

**English summary of Homily given by Deacon José González during the
June 19 Hispanic Mass “for the Evangelization of Peoples.”**

HOMILIA (Isaías 2:1-5; Salmo 18:2-5; Hechos 1:3-8; Mateo 28:16-20)

Farewells create a sense of fondness, as when the Apostles experienced the memories of the Risen Jesus.

St. Tomás Aquino explains that Jesus ascended for three reasons: so that we grow in faith, to give us hope in Heaven, and a love for the divine. But a love of the divine is not an “illusory” concept, rather it is one that is grounded in the conviction that we have been elevated with Christ and that we can trust in Him in all that happens to us; we are a new creation in Christ.

It is this promise of Christ, that He will always be with us, that His Love is our source and Strength that sustains us in our tribulations.

In the second reading Jesús asks that we continue with the mission that he has begun with the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit,

the apostles are ordained to continue this work joyfully. Jesús also desires that His joy be complete in us. That is not to say that we will not have crosses to bear, but Jesus accompanies us as we encounter difficult moments. Let us ask Christ for strength to move forward and leave behind that which impedes us to grow in Him and do His mission.

It is through the strength imparted by the living memories of our loved ones that we can overcome life’s difficulties. In Acts we see the closing of one era and the beginning of another. This chapter begins where Luke’s Gospel leaves: the Ascension of Christ. Luke speaks of the History of Salvation in three stages: the resurrection, the ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Thus we continue the mission that Christ began. Let us not be passive. If we have not already begun the work of Jesus, let us begin now.

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Paul never knew Jesus, yet he testifies: Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father in glory. The power of the resurrection is immeasurable to attain, but this is our work and the work of the broader Church.

Jesús wanted to unite all of His people into one place — the Church: the Body of Christ. Christ Kingdom goes beyond the boundaries of this earth. He controls all. Let us defend, protect, and conserve all of His creation.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the earth and the heavens are His. Jesús places his mission into the hands of the Apostles: to preach, to baptize, and to keep hope alive until the end of time —that is why He also calls us to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Gospel gives us many symbols and images confirming His message to us: “I will be with you always,” reminding us of the name that He gave Jesus—

Emanuel. The presence of Jesus is guaranteed until the end of time.

Let us ask that Jesus pick us up from where we are, that he bring us to sit with Him, at the right hand of the Father, and that he give us confidence to know that he will always stand by us through the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. I leave you with the words of Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon.”