

Dear Members of Sacred Heart Church,

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

I remember, many years ago, as I was reading these very words of the Gospel on Ascension Thursday, the entire congregation shifted their focus from me to the large, circular window high in the loft of the Church. I watched them as, with eyes wide open and mouths gaping, their faces tilted up higher and higher. Truly, I was afraid to look around to see what they were seeing. When I got enough courage to turn and face the window, what I saw was a man all dressed in white (T-shirt and overalls) rising higher and higher on a ladder with a bucket, a sponge and some rags. I forgot that we were having the windows cleaned in the Church that day.

Filled with the Spirit of the Risen Jesus we are all empowered to lift up the lowest, most menial task and transform it into a masterpiece, to transcend to a higher state of holiness by bending down to the lowest state of humility, to pass beyond the temptations to pride and power by passing over to a new life of service and care.

The Lord washes the window of our soul that we might behold His glorious presence clearly in our midst and He might rejoice to see us rising radiantly with Him to the place our Heavenly Father has prepared for us even now.

St. Augustine writes:

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us, and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.”

Let us go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

*Father John*