

My Friends in the Lord Jesus,

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior...” the Virgin Mary exults in praise of God in the Gospel according to Luke. We will once again listen to her joy in the Lord, expressed on Saturday, August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although not a holy day of obligatory for Mass this year, we celebrate on this great feast the triumphant power of the resurrection of Christ in the lives of human beings.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother is a proclamation and a foreshadowing of resurrection life in Christ. It is a feast of hope for us. We strive to become, by God’s grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, what Mary is, a saint of God in heaven. Patterned after the resurrected body of Jesus Christ, having experienced no corruption in her body after death, God brought her to Heaven body and soul. Mary experiences the fullness of resurrection life, body and soul in heaven. In his Apostolic Constitution *Defining the Dogma of the Assumption* (Munificentissimus Deus) in 1950, Pope Pius XII wrote,

*“In their homilies and sermons on this feast the holy fathers and great doctors spoke of the assumption of the mother of God as something already familiar and accepted by the faithful...They brought out more clearly the fact that what is commemorated in this feast is not simply the total absence of corruption from the dead body of the Blessed Virgin Mary but also her triumph over death and her glorification in heaven, after the pattern set by her only Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Thus Saint John Damascene, preeminent as the great preacher of this truth of tradition speaks...It was necessary that she who had preserved her virginity inviolate in childbirth should also have her body kept free from all corruption after death...It was necessary that she, who had gazed on her crucified Son and had been pierced in the heart by the sword of sorrow which she had escaped in giving birth, should contemplate him seated with the Father. It was necessary that the Mother of God should share the possessions of her Son, and be venerated by every creature as the Mother and handmaid of God.”*

I encourage you to pray and to meditate on the words of the Magnificat this week. The Magnificat is in Luke’s gospel Ch.1: 46 - 55. May it bring comfort, consolation and peace during these difficult days.

Mary, conceived without sin, assumed into heaven body and soul, pray for us.

Fr. Ron