

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

### MOVIN' ON UP

Congratulations to all who are graduating this spring, whether from grade school, high school, college or post-graduate school! As you move on to a new school or to a job, I pray that you will continue to learn not only academic or work related things, but to continue to learn what God is calling you to in life. Listen for him in the people you encounter, the situations you experience, and what you hear in the world around you. Discern whether what you are hearing is of God or of evil; ask yourself if you are listening to what God may be asking you to do in this world. Stay close to the Lord in prayer; surround yourself with friends who are good people, and you will find that life, while not always fun or immediately satisfying, will bring you closer to whom you are meant to be in God's eyes, and that is where ultimate happiness lies.

### UP, BUT NOT AWAY!

This feast of the Ascension marks a very significant leap in salvation history. Sometimes, people think that the ascension of the Lord is simply Jesus's departure from this world to sit at the right hand of His Father for a well-earned rest after saving us. He did his job and now it's time to go home. The ascension of the Lord is anything but the beginning of divine retirement. Jesus does indeed ascend to his Father but not to leave us behind. He does not ascend because his work is finished; he ascends so that the work of salvation may continue in this world. By his death and resurrection He has made it possible for each of us to live in Him and He in us. He ascends so that the Holy Spirit may come and make His home in us, and thus Christ live in us. By the gift of the Holy Spirit, poured out the first time at Pentecost and subsequently through the sacraments, Christ is dwelling in us. He has not left us so that we can do his work because he is not on earth. He has left us in his physical body so that in His risen state of being, He can dwell

within us and do His work through us. We are Christ's body in the world today, individuals joined together to show forth the presence of Christ and the work of Christ in the world today. We might think those who experienced Jesus walking the earth were much more blessed than we are, who do not hear his human voice, see his human body, feel his human touch. Not so! Jesus dwelt with them, but He dwells IN us. His being is united to our being because he ascended and sent another Advocate, the Holy Spirit. The question we might ask ourselves this Sunday of the Ascension is whether or not we are letting Christ work in and through us to continue to bring salvation to the world?



### AWAY, BUT NOT UP!

I will be on vacation from Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> until Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> down South. You May be thinking "Didn't he just go on vacation after Easter?" That was a practice vacation. If anyone wins the lottery while I am gone, we will gratefully accept a huge donation for the new church. If no one wins the lottery, we will gratefully accept any donation from as many of you as can give. We are in the home stretch!

