



## *God is life*

Earlier in the year when school began, I observed some painful departing between the parents and their children especially those starting kindergarten. There were some parents who shed tears and stayed around the school for awhile after their children had gone into their classroom. Leaving is a painful experience for us all. It entails a separation, a letting go. It involves putting an end to activities we use to do together, with lots of fun and laughter, though with conflicts and sorrow at times.

This Sunday we celebrate Christ's Ascension to his eternal glory in heaven and express our hope that where he has gone before us, we will one day follow to live forever in the kingdom of our Father. Jesus "was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of the Father." The Ascension does complete the mission of Jesus; it is the last act of the cycle of his life celebrating his return to His Father. The Ascension is also open ended, for it marks the beginning of a new time when the apostles have to live in the absence of the Jesus they knew. Surely there was a sense of sadness when Jesus left his disciples and they may no longer hear, see or touch him, but there was a sense of peace and calm because they were entrusted with a mission that is, "go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation." I believe this message is also for each one of us who are called to be the witness for Jesus in the world. Jesus wanted us to proclaim what we know about God to the whole world: Our God is a God of the living, not of the dead. God is life. God is love. God is beauty. God is goodness. God is truth. God doesn't want us to die. God wants us to live. Our God, who loves us from eternity to eternity, wants to give us life for eternity.

Like the disciples who are filled with the presence of the risen Lord, set out to continue Jesus' mission, may we reach out to share, and to proclaim to the whole world the Good News of a loving God who always forgives and is eager to welcome us home.