

**August 15, 2019 A Singular Honor Homily:** Carl Gustav Jung was arguably one of the world's most distinguished psychologists of the Twentieth Century. The son of a Lutheran pastor and a one time friend of Sigmund Freud until they had a falling out, Jung was the author of several books. Perhaps his best known book is "Modern Man in Search of a Soul". He had a life-long professional interest in religious symbolism. In an article he penned in 1950, he surprised his readership by declaring that the Assumption of Mary is the most important religious teaching since the Protestant reformation of the Sixteenth Century. The church teaches that Mary, once her earthly days came to an end, was taken, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. Jesus Christ ascended into heaven by his own power. Mary is assumed into heaven by the grace of God. Jung took the view that the definition did more than anything else to enhance the dignity of women. With Mary's assumption, a feminine figure is in eternal life and is the subject of special veneration by the faithful.

If this dogma is difficult to grasp, it is only because we are in the realm of mystery. Quite simply, we cannot imagine heaven. Still less can we imagine the kind of body located there. All we can say with certainty is that Mary has entered into full communion with her beloved Son, Jesus. Not only is she in Christ, she is also with him for all eternity.

The late Bishop Sheen (D.1979) once instructed a Chinese woman in the Catholic faith. A former disciple of Confucius, she told the priest that the one truth that was easy for her to understand, and what's more, appreciate was the Assumption of Mary. She explained. She knew a saintly soul who lived on a mat in the woods, whom thousands of people visited to receive her blessing. One day, according to the belief of all who knew her, she was "assumed" into heaven. "Her love was so great that her body followed her soul into the life hereafter."

In the creed we profess our faith in eternal life. "I believe in the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting." This article of the creed reflects St. Paul's teaching "He who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through the Spirit living in you."

When the Church celebrates the Assumption she is celebrating her future glory. What we Christians believe God has done to Mary, we firmly believe God will do to us if we die in the Lord, that is to say, in the state of grace. We believe that our whole person, body and soul, will be raised to a new level of existence.

In his reflections on the fourth glorious mystery of the Rosary, the Assumption of Mary, the late Cistercian monk, Basil Pennington writes, "The one who commands us to honor our mother honors his. He has made her the greatest. And we are privileged, like him and because of him, to have her as our mother."

The Assumption of the Blessed Mother is a singular participation in her Son's Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians. (CCC 966) She is truly blessed among all women. She is the woman clothed with the sun. (Rev. 12:1). She is truly in heaven.

Amen!