

# TRINITY NEWS

## Ascension I Easter VII Relived Moments of Pure Freedom from Constraints

We celebrated **Ascension Day** on Thursday. It is the traditional 40 days after Easter in accordance with Luke's time-scale. Christ ascending into heaven in a cloud is hardly a 21<sup>st</sup> century model of reality.

We can enter the brokenness of **the Cross** because we see it every day on the television screens in the faces of children and the haunted visages of women who fear for their children and are terrified that their husbands may never come home in war torn places. The unspeakable cruelty of the Mexicans to one another distorts the image of their great country and it is repeated elsewhere with frightening regularity. One more beautiful Kennedy family face disappeared from view this past week in a lonely death in a barn. The address was perfect, the view was great, but the life was broken. The avalanche of sorrow beats on the walls of our hard-won space of peace. The Cross is always in our backyard. The tawdry mess left by the play of the human ego visits us every day. If such evil has the last say, then it will eventually crush the spirit out of us.

Raissa Oumanov was a 17-year-old when she was asked by a professor at the University of Paris what she really wanted to learn. She replied, "I want to know what **is**." The professor smiled no doubt, because he knew that this young woman would be a philosopher. She wanted to know what it was all about. She met Jacques Maritain and they became inseparable. They strolled through the *Jardin de las Plantes* in Paris as young students and agreed "**that if it were impossible to know the truth, to distinguish good from evil, just from unjust, then it was impossible to live with dignity.**" Thus, they decided to give "the unknown" a chance to explain itself to them and to reveal a truth that they could live by. The impact of their lives is still there in the books they wrote and in particular for me in the poetry that Raissa wrote.

The Ascension of Christ at the end of his resurrection appearances connects that deep search for reality into the heart of God. This happened at our Creation and we will always feel impelled to go back to it. It is a heart need, and heart needs are notoriously difficult to pin down, especially in definitive prose. Christ rises into God, and he takes our humanity with him. Rising, he carries our hopes and dreams with him. He is always drifting away from us. But the **Creator Spirit** came to his mother one day and linked us to the heart of God forever through him.

**When you are down and darkness circles, remember that he is connected to us in life and in death, and he will never leave us.** Truth, justice, the deepest love, the truest humanity, as the Maritains saw and recognized, is not always found in our midst, but it is constantly left on our doorstep by the Stranger who keeps the truth in his heart. “Don’t be afraid; don’t be afraid”, lingers as his refrain in the Gospels and for us.

“Humanity plods onward seeking justice on lazy by-ways of iniquity; and the deceits and errors of today, tomorrow’s truth will serve” (Raissa Maritain).  
Bishop Arthur Jones

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## THIS WEEK:

*Monday, 21st May.*

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office.
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory

*Tuesday, 22nd May.*

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm @ the Tutton’s [#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati] **TOPIC: Prayer & Pentecost: Spiritual Experiences**

*Thursday, 24th May.*

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

## TO: PLAN

**Pentecost Sunday, 27th May.** *Confirmation at the 9:30 service.*



**Trinity Sunday, 3rd June.**

*(Joint Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. and Potluck Brunch. A sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board by the Parish Office.*

## NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 104 , 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 , John 20:19-23