

## Reflection Tuesday Week 19 The Assumption Year A 2023

**The Feast of the Assumption** of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*the Dormition, or falling asleep, in the East*) celebrates the tradition that Mary's body did not decay but was raised up, with her soul, into heaven. This tradition was present in the sixth century; by the beginning of the twentieth century, it was widespread. After consulting the views of bishops all over the world, the Pope formally and infallibly declared the doctrine of the Assumption to be part of the authentic and ancient doctrine of the universal Church.

Our founder, Fr d'Alzon chose the name of the Assumption from a school he had obtained. This was well before today's feast became a dogma of the Church. He writes: *Mary shares the glory of Christ because she embraced the Way of the Cross. The mystery that unifies the life of Mary is the Immaculate Conception; the mystery that fills her with glory is the Assumption. It was through her painful Compassion that these two mysteries were united within her. Why? Because the birth of Jesus Christ and the rest of His life are linked to our human salvation which took place through the cross. Mary, the purest of all creatures, chose to cooperate perfectly with Jesus Christ in the mystery of the Redemption through her Compassion. The greatness of her glory in heaven, that we celebrate today, is because of her freely chosen cooperation. Through Mary's Assumption, we are taught that we must purify ourselves more and more each day in order to be less unworthy of suffering.*

St Augustine of Hippo: *'Mary is holy, Mary is blessed, but the Church is something better than the Virgin Mary. Why? Because Mary is part of the Church, a holy member, a quite exceptional member, the supremely wonderful member, but still a member of the whole body. So, the Church imitates the Lord's mother, not in the bodily sense, which it could not do but in the sense that the Church is also both virgin and mother.'* Sermons 72a.8 and 191.3

"It is believed that Mary conceived Jesus in her heart before conceiving him in her womb. Let us ask ourselves if we fully accept Christ's life in us, in our hearts? When we do this, Christ's life in us will grow, and, like Mary, we will be able to discern the Holy Spirit speaking in our hearts especially through Sacred Scripture and the liturgy. We then nourish the life of Christ within us whenever we receive Holy Communion in faith. Through the Holy Eucharist, we receive untold graces that help us to conform our life more and more to the life of Christ as did Mary. Then, we will better hear what Jesus says to us and, like Mary, more easily accept and welcome his message.

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us.

### **Two birds are in a tree in the middle of the night**

Bird 1: "I'm hungry, I'm going to try to find a mouse to eat."

Bird 2: "You sure? It'll be too dark to find a mouse."

Bird 1: "There's no harm in trying."

Bird 2: "Oh. All right!"

\*So, bird 1 flies off into the darkness. Some time passes and the sun begins to rise. Bird 2 sees his pal flying back with a juicy beak full of blood.\*

Bird 2: "Wow! Where did you find a feast like that?"

Bird 1: Well, you see that tree over there?"

Bird 2: "Yeah"

Bird 1: "Well, I didn't!!"