

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Cathedral of Saint Matthew – Houston, Texas

“The Immaculate Mother of God, the always Virgin Mary, was taken up in body and soul to the glory of heaven, upon the end of her mortal life.” With these words defined Pope Pius XII the dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in 1950.

Today we celebrate this festival in advance and with great happiness, because it is a great festival of the mother of Our Savior Jesus and our mother, and also because this festival guarantees and reminds us that all of us will be admitted and carried to the celestial glory in body and soul with our Father God and all the celestial court.

Primarily we speak of our Mother Maria, a supremely humble and marvelous woman. She was a youth from a Jewish town that was elected by the Most Holy Trinity to be the Ark of the New Covenant and the one which gave flesh and blood to the Word of God for his saving mission.

When the Angel Gabriel appears to her in order to ask for permission to be the mother of the Word, her answer is “May it be to me as you have said.”

An example of the total observance to the saving will of God. That is her greatness in all her life. And she completed her mission exactly by raising the boy Jesus according to the Jewish precepts: birth in Bethlehem, of Judea, where the Messiah had to be born, the flight to Egypt, from where he had to call his Son, as head of the new town of God, and her presentation of Jesus to the Temple, as an acceptable offering of the sacrifice for the sins in the New Covenant. She was humble and simple in presence at every moment in the public life of Jesus, excelling in intercessory presence in the Weddings of Canaan of Galilee.

And of course her brave presence in the passion and death of Our Savior Jesus, next to the cross and next to John, the beloved disciple and next to Mary Magdalene and to Mary the wife of Cleophas. What courage and what fortitude!

Mary is also present in the history of the Primitive Church. She was along with the holy women, witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus. And faithful until the bequest that she was left in the hands of the Apostle John, when on the cross Jesus told John: “I have there your mother,” and to Mary “I have there your

son.” The tradition of the Primitive Church tells us that she lived in Ephesus with John and possibly Mary Magdalene until her assumption to Heaven!

Why the Church has believed through the centuries that Mary has been taken to Heaven?

Primarily because she has always been venerated as the Mother of God! Mother of Jesus, the Word became flesh in her bowels! And thus the Council of Ephesus decided it.

In the second place because being a revealed truth that all redeemed by Christ will be resurrected in the last day, the assumption of Mary is an anticipated resurrection by the infinitely valued merits of her son, Our Savior Jesus.

And in third place, the presence in the Heavens of Mary is a presence of salvation, grace, and aid to all the community of the Church, through every century and all places, next to the Most Holy Trinity, like an omnipotent and supplicating mediator of all thanksgiving, as such many Fathers from the Church have considered her.

As practical consequence of this festival, we can say, that like Mary we should live our Christian life seeking God in all things and loving God and neighbor always and in all places and circumstances, but at the same time without losing sight of the celestial goods and our final destiny, that is to dwell for eternity with our Father God and all the happy, principally with Mary, our loving mother and intercessor in all our needs and difficulties!

We can say with total confidence and pride: Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us – your children-sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.