



UNIVERSITY OF
PROVIDENCE

CAMPUS MINISTRY

May 17, 2026
Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Campus Ministry Notes


Campus Ministry All are welcome. All belong. Feast of the Ascension

As we celebrate the Ascension of Christ into heaven take a look at the work of Jorge Cocco Santangelo. He calls his style



of art “sacrocubism.” It is beautifully done and draws us in to what is central in this scene. To see more of his art go to jorgecocco.com. You will be glad you did.

- Are you *sticking around for summer*? The change of pace can be a wonderful time to come together for a small group. Last summer we gathered for evening prayer and a cookout each week. Reach out to Roy. We can make something happen to help us all grow in faith.
- We are looking a *new campus minister* for UP as Roy is transitioning into his new role on Monday. We also continue to seek a *new chaplain*. We know God has a plan for us. Continue to ask for the intercession of Blessed Emilie Gamelin, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. John Henry Newman and Our Lady of Providence. *Holy Spirit, come to us!* We are so thankful to our retired priests and bishop who have been ever faithful throughout this past year so we can offer Sunday Mass on campus.
- There are more than a few perennials that are “spent” as far as gracing our chapel, but can find a new home on the grounds of UP. If you are *interested in helping plant* them, please drop Roy an email: roy.lanham@uprovidence.edu.
- The *chapel* is not as accessible during the summer, but please know the *doors are open Monday - Friday from 8 am to 5 pm*. Stop by for some time of quiet prayer or to visit with the Lord. Students, faculty and staff your key card should give you access after hours.
- *Summer Liturgical Minister Schedule* comes out this week. Please email Roy by Tuesday if you can assist. We still need Lectors and Greeters. Thank you.



Adoration
— All are Welcome, All Belong —

EVERY TUESDAY
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM • TRINITAS CHAPEL



A View from My Window

Two weeks ago, the Petrus Development consultant asked me what is *one thing* that I really liked about coming to Montana. Those of you who have spent your lives here would be outraged by such a limitation being placed on my

response. However, after pondering for a moment, I said to him, “The sky.”

I know you were hoping I would say, “The people, in particular, their kindness and generosity of spirit.” In retrospect I should have snuck that in, but isn’t that a given?

The truth is I have been in awe of the Montana sky from the first moment my car crossed the state line. From the day I entered into Montana and took Route 200 across the state—with a detour up to Roy, Montana for good measure—I find my eyes looking up all the time. Whether it is the blueness on a weekday morning or the brilliance of the night sky, or just the vastness any time you look up. I am in awe. Big Sky indeed!

There are times when folks on campus actually quote scripture when they ask me, “. . . why are you standing there looking at the sky?” Okay, they are just asking me a question, but it is straight out of today’s Gospel reading so let’s run with it. The truth is I often find myself “looking up”. What I mean is I find it easy to love God, at least with lip service. It is much harder to “look around” and put this love into action to those in need.

Pope Leo XIV in his Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te (I Have Loved You)*, writes “Jesus’ teaching on the primacy of love for God is clearly complemented by his insistence that one cannot love God without extending one’s love to the poor. Love for our neighbor is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God . . . The two loves are distinct yet inseparable.” (#26) We are called to look up and look around. If we are in awe of what we see above, we are to respond to this with a love for what we encounter in our lives.

We get to embrace this truth in living out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We get to encounter Jesus again and again both in the vastness of the universe and in the eyes of the poor. It is a way for us to live out the freedom of the gospel.

Peace,

Roy

Why is the Feast on a Sunday?

If you were to visit a friend in Omaha, Nebraska and were getting in late on Wednesday night of this past week, she would hug you and then say, “So glad you made it. Heads up, Mass for the Feast of the Ascension is at 7 am.” You would politely say, “Ascension Thursday? In my diocese we celebrate it on Sunday. So just let me sleep in tomorrow morning.”

The truth is most dioceses in the United States moved the feast day to the Sunday following the traditional date, which is 40 days after Easter to assist folks in being able to celebrate the feast day. There are a few dioceses/ archdioceses, like Omaha, that have kept the feast day on Thursday. Why?

In Acts 1:3 we find the answer. *He presented himself alive to them by*

many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days . . . There you have it. Easter is always on a Sunday, so 40 days later will always be a Thursday. Hence, some dioceses have kept to this tradition. Some see it as more in tune with the rhythm of the liturgical life the Church.

However, most U.S. Dioceses recognize that work and pressures of life have kept people from being able to attend Mass on this holy day.

The feast is important in the life of the Church as it signifies Jesus’ entrance into heaven and the end of his earthly ministry. Moving it to the closest Sunday allows for more people to attend. Is that giving into the secularism of our society? Are places like Omaha holier than Great Falls/Billings because they are honoring what it says right in scripture?

The reality is this is not really our concern. Celebrating the feast of our Lord ascending into heaven is what matters. Remembering what Jesus enjoined on the apostles on this feast day is what matters: *the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water; but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit* (Acts 1:4b-5).

At his leave taking, Jesus reminds them that the Holy Spirit is coming. We are heirs of this promise. We are disciples who have had successors of the apostles anoint us with the Sacred Chrism at our Confirmation and seal us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Jesus’ Ascension points us in our own story of salvation to Pentecost, which by the way is next Sunday. We are blessed indeed to be part of this story, which is ours.

