

## **Homily (Feast of the Ascension) – 5/28/2017**

*You can't keep a good man down. That is what today's feast of the Ascension of Jesus is all about. You cannot keep a good man down.*

*Now, let's quickly add Jesus Ascension into heaven is not like a moon shot from Cape Canaveral. We are not talking rocket science here. We are not talking about Jesus riding in a space shuttle or the next cloud over from the internet Cloud. The story of Jesus ascension into heaven is a not a page from an astrophysics textbook. After all we do not have the same view of the cosmos that the ancient people did. And, we do not want to be bogged down here. The biblical writers are using poetic language to describe rather than explain the meaning of the Ascension. We heard that in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles and then in the gospel.*

*No, Jesus does not break free of earth's gravity to ascend into heaven....but yes he does break free of life's gravity, the grave to break free of death. His Ascension into heaven is part of his Easter Resurrection. Yet what does it all mean to you and me? What does it mean to you that Jesus overcame death and everything that keeps us tied down to the ground? What does it mean to you that he overcame everything that grinds us into the dirt of sadness and depression, and despair. What does it mean to you that he overcame all the weight all the heaviness, all the gravity of this life?*

*It means this, part of you is already in heaven with Christ. That's what it means. It means that your lowest fall from God's grace has already been redeemed has already been transformed. It means that Christ's whole personality is engaged in your life, and He is as near to you as He is to Himself. What you and I are right now, Jesus took with him to heaven. That is the Ascension. He has taken with him not only what he was but also what you and I are. So, when the Heavenly Father looks at Jesus, he sees you too. We must be more important than we thought. We must be of more value than we dreamt. We must be of more significant than we imagined.*

*Do you believe this? Let's see. If Mary the Mother of Jesus was standing there, and you were standing next to her, who would the heavenly Father love more, you or*

*her? Do we see the staggering statements, the astonishing implications of what we believe? Think of the most conceited, narcissistic, person you know. It could be an athlete, rock star or politician. Now understand that man or woman's grossest image of himself or herself, is modest, timid, compared to God's value of that person.*

*What are the chances you and I can go out from this feast of the Ascension, believing what God believes about us?*