

*Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.*

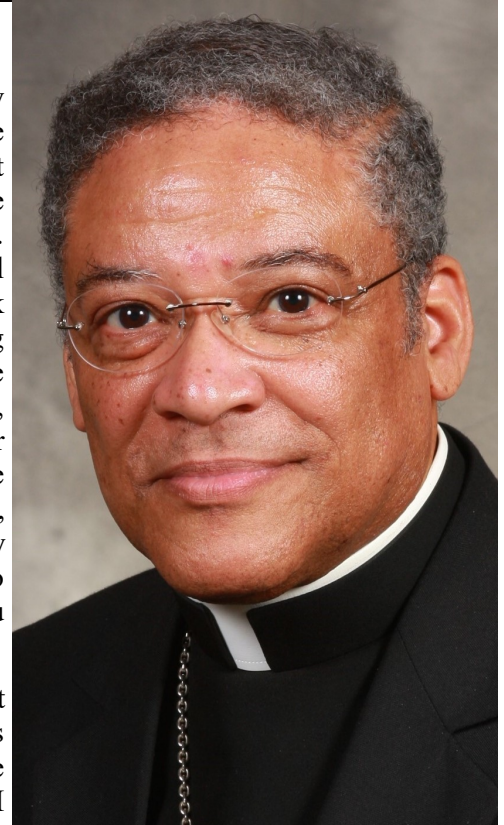
(Collect for the Ascension of the Lord)

My Dear and Precious Friends,

This weekend, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus into heaven. As he was gathered with his disciples, he said to them:

“But 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.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.”

Jesus promised his disciples that he would send the power of his Most Holy Spirit upon them, so that they could be his witnesses literally “to the ends of the earth”. That promise of the Holy Spirit, which we celebrate as a church next weekend on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate as a parish this weekend as we confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the young people of our parish family. We welcome Bishop Joseph N. Perry to our parish to celebrate this very special sacrament with our Confirmandi, their sponsors, and their families. We thank our Religious Education teachers for their hard work and dedication in preparing our students to receive Confirmation. And we pray for our young people, the next generation of believers to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe. that those gifts may take root and grow in their lives as they bear the fruits of those gifts: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Modesty, Self-control, and Chastity. May our young people always find in our parish family a place that continues to inspire them to grow in their faith, their hope, and their love! May God bless you and all those you love always and in all ways!



Anyone who knows me knows that my favorite Gift of the Holy Spirit is Awe and Wonder, and my favorite Fruit of the Holy Spirit is Love. I always try to live each day of my life

with my eyes wide open in awe and wonder of the glory of God’s creation, and with a heart that is always filled with the power of God’s Love and Divine Mercy. May the gifts and fruits of God’s Most Holy Spirit fill our lives, and through our lives fill our world. Please continue your prayers for the repose of the soul of our late Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the heart of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo! May we bring the joy of the Gospel to the ends of the earth!,

In Awe and Wonder of the Power of God’s Love and Divine Mercy, your friend and brother always,

Father Ralph