**Homily for the Feast of the A**[**ssumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**](https://justmehomely.wordpress.com/2012/08/15/assumption-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/)

**Readings.- Rev. 11/19a; 12/1-6a;10ab; 1Cor;15/20-27; Lk; 1/39-56**

**My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;**

The Assumption of Mary, meaning taken up by God body and soul into heaven, is the fourth dogma on Virgin Mary, proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in his proclamation titled Munificentissimus Deus in 1950:

“We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory… (44-45).

“As the supreme culmination of her privileges, that she should be preserved free from the corruption of the tomb and that, like her own Son, having overcome death, she might be taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven where, as Queen, she sits in splendour at the right hand of the Son, the immortal King of the Ages,” (40).

Assumption means, “To be taken up” body and soul to heaven. It is not Ascension, like Jesus, done by His own power, but Assumption done by the power of God. It is something God did for her, not something she did for herself. It is a gift of God as a result of Christ’s redemptive power applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The dogma says, “The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection.” The Assumption was God’s way of finishing the job he started at Mary’s Immaculate Conception, redeeming her body from the effects of sin as well.

But why is Mary? It is because she was the Mother of Jesus and Jesus did what you and I would have done with our mothers if we would have the power: Jesus did not allow the hands that cared for Him to be corrupted and the heart that loved Him so much…. If He did it to Enoch and Elijah, in the Old Testament, why is not to His Mother?

The Blessed Mother died like Jesus but her body was never corrupted, was taken up to heaven and for this reason there are no relics of her body. The dogma doesn’t say she never died. At the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD), when bishops from Mediterranean world gathered in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem that, “Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later…. was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven.

 The Eucharist and our Blessed Mother are the two great pillars of the Church. Therefore it is good to reflect on these two great pillars of the Church: the Eucharist whenever we receive it, we receive Jesus, His Body and Blood and soul and divinity and the Blessed Virgin Mary who gave birth to Jesus Christ which is the Eucharist.

There is no secret about the Blessed Virgin Mary is related to the Holy Eucharist. It is very simple: except for the Blessed Virgin, we would not have the Holy Eucharist. As Fr. John Hardon, SJ said that the key to this relationship is the humanity of Jesus Christ. God as God was present in the world from the dawn of creation. The same almighty power by which God brought the world into being is the same almighty power by which He sustains the world in existence and provides for its constant activity.

Fr. Hardon continued that it was from Mary that the Son of God took over human nature. It was from Mary that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity received His humanity. It was through Mary that Jesus Christ, who is God from all eternity, became man, lived visibly on earth in Palestine and is now invisibly on earth in every church and chapel in the Catholic world where the Holy Eucharist is offered, received and reserved. Mary remains the Mother of the Divine Grace, through whom He pours out His blessings on a sinful world. As Pope John Paul II observed in Redemptoris Mater, “Mary guides the faithful to the Eucharist.” The Pope in his message to the 19th Marian Congress in Poland (August 15, 1996) repeated the same message: “Let Mary lead us to the Eucharist.”

 So the Assumption of Mary reminds us that our bodies too will be redeemed… we will be in heaven with body and soul too and if in hell we will have body and soul also. The Christian hope is not so much the immortality of the soul, which many pagans affirm but the Resurrection of the Body.

**A short reflection on the Gospel Reading of the day:-** Last night when I was reflecting on the gospel we used today, I asked myself why the gospel did not contain anything about the Virgin Mary’s heavenly entrance. There is nothing heavenly about the gospel we just read. Rather, it is about the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. But an author of a homily book about the Assumption, said that there is nothing heavenly but only heaviness, both women were pregnant and they certainly were a few pounds heavier.

But there is something heavenly in the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth. When Mary and Elizabeth met each other, there was pure admiration:

This was admiration without jealousy and admiration without envy

A meeting without any string attached

A meeting without any expectation of recognition by the one being visited

A meeting without ulterior motives

A meeting that was not asking for any payment

A meeting that was done with a sincere heart, with love

A meeting that was done with all honesty and purity of heart

When Mary was assumed into heaven, it was similar to the meeting between Elizabeth and Mary. God welcomed Mary into heaven without any ulterior motives. She was welcomed into heaven not because she was God’s instrument but because: She was Mary; she was the daughter of God.

She was welcomed into heaven: in total purity of heart; in total joy; in total happiness.

She entered into heaven: without any element of pride; without thinking that, ‘I am getting what I deserve because I am the Mother of God.”; in total love of God who love her in return. That is heavenly.

Have we ever been in loved like this?

 Without any ulterior motives

Without any rebuke

Without abusing your loved one

Without suspecting your loved one

Without lying

Without untruthfulness

Without jealousy

Without asking to be repaid

Without expecting that everything we do be returned to us by our loved one

If we have loved like these and somebody loved like this too, this is a prelude to heaven. May our blessed mother intercede for us that we will be inspired to imitate her in her purity of love in our relationship with God and with others. **Amen**