

Homily 20th Sunday A Feast of the Assumption 2020

Pope Francis: Mary is the “Gate of Heaven” so let us look upward because, thanks to Mary’s Assumption: “Heaven is open” and we need no longer be afraid.

We rejoice when something really beautiful happens, but it is not enough just to rejoice inside, in the soul, because we want to express this happiness with everyone around us. Mary rejoices because of God and she teaches us to rejoice in God, because God does “great things”. **To magnify the Lord**, which is what Mary does, means to praise the Lord for his greatness, for his beauty. Mary proclaims the greatness of the Lord and shows us that if we want to be happy, God must take first place in our lives because God alone is truly great. Don’t become lost in the petty obsessions of life by chasing after things of little importance: prejudices, grudges, rivalries, envy, and superfluous material goods. Mary invites us to look upward towards the ‘great things’ the Lord has accomplished in her. Mary, a human creature, one of us, reaches eternity in body and soul. This is why we invoke her as the “Gate of Heaven”. **Mary awaits us** as a mother waits for her children to come home. For, in paradise, together with Christ, the New Adam, **Mary**, the new Eve, gives us comfort and hope on our pilgrimage here on earth. **For those who are afflicted** with doubts and sadness, “and live with their eyes turned downwards”, the Feast of the Assumption is a call to “look upwards” and see that “Heaven is open”. Heaven is no longer distant so we need no longer be afraid: because on the threshold of Heaven there is a Mother waiting for us. Mary constantly reminds us that we are precious in the eyes of God, and that we are made for the great joys of Heaven. **Every time we take the Rosary** in our hands and pray to her, we take a step forward towards life’s great goal. Let us be attracted by true beauty. Let us not be drawn away by the petty things in life. Let us choose the greatness of Heaven. **Blessed Virgin Mary**, Gate of Heaven, help us fix our gaze with confidence and joy on the place where our true home lies!!

Emmanuel d’Alzon says: Mary is a model and a help in all our struggles as well as the model to follow on the road to holiness. Mary, victorious over Satan, is the guarantee of the triumph of every Christian and of the triumph of the Church. But, for this to happen, we need to respond to two conditions. For Mary to be a useful model, we must strive to imitate her and we must strongly desire to be holy. For Mary to be the guarantee of our triumphs, we must call upon her for help, strive to imitate her and place our trust in her. . . . **Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us.**

A mother was teaching her 3-year old daughter, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat each line of the prayer after her mother. Finally, the 3-year old

asked to go solo. She remembered each word correctly right up to the end of the prayer when she said "*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us **from E-mail. . . Amen***"