

## FROM FR. CHRIS ALIMAJI'S DESK

### *Reflections on the Assumption of the BVM*

In this Liturgical Year B, 2021, Scripture Readings for both the Vigil and Day Masses are: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28; Ps. 132; Rev. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps. 45; 1 Cor. 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56.

This year I am going to give you another version of my teaching on the Assumption. Read carefully. What is the Catholic Church's teaching and doctrine on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary? In which Mystery of the Holy Rosary do we find it? **In the Fourth Glorious Mystery, the Church teaches that after her death, the body of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up into heaven.** When we went on pilgrimage to the holy Land in June 2019, we went into Jerusalem, and into the building where it was said that the Blessed Mother of the Lord was lying in state. A representation of her image lying in state is still there presented intact. That is the room, we are told, the Mystery of the Assumption took place. **All Christians, both Catholics and all denominations enter it, and revere it. The aura of the room moves one to kneel and pray in quiet submission to the divine serenity all around you.** Though we took pictures too. Everything about the Holy Land Christian Events is based on the Catholic teaching. Everything!

What do Christian of other denominations narrate and teach their members when they return from annual pilgrimages? I listen to them on Christian radio talk of their pilgrimage to the holy land, and that it makes the Bible come alive. When you watch Bible events acted out in movies, you get some clues. Movies like "Jesus of Nazareth" and similar others can help you get insight. **Scripturally or biblically, (1)** Acts 2:22-36, St. Peter gives us insight into the plan of our God for human salvation in Christ Jesus, which he explained on the day of Pentecost. That the holy body of the Lord will not suffer or experience corruption, decay, remains immortal, has many implications. Let us try to stretch these words a little bit. What is corruption in this context? Is it not decay? We talk of corrupted body of the dead. Where did the Lord Jesus take his body from? Does this incorruptibility extend to his Blessed Mother or not? **Scripturally, (2)** Rev. 11:19-12:10, St. John tells of God's temple in heaven that opened. The ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. You and I did not write that, did we? Then, a great sign appeared in the sky. And what happened? A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. The Pope did not write these. Did he? Some Protestants say that the Pope tells us what to believe. This is Scripture, the Bible! Now, read the conclusion: Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One." Alleluia! Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults! We call it the Assumption. It is an article of faith. It is doctrinal. It is biblical.

Now, in the Rosary we call this Mystery – the Glorious Mystery. It begins with the Resurrection of the Lord from the dead. It is in all the four Gospel Narratives. Nobody can deny them, not even the non-Christians and the Judaizers in Jerusalem, no matter how much they were bribed with to do so, (cf. Mt 28:12-15). **All the five glorious mysteries are to assure us of salvation, redemption, and eternity in Christ. The angels of the Lord knocked their lies out when they said: “He is not here. He has been raised.” (Lk 24:6).** The Fourth Mystery is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Finally, the Fifth is the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the glory of all the Saints; you and I, when we appear in heaven at the end of our lives. We already have the foretaste of this glorification through the Canonization of the Saints. That is God’s plan for us all, that we may live with him eternally. It is in pursuit of the heavenly canonization and glorification which our Blessed Mother has been crowned with that we do our utmost best to do good and live righteously on earth. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!