

Reflections

Father Nicolas Schwizer

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Assumption of Mary

We all know the content of the mystery of the Assumption of Mary: Mary was taken to Heaven in body and soul. She is the only human being – with the exception of her Son, Jesus – who is in Heaven with her body. That is the truth of faith which Pope Pius XII made dogma in 1950.

But why that privilege? We know that Mary had Christ, the Son of God, in her immaculate body and She gave Him a human body. And the Man-God is with his glorious body in Heaven. Therefore, it is also suitable that his Mother participates in this incorruptibility and glorification of the body. And thus She is also with her transfigured body in Heaven.

The Assumption is thus like the coronation of her life and gives us a clearer vision of Her. She is companion and helpmate of Christ throughout her whole life: from the Incarnation to the Cross, and She is now also in Heaven. And thus She participates in the Kingdom of Christ and of the Blessed Trinity.

Therefore, She is the most powerful advocate from Heaven. And since She is there with her body, She is also there with her human heart, with her maternal heart. And because She is not only Mother of Christ, but also our Mother, we understand how and why She always acts from Heaven for us her children. And we now ask ourselves: what does God want to tell us through this dogma of the Assumption? The Virgin, glorified in Heaven, is a sign of hope and promise for all of us. In Her we can see our own destiny prefigured.

The idea of death makes many Christians tremble. A certain fear before the unknown is natural as is also the pain felt with the separation of a dear one. But for many, it is not only about this: In the background, they do not believe that our bodies will also resurrect like that of Christ. They think that after death we will have a kind of half-way life, like incomplete men, like souls (ghosts).

Mary, in the mystery of her Assumption in body and soul, reminds us that the fullness of man will be reached precisely beyond death. As soon as we are there, Christ will fill our soul and body with new life, our definite liberation will be reached which includes the liberation from death. Therefore, only Christ is our true liberator who will resurrect us all.

The Blessed Virgin was the first. She merited following Christ before anyone else in his Resurrection because like nobody else, She followed Him here on earth. Therefore, from Heaven, Mary also reminds us of the importance of this earthly life. It is in our daily struggle, amidst this world, where, little by little, our own Resurrection is won. In this way, there will be a total continuity between our life on earth and our life in Heaven.

We can also ask ourselves: why did God want to proclaim this dogma of the Assumption? It seems to me that God wanted to manifest, in the image of the Assumed One, the dignity of the human body and, very especially, the dignity of the body of the woman. Every woman was born to be a reflection of Mary, to radiate Her nobility and royal dignity. When we encounter girls and women like this, we are moved because they are like a reminder of Mary.

Nevertheless, our world today makes an effort to destroy this noble image of woman. It tries to reduce her to a simple category of instrument of pleasure. It is enough to see the magazine stands or the movie propaganda, to see the image of woman which is sold today to society. We cannot build a more Christian society if we do not also forge a new and dignified type of woman, according to the image of Mary. Idealism, morality and the fruitfulness of a people is maintained or crumbles with its women.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Assumed One that She always reminds us of the dignity and nobility to which all women have been called. With Her, the Woman dressed with the Sun and crowned with stars, we all want to be together in Heaven. Therefore, let us ask Her to maternally watch over each one of us and that She leads us to the House of the Father.

Besides mother, is the Virgin Mary my advocate in Heaven?

Translation: Carlos Cantú, Schoenstatt Family Federation, La Feria, Texas USA. 06092016
cantu_carlos@hotmail.com