

August 15, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

By Sr. Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

Today's Second Reading and Gospel

*"Brothers and sisters: When that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:*

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:54b-57

While Jesus was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him,

***"Blessed is the womb that carried you
and the breasts at which you nursed."***

*He replied,
"Rather, **blessed are those**
who hear the word of God and observe it."*

LUKE 11:27-28

Reflection

Hail, **full of grace**. That was how the angel addressed the Virgin Mary. She was full of grace, even before the angel announced that she would be the Mother of God. She was full of grace through God and was redeemed from the very moment she was conceived. The womb that was to bear the Son of God had to be a receptacle pure and void of the stain of original sin. "She was **from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ**, Savior of the human race, **preserved immune from all stain of original sin.**" (CCC 491)

By the grace of God, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary demonstrated obedience in faith for her entire life. She is the epitome or benchmark of what faith-filled living means. Since she was begotten by God, she never committed sin "because God's seed remained with her." (1 John 3:9) "**The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.**" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 494)

Jesus affirmed this in his own words in Luke 11:27-28. She was blessed because she bore Jesus in her womb and doubly blessed because **she heard God's words, accepted them, obeyed them, and lived them by God's grace.**

Because of this, God did not abandon Mary's soul to death, her body to decay. Mary was given victory over death through Jesus Christ. Psalm 16:7-10 says "**I bless the Lord who counsels me...I keep the Lord always before me...My heart is glad, my soul rejoices, my body also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor let your devout one see the pit.**" The reading quoted above (1 Corinthians 15:54-57) is a powerful declaration of **the victory that we as believers have over death through faith in Jesus**. Scriptures promise **abounding joy and delight** to those who are faithful to God their whole life.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary gives us **the hope of eternal life.**

1 Corinthians 15:58 says: "Therefore, be **firm, steadfast, always fully**

devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

I believe in the Church’s dogma that Mary was taken up into heaven body and soul. Looking at the picture (below) of the sculpture of Mary’s Assumption at a church in Bavaria, I sense her exhilaration in going home to her Creator and meeting her Son in all splendor and glory. Her eyes set on the heavens above, the grandeur of the moment was magnificently imagined by the sculptor. Her mouth is slightly open in delight, almost in ecstasy. Her hands reach out, ready to receive the glory of heaven. The angels joyfully and speedily transport her to her celestial seat. Mary’s Assumption gives me hope in anticipating my own demise. It is a reminder not to lose heart for **life on earth is that momentary affliction that prepares us for that jubilant glory that is beyond comparison.**



"File:Kloster Rohr in Nby Detail Hochaltar.JPG" by Piflaser is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/?ref=openverse>.

For Pondering

- Ponder on the life of Mary and her connection to Jesus. What is stirred in you? Write down the emotions stirred in you and sit with the words.

- What do the readings tell you about the life of a disciple and about death? Consider the values you can get from the readings that you can apply to your life.

For Prayer

*Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.*

*Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.*

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)