



Dear Mission Partners:

I hope everyone is appreciating the Easter season and the beauty of springtime which accompanies it. Be sure to admire the blooms and the greening of our campus!

After Easter and for 40 more days, Jesus traveled with his apostles and continued to teach them about the Reign of God, instructing them on their commission to bring the Good News of the Gospel to the people they would meet on their travels.

The feast of the Ascension reminds us that by ascending into His glory, Jesus completed His work of Redemption. This year we celebrate Ascension Thursday on May 18. It is considered a Holy Day of Obligation as it is important in the life of the Church as is the Assumption of Mary on August 15 and the other Holy Days, including All Saints, the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Mary, the Mother of God on New Year's Day, as well as Easter, and Pentecost. In some dioceses, this feast is moved to the following Sunday.

This feast did not bring me much joy as a small child. I was sad that Jesus left before I could see him face to face. Surely, I was happy about a day off from school for the Holy Day, but the commission of Jesus "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," (Acts 1:8) did not help me to accept the loss of his physical presence. Then Jesus' sending of the Holy Spirit opened the doors for my baptism, to receive the Spirit and know that Jesus is with us in the Word of God, the Eucharist and in God's people.

Yes, Jesus' work on earth was completed, and now it is we, the People of God, who are called to bring the Reign of God into our little corner of the earth as did Peter, James and John, and the other apostles and disciples of Jesus. The story is told in Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, and Acts 1:2. Let's prepare for the feast by reading one of these accounts and by opening our hearts to embrace our own baptismal call as we are temples of the Holy Spirit, called to share in God's mission.

Sincerely, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Sister Antoine Therese, IHM

