

GO!

May 9th, 2005

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Invite those present to pause for a few moments of silent reflection and to offer any special intentions).

This Sunday, we celebrated the Ascension of our Lord Jesus into heaven. After promising to send the Holy Spirit to guide his disciples, Jesus pronounces the Great Commissioning.

Narrator: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Narrator: The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus said to them,

Jesus: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Narrator: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: How appropriate it is for us to hear this Great Commissioning, especially considering that just last Thursday the entire Catholic world marked World Catholic Education Day. These final words of Jesus are really the mission statement of the Christian faith. Proclaiming Christ's message of God's unconditional love to all peoples is the mission of the Church, the Body of Christ. This is especially true for all of us who are involved in Catholic Education. In a multitude of ways, we bring the Good News of Jesus to the students and parents we serve, doing all we can to make God's Kingdom on earth a transformational reality. The role we play as members of the Catholic Educational community is an absolutely essential component of the teaching mission of the Church. Let us recommit ourselves to this mission.

All: Lord Jesus, give us the passion, courage and persistence we need to bring your message of life and love to the students and parent we serve, as well as to our colleagues. We rededicate ourselves to you and to your glorious plan of salvation. Through our words, attitudes and actions, may we be your living Body in the world especially to those who feel lost and alone. We place our trust in your promise to be with us always. We make this prayer in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.