

May 21, 2020

Dear friends,

Happy solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord!<sup>1</sup> Even in the times we're going through, we are reminded that Christ has not abandoned us, sending His Holy Spirit during our time on earth and preparing a place for us with His Father in heaven.

This week brings us one week closer to the end of the Easter season (May 31<sup>st</sup> – Pentecost) and the beginning of Ordinary Time. In some ways, this transition is invisible: we will still have Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi Sunday (along with feasts & memorials nearly every day between) before we finally celebrate a Sunday in Ordinary Time (also, coincidentally, Father's Day).

In some ways, this seems especially appropriate. Moving from season to season shouldn't be like flipping an on/off switch. The transition from celebration to a more sedate pace is more like finishing a marathon – stop too fast and the momentum will catch you off guard. But we also know that if we try to keep going, we'll burn out! Easing into the next phase is practical and necessary.

So how will you do that – what is your exit strategy from Eastertime? Perhaps you haven't thought of it in terms of a conscious plan, but since Ordinary Time is the majority of the year (Advent starts on November 29<sup>th</sup>), it seems worthy of special attention. And our current circumstances, though not ideal, offer an invitation to more deliberately engage the spiritual seasons that we celebrate as the Body of Christ.

For myself, I recently finished [Father Calloway's Consecration to St. Joseph](#) and started reading [Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence](#). I try to include spiritual reading in my daily routine, but this book caught my eye as especially relevant to the frustrations we're all experiencing – my own preparation for Ordinary Time will involve quiet meditation as I try to live out what the authors suggest!

Let us be conscious of Christ's presence with us in every season. Whether by physical or spiritual communion, Christ wills to be with every person whose heart is open to Him. May we be sure to be explicit in offering Him that invitation.

Yours in Christ,  
Father Maurer

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<sup>1</sup> Although many dioceses transfer this celebration to Sunday, including our own, the celebration is universally celebrated on the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter.