

Once when visiting a grade school, I asked: “What is the Solemnity of the Assumption?” One student responded, “That is when the *Church assumes* that Mary is in heaven.” Well, I gave only partial credit for the answer, but then had to explain that the Church is not merely “assuming.”

The doctrine of Mary’s Assumption is firmly rooted in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, and this constant teaching was infallibly defined as a dogma of the Catholic Faith by Pope Pius XII Nov.1, 1950 as follows: “*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*”.

Today, together with the universal Church, we affirm our belief that Mary, the Mother of God is the perfect model of Christian life; who was preserved from the corruption of the grave and who is the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Mary’s assumption is the culmination of all the unique graces Mary obtained from God, as mother chosen mother of the saviour. She symbolises the perfectly liberated humanity, ‘the total freedom’ of human being.

On this Solemnity, we are also reminded that our destiny lies beyond the grave and each day we are being called to eternity and holiness. For that reason, we said these words in our Opening Prayer: “*Always attentive to the things that are above, may we merit to be sharers of Mary’s glory.*”

St. Aug. Yes, *Mary became the disciple of the Lord before she became the mother of the Lord*, bcs she conceived the Word in her heart, before she conceived the word in her womb. God wanted to dwell in the most blessed womb, *full of goodness, full of grace*:_the womb of Mary. God fell so much in love with the

world that he took *'human flesh to dwell among us*. Mary so much fell in love with God, that she gifted her flesh to the Eternal Word!

B& S, We cannot just *assume* that we will go to heaven. We must strive daily to cooperate with the Lord's grace so that we may be prepared on the day He calls us to Himself. Our holiness is a work in progress. Mary shows us the way: Like her, we must, "proclaim the goodness of the Lord and rejoice in God our Savior. Like her, we must with profound trust say daily: "Let it be done to me according to your word." In other words, as humble and faithful disciples, our souls must magnify---not ourselves, but the One Lord, the Son of God, the Son of Mary. This is what Mary, God's humble handmaid lived and taught us.

How blessed are we that from the Cross Jesus gave Mary to us as our Mother to guide us on our earthly journey and to the ultimate goal for which we long.

Yesterday. Aug. 14 was feast of Kolbe. St. Maximilian Kolbe offers us a sound advice: "We should let ourselves be guided by Mary and rest quiet and secure in her hands. She will watch out for us; provide for us; answer our needs of body and spirit and dissolve all our difficulties and worries".

Let's pray to her: Mary, assumed body and soul into Heaven, pray for us today and always. Amen.