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## From the Pastor's Desk.....17 May 2015

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Travel by air is quite common these days. From our window seat we can peer down upon the earth from a great height and ride high above vast billowing clouds. Science and technology have enabled us to see the world in new ways. We can no longer picture heaven as being above the clouds or located on some Olympian mountain top. Such naivety, however charming, does not square with our present knowledge or experience. Nevertheless, science and technology also have their limits. The Ascension of the Lord, which we celebrate today, has to be approached though through the gateway of theology.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, heaven is not a so much a place as a reality. It is described as, "the communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed...the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longing, the state of supreme, definitive happiness."

The Ascension of the Lord is not only about Jesus returning to glory, but about our journey in Christ toward heaven. As Jean Corbon puts it in his book *The Wellspring of Worship*, "The movement of the ascension will be complete only when all the members of Christ's body have been drawn to the Father and brought to life by his Spirit."

I find this dynamic understanding of the Ascension very appealing for it does not limit the Ascension to some fixed point in history, but rather sees it as a living reality in our Christian lives that direct us toward our communion with the Trinity, the saints and all believers. This is the mystery that we celebrate in each Eucharist.

Peace & Blessings  
Gerard