Jesus ascended into the heavens, but he did not leave us orphans!

Fr. Regulo Imperial, Pastor