



24 May 2009

Dear Parishioners,

The former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel said that:

*We have lost the certainty that the universe, nature, existence and our lives are the work of creation guided by a definite intention, that it has definite meaning and follows a definite purpose.*

And he warned that modern Western civilization is the “first atheistic civilization in the history of humankind.”

Vaclav wrote these words in the magazine *Civilization* in an issue devoted to the need for a religious perspective. Without such perspective, civilization is “lost”...

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ’s Ascension. Christ makes his way into heaven where his life now is hidden in God. This mystery is something that seems so nebulous and ethereal to our rationalistic minds; to us so earth-bound. Much is on our proverbial “plates” that vies for our immediate attention we forget *why* we are here and *where* we are going. The definite meaning and purpose of life eludes our grasp as does any sense of Christ within life. Christ now is hidden in God, we proclaim. Yet, he can seem more absent than hidden sometimes.

The Ascension of the Lord wants to lift us beyond the mundane and make us remember what we too easily forget: that life has ultimate meaning. St. Augustine put it beautifully when he wrote:

*We were made for you, O God. And our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*

By his Ascension, Jesus enters heaven—that realm beyond imagination and time—clothed in our humanity. And since we belong to Christ, not only by grace but by this humanity, something of ourselves already finds its way into that realm: hidden and waiting to be brought to light in God’s own time.

The Ascension reminds us mundane creatures willing to look beyond what weighs us down that our lives have ultimate meaning; that whatever threatens us does not have the last word. Alleluia!

*Fr. Tim Clark*

Pastor