



## Things to Ponder

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### Ascension Of The Lord

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Dear Friends and Visitors:

I grew up with the tradition that tomorrow was called Decoration Day. I would accompany my Father as he visited the graves of the many ancestors who had been buried in his native town of Danbury, Connecticut. I later learned that this holiday is known as Memorial Day and was instituted primarily as a solemn memorial for those in our armed forces who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives for the sake of our freedom.

Memory in the Biblical sense of that word is a making present. In the immediate wake of Jesus' departure from their midst, the apostles experienced his presence in numerous ways. Today we celebrate his Ascension into heaven. When I pray this second glorious mystery of the rosary, I am often reminded of the words of the Risen Lord to his dear friend Mary of Magdala. When she recognized him, Mary wanted to embrace the Lord; but he warned her:

**“Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father...”**

**(John 20, 17)**

To the bewildered apostles as they witnessed Jesus ascend, angels said:

**“Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?”**

**Acts 1, 11)**

The sacred memories we treasure today are not intended as mere nostalgia. We make present the saving deeds of Our Lord and the noble efforts of our ancestors so as to spur us on to give hope to others in a troubled and disheartened world!

Blessed Easter,

*Rev. William Foley*

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