

**Homily notes for Sunday, August 15, 2021**  
**Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Daytime Mass: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56)

**1. We honor Mary, venerate her, express our love for her and never worship her. She is in heaven where she intercedes for us and from which she comes as prophecy to guide and protect us.**

**2. An example when she helped our family.** Daughter-in-law pregnant with third child. Having trouble with placenta detaching from mother. Possible consequences were death of the child and possible death of mother. Going through Fort Worth. Marian celebration at city center. They decided to go there and pray the Rosary for her healing. Particular movement of light amongst the trees. After returning to Lubbock, doctor said all is in order and the pregnancy continued to term without further problems. I just married the child, Michael, who just graduated from A & M and was in the Core. Wonderful young man!

**Why do we honor Mary?**

1) Mary herself gives the most important reason in her "Magnificat:" *"All generations (ages) will call me blessed because the 'The Mighty One has done great things for me'"*

a) by choosing Mary as the mother of Jesus

b) by filling her with His Holy Spirit twice, namely at the Annunciation and at Pentecost,

c) by making her "full of grace," the paragon or embodiment of all virtues,

d) by allowing her to become the most active participant with Christ, her Son, in our Redemption, suffering in spirit what Jesus suffered in body.

2) **Mary is our Heavenly Mother.** Jesus gave us His Mother as our Mother from the cross: *"Woman, behold your son."* ... *"Behold your mother"* (John 19: 26-27). She is the mother of the Church, "her offspring" (whom the dragon (Devil) went off to wage war against – those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus" [Rev. 12:17]). Biblically she has the office of "Queen Mother."

3) **Mary is the supreme model of all virtues and hence our role model,** especially in holiness of life (*"full of grace"*), obedience to the will of God (*"fiat"*) and true humility (*"Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me as you have said"*). Note that she here is living out a primary value of St. Paul – "the obedience of faith" (Rom 1:5, 16:26)). Should we be more concerned in our lives and in our society for "freedom" or "the obedience of faith?"

**4. Reasons why we believe in the dogma of Assumption:** \_Pope Pius XII in the papal document *Munificentissimus Deus* gives four reasons for our belief in the Dogma of Assumption of Mary.

1) The uninterrupted tradition about Mary's death and Assumption starting from the first century.

2) The belief expressed in all the ancient liturgies of the Church.

- 3) The negative evidence -- the absence and veneration of a tomb of Mary while most of the apostles have their tombs.
- 4) The possibility of bodily assumption warranted in the Old Testament in the cases of Enoch (Gn 5:24), perhaps Moses (Dt 34:5), and especially Elijah (II Kgs 2:1).
- 5) The theological reasons:
  - a) The degeneration of the body after death is the consequence of "original sin," and Mary, as "Immaculately Conceived," is exempted from the post-mortem decay of the body.
  - b) As receiver of the fullness of grace and holiness because she is mother of Jesus and a partner with Him in our redemption, Furthermore, Mary's place is with her son, God's Son Jesus, the Redeemer, in the abode of holiness, Heaven.

## 5. Life messages:

- 1) We are encouraged because we know we have our Mother, our advocate in heaven.  
When on the cross and when Jesus the disciple there who he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." This also means that she is the Mother of the Church, hence, our Mother.
- 2) Because she is in heaven, we know that we have our Mother as an intercessor with Jesus before the Father. That's what Colton Burpo reported.
- 3) As Mary's Assumption was a reward for a holy life, this feast invites us to keep our bodies pure and holy. Hence, she will be more likely to answer our prayers. Paul gives three additional reasons:
  - a) Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit (I Cor 6:19),
  - b) Our body parts are the members of Christ's Body (1 Cor 12:13), and
  - c) Our bodies are to be glorified on the day of the Last Judgment.
- 3) We are given an assurance of hope in our resurrection and a source of inspiration during moments of despair and temptations.
- 4) If we walk faithfully with the BVM, doing "what he tells us", which is always repentance of our sins and an active life of prayer, we receive a message of total liberation from all our bondages: impure, unjust, uncharitable thoughts, desires, words, actions, and neglects, addiction to evil habits, drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography, and sexual aberrations.

This reminder is very timely as today we are watching the Taliban take over Kabul and defeat the United States. Islam can be very attractive to people living in a corrupt society, like ours. Notice the kinds of sin from which we can be delivered! We need to return to our basic values of our faith, chastity, purity, modesty, self-control, etc. or we will not be able to give a good testimony to the world for our faith. We have become too tolerant, too complacent. The first of the spiritual works of mercy is the correction of the sinner. Don't we need to get back to that, or we will be overrun by evil forces. This may be the manner that God uses to chastise us for our sins.

So, I would encourage everyone, when you have a need, ask the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, just like my wife, son, and daughter-in-law did and experience her help>

**15. The two questions for every Mass:**

What should I offer to God in the offering this morning?

What is the one thing I can gain from this Mass to make me the better-version-of-myself that God wants?