

The Vast Majority Of You

. . . have spent this year well, doing your appointed academic work with a fair amount of precision, being dutiful to your parents, loyal to your school, faithful to your religious practices, imposing upon yourself extra "acts" of mortification, hearing and praying morning Masses, receiving Holy Communion more than once a week, making supererogatory visits to the Blessed Sacrament, wasting time in adoration, saying the daily Rosary. In these and in other ways you learned a little more about God and your relations to Him.

Hence most of you have absorbed some Christian culture--some more, some less, of course--a culture which will bring you many needed graces in season and out of season now and during the years to come.

Who Needs Transformation?

The Ascension of Our Lord was a day of great moment in the early Church . . . Mary and the apostles and other followers were led by Christ out of Jerusalem a short journey to the Mount of Olives . . . They knelt before Jesus, this Thursday, on the Holy Mount . . . He lifted up his hands to bless them in affectionate farewell . . . Anxieties seized them at the thought of His going . . . He had been their only hope and without His presence what would they do? . . . They were afraid.

"Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel?" they asked. Are you leaving without accomplishing your work? Who will bring it about?--they thought.

Our Lord answers them and, in His last audible and recorded words on earth, rebukes them for their lack of confidence: "It is not for you to know the times or moments, which the Father hath put in his own power. But you shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth."

"And when he had said these things, while they looked on, he was raised up: and a cloud received him out of their sight." Then two angels dressed in white garments appeared suddenly and spoke with finality: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, as you have seen him going into heaven."

According to Scripture, Mary and the apostles and disciples returned to Jerusalem to prepare for the coming of the Holy Ghost. The nine-day period between the Ascension and Pentecost they spent in the upper room "persevering with one mind in prayer."

That was the first Novena ever made. Tomorrow we commemorate with this Church that has spread to "the uttermost part of the earth" the Ascension of Our Lord.

Next Friday, the day after Ascension Thursday, we commemorate with this same Holy Church the nine-day period during which Mary and the apostles and disciples were "persevering with one mind in prayer."

The Novena for Pentecost, then, should be the most powerful novena of the school year. It is one made to the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, Light and Strength.

Do you need courage to practice your faith openly? Are you victimized by human respect? Do you hide away in fear and trembling in the face of opposition? Then unite yourself with Mary and PERSEVERE WITH ONE MIND IN PRAYER.

Prayers: (deceased) wife of Frank O'Loughlin, '38; Judge John O'Phelan, '04; Miss Gertrude Blanchard. Ill, father of Rev. Bernard Mullahy, C.S.C.