

## Ascension – June 2, 2019

My favorite Ascension story is not in the scripture. It is in a book written by Fr. Ed Hayes, great storyteller, entitled: *St. George and the Dragon and the Quest for the Holy Grail*. I might be the only person in Clinton County who has a copy of it. An old RED dragon by the name of Igor is George's companion/mentor on the journey. He tells the story of Jesus on the mount of the Ascension.

Jesus (The Master) raises his arms, begins to ascend and suddenly his beloved disciple bolts from the crowd and grabs his foot. He looks up to the clouds and asks, “**what do I do now?**” And a voice from the clouds says, “**Ascend, my son, ascend!**” So with great difficulty, Jesus raises his arms, listing from side to side. With that his mother bolts from the crowd and grabs his other foot. Jesus says, “Mother of all people you should know!” But the voice again says, **Ascend, my son, ascend!** Again Jesus raises his arms. With that the whole crowd of disciples comes forward grabbing onto Mary and John...becoming a veritable pile of humanity, hanging on. AND, at that moment, the Master understood his whole purpose and mission on earth: **HE WAS TO BE A GIANT SKYHOOK!**

And that is our call as we celebrate the feast of the Ascension: to be little skyhooks, imaging the Christ, becoming the body of Christ through this word proclaimed and through the very body and blood of Christ we share this day. Our mission is to lift others into God's presence as we take care of each other. (Pat & Esther – 60 years)

William Temple quote: “The Ascension of Christ is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It **does not** represent his **removal** from earth, but his constant presence **everywhere on earth**.”

Let us be aware of that presence and pass it on in our living and loving until the end of our time on earth and all time. God is good all the time. Let us strive to be the same, especially in our presence **to** and with **each** other. It happens when we imitate Christ's humility and service and LOVE of humanity. Let us leave here as the little skyhooks we are to lift others up into the love of God's kingdom.