

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15, 2025

Today, there are thirteen queens in the world, and the usual way to become a queen is by marrying a king, as Queen Letizia of Spain did.

But in Jesus' times, the situation was different. It was not the king's wife who became queen, but the king's mother. That was because kings usually had more than one wife, as King Solomon did. So, instead of having the wives competing among themselves to become queen, the title was given to the king's mother. For example, in the time of King Solomon, it was his mother Bathsheba who was queen. In fact, we read in the First Book of Kings that when King Solomon's mother came to visit him, he bowed down to her and had a throne brought in so she could sit at his right hand (1 Kings 2:19). That is how powerful the role of the queen was.

The queen was also someone who played an important role for the people of the kingdom. Because the king was either out fighting wars or otherwise occupied with affairs of state, it was the queen who was approachable by the people. Those who wouldn't normally be able to speak to the king, would be able to bring their concerns and needs to the queen in hopes that she would bring them to her son on their behalf. That is what takes place in the First Book of Kings. King Solomon's mother brings a request to him on behalf of one of his subject's, Adonijah.

And so, it is natural that, if Jesus is King, His mother, Mary, would be His queen.

Mary's cousin Elizabeth understood this clearly. When Mary visits her, she says, "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43). Mary is Elizabeth's much younger cousin. It was Elizabeth as an older woman and as the wife of a leading priest in the Temple who should have been honored. But Elizabeth understands that the child Mary is carrying is the Messiah, the King of Israel. And so she honors Mary as His queen.

Mary also understands that, as mother of Jesus, she is queen. That is why, when she gives her great song of praise, she says, "He [God] has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly." (Lk 1:52). With these words, she is basically saying that God has overthrown all the world's kings so that Jesus can be revealed as King

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of the Universe. And along with Jesus, Mary, His mother, is exalted as His queen. This lowly young woman from Nazareth would be Queen of the Universe alongside her Son.

If that is not enough proof that Mary is Queen of Heaven and Earth, we also have the Book of Revelation. At the end of the eleventh chapter and beginning of the twelfth, St John has a vision of Heaven. There he sees "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." (Rev 12:1). It is clear that this woman must be Mary, because later on we read, "She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod." (Rev 12:5). Who else would this child be except Jesus? And it is clear that Mary is a Queen, because why else would she be wearing a crown?

About a month and a half ago, we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension. On that day, we celebrated the fact that Jesus ascended to Heaven to sit at the right hand of God as King of the Universe. Today, we are celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when God brought Mary up to Heaven, body and soul, to join her Son. Just as Jesus sits in Heaven enthroned as the King of the Universe, now Mary, as His mother, sits as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

In Heaven, Jesus is continually interceding for us. As Queen of Heaven, Mary is at His side interceding for us. Like the Queen Mother in the Old Testament, Mary serves us by bringing our needs and concerns to her Son, the King. We can always go to her when we are afraid or overwhelmed with the cares of life. That is because our baptism makes us children of God. We are more than just subjects in His Kingdom. We are sons and daughters. We have an inheritance waiting for us in Heaven.

On this Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we celebrate Mary who is taken up body and soul into Heaven as Queen alongside her Son, Jesus, the King of the Universe. This feast is also an invitation to us to reflect on the future that God has prepared for us. His plan is that, as sons and daughters of God through baptism, we too will be raised up body and soul to take our place in the Kingdom of God. There Jesus will be revealed as King of the Universe and Mary will be by His side as His Queen.

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Until that time, we strive to follow the example of our King who humbled Himself to serve others. And we strive to follow the example of our Queen, who believed that God's words to her would be fulfilled and who put His words into practice.