

Reflection Monday Week 34 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2022

In union with Eastern Christianity, and commemorating the dedication in 543 of the New Basilica of Saint Mary, built next to the Temple at Jerusalem, this feast celebrates Mary's "dedication" of herself to God from her infancy, inspired by the Holy Spirit, whose grace had filled her ever since her immaculate conception.

It is no coincidence that the Founder of the Assumptionists, the venerable Emmanuel d'Alzon died on this day, a feast of Mary, since he dedicated the Congregation to Our Lady of the Assumption, confident that she would always watch over us. Friends of Emanuel d'Alzon bought a school for him, knowing that he was interested in giving young people, both rich and poor, a strong foundation in the faith. The school was dedicated to the Assumption of Mary. While teaching at the school Emmanuel gathered the teachers together and, with them, began to live the religious life in 1845, adopting the rule of St Augustine as their guide. While thinking of a name for his new religious foundation, he saw in the name of the school a sign from Mary that she wished to help and guide him. He believed that Mary chose him, rather than him choosing Mary and he believed she wanted to bless and encouraging his new foundation.

It is rather apt that on the day when Mary was presented and blessed by God that she would welcome Emmanuel d'Alzon to heaven and present him to her son. Just as Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, the good news, Emmanuel d'Alzon worked tirelessly bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to rich and poor alike. Our Lady of the Assumption pray for us!