



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

MAY 2025

Each year, 40 days after Easter, we celebrate Ascension Day: The day that the risen Christ ascended to heaven after His resurrection. This year, it falls on May 29, which is the same week of—and three days after—Memorial Day, the day we set aside to honor and remember those who sacrificed their lives for our nation.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent 40 days with his disciples. At the end of that time, He led them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as He ascended into heaven. Before doing so, He gathers with His followers and leaves them with a command and a promise. He commands them to continue his mission by making disciples of all nations through baptism, and He promises that He will never leave them.

Then, as we read in Acts 1:9-11, *After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"*

As Jesus prepared to ascend to the right hand of the Father, He did not want his mission to end, so He gave us a command to go into the world to reach others in His name. He came into the world for one purpose: to save us. His last words before leaving are our marching orders: *"Therefore go 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 I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

This month, as we celebrate Ascension Day, we also pause to remember those men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, so that we can live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. While we honor them, we also need to remember that as Christians, we are called to serve so that our family, friends, co-workers, and anyone we are blessed to have a divine intervention with, has the opportunity to learn about the Gospel of Christ and His saving mercy and grace.

Jesus has ascended to the right hand of the Father. I once heard a story that, while not doctrinal, showed the importance of our mission. In that story, after Jesus ascended, He shared with the angels his plan for having us spread His Gospel to the world. After which, one of the angels asked, "But what if they don't do it, what is plan B?" And Jesus just smiled and said, "There is no Plan B."

Sir Knights, there is no Plan B. We have been called to go out and reach people with the love of Christ, so that all of us can live in the land of eternal freedom, the kingdom of heaven.

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate