

08/15/2022 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rev.11:19A; 12:1-6A, 10AB, 1 Cor 15:20-27, Lk.1:39-56

There is an old story about a workman on scaffolding high above the top of a cathedral who looked down and saw a woman praying before a statue of Mary. As a joke, the workman whispered, "Woman, this is Jesus." The woman ignored him. The workman whispered again, more loudly: "Woman, this is Jesus." Again, the woman ignored him. Finally, he said aloud, "Woman, don't you hear me? This is Jesus." At this point the woman looked up at the crucifix and said, "Be quite now, Jesus, I'm talking to your mother."

Dear Brothers and Sisters, today is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the greatest of her feasts. The Gospel reading of today is the Magnificat, the song of Mary which is one of the greatest hymns of the Church (Luke 1:39-56). This Gospel canticle is prayed at the evening prayer of the Church every day. The Magnificat is revolutionary in its content and spirit. Mary sings her dream of a time when the barren, the poor, the unloved, the marginalized and the dead will be raised to glory. This beautiful song speaks of an economic, social, moral and spiritual revolution that will create a truly just and peace-filled world.

"scattering" is a very good verb to use to indicate what happens to the proud when God goes into action. Mary rejoices in that "scattering", but who are the proud? Maybe we don't have to look any further than ourselves. How much we fight with that root sin of pride! Mary is happy when pride gets scattered and the perspective we have widens. This scattering opens the "thoughts of our hearts" to see others and their needs. This song carries the vision of a society where the hungry are filled, where the humble are raised up, where the proud and the arrogant are confused and scattered, where the mighty are going to come down and the humble raised up, where real change of heart will take place and greatness will come to the humble spirit. This song is truly a song of conversion and transformation of the world.

Lifting Up the Lowly: This feast of the Assumption is proof that God literally lifts up the lowly. Like her Son and his Ascension, Mary is lifted up by God into the realm of eternal life. Sometimes we cling to our pride out of a sort of instinct of self-preservation. We can only do that if we are not filled with ourselves. And Mary's humility is a lesson for us.

We live in a world where there is life and death, creation and destruction, war and peace, harmony and conflict and many other similar paradoxes. It is up to us to choose where we want to live and how we want our world to be transformed. Let us share Mary's dream and work toward the transformation of our world in Christ. Let us strive to work toward an economic, social, moral and spiritual revolution that will create a truly just and peace-filled world. I encourage you to take a few minutes each day of this week to go to a quiet place, be still and join Mary in glorifying God and praying for a world of peace and harmony. Let's ask Mary to help us to live more like her and experience the true joy—the lifting up—that there is in humility. God bless you and your family. **Amen.**