



Things to Ponder

- [About the Author](#)
- [Order](#)
- [About the Book](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Readers' Comments](#)
- [News & Events](#)
- [A Prayer for the Day](#)
- [Things To Shout Out!](#)
- [Things to Ponder](#)
- [My Favorite Quotes](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Home](#)

The Ascension of the Lord

Happy Mother's Day!

We celebrate Mother's Day in the context of the liturgical celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord.

Departures of loved-ones are never easy. Mothers experience this each time they see a child leave home for school, for a career, or for their special vocation. The very purpose of education is literally to lead people away from the familiar to the yet unknown. Parents are the prime educators of their children. Growth requires that children leave the home and form new homes. When they return to care for aging parents the roles reverse.

Jesus had prepared his mother and disciples for his departure—which was essential for them in order that they receive the Holy Spirit. We have been reflecting throughout the Easter season on the rapid growth of the Church and some of the challenges it faced in its infancy. We would never have been formed, nor could we continue to grow, were it not for the abiding and enlivening presence of the Spirit promised by Jesus.

My mother has departed this life, but she remains with me not only in my thoughts and dreams, but, in a very real way, continues to nurture and encourage me from above. In a far more profound and pervasive way, this was the experience of the early Church with regard to Jesus. It is our experience as well when we gather weekly around the altar. I shared my mother with every parish I have served. Jesus continues to share his mother with all who follow him. She intercedes on our behalf just as she did in the midst of a crisis at a wedding in Cana when she said: “Do whatever my Son tells you.”

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

