

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

HOW WILL MY END BE?

August 14/15, 2021

Everything we do in life will have its results or consequences. It can be good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant. Today's feast reminds us of that. The Lord Jesus said several times that whoever believes in Him and does the Father's will, shall have eternal life. Mary is saying to me that it is true.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, reminds us of what St. Paul told the Corinthians: "When the mortal puts on the immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory?'" (1Cor.15:54-56).

Mary has won victory over death, and She has experienced the reward of Her labor. From the time of the Annunciation to Her death, She went through many painful and distressing experiences, (and some grace-filled moments too), but Her faith in God saw Her through the storms of Her life. Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce Her soul; (Lk.2:35).

The readings give us who She was and some of the experiences She had. The vision of John tells us that there was no darkness around Her because She was clothed head to toe with the objects which give light to the world – the sun, the moon and the stars. This reminds us of the message of the angel Gabriel, that She was full of grace, (Lk.1:28).

The vision also tells us that She was confronted by the enemy, but God's grace won her victory and She was taken to where it had been prepared for Her. Evil had no power over Her.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth tells us that Mary is the Mother of the Lord, and Her faith had brought Her blessings. Mary then proclaimed what the Almighty had done for Her, and that all generations will call Her blessed. Today She reminds me that the mercy of God is upon all those who fear Him. She has experienced God's mercy and the victory of Her Son, and it is for everyone to have a taste of it.

What will my end be like? Will it be glorious or miserable? Have I surrendered myself to the will of God? Do I keep His word in my heart and ponder over it

day and night? Am I faithful to all the responsibilities entrusted to me? Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of the Annunciation and on Pentecost day, and She allowed Herself to be guided by Him. I have also received the same Spirit through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation; what is He doing in my life? In my everyday life, what inspires me to think what I think about, to say what I say, and to do what I do? Is it the fear of God or my own personal desires? Is it the aim of seeing God or pleasing human beings?

St. Paul knew that we are strangers here on earth and reminded the Christians in Corinth: "We are well aware that when the tent that houses us here on earth is folded up, there is a house for us from God, not made by human hands, but everlasting, in the heavens. We know that while we dwell in the body we are away from the Lord. We walk by faith, not by sight. The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body," (2Cor.5:1,6-10). Mary is shining like the stars, what am I going to experience, and what will be my reward?