

Reflection for The Assumption of Our Lady, 16th August 2020

When a small child hurts himself or herself would immediately run to Mum, who would kiss the area and all is well again. A child knows that the Mother has made sacrifices for them.

Similarly, we look at Mary as our heavenly mother-she is the mother of us all. Recall her apparitions at Lourdes, Fatima, Medjugorje, or Guadalupe to see her loving care for us and to bring us closer to her son. Jesus' dying words upon the cross; he said to Mary, 'woman behold thy son', and to John, he said, 'Son, behold thy mother' (Jn 19: 26-27). This little episode has been regarded as symbolic; as Jesus was dying upon the cross, he gave us his mother to be our mother too.

One example we could consider is how St Therese of Lisieux looked on Mary as her mother. Before she reached 10 yrs. of age she lost her mother. Then she was gravely ill fighting for her life and was miraculously cured through the intercession of Mary. Therese looked upon herself as nestling in the loving arms of Mary. We celebrate Mary's Assumption into heaven because we are celebrating a great privilege given to our heavenly mother.

We have a tendency to play God, not allowing God to have control over our lives. We fail to surrender our lives to God but stand before God as though we were little gods. We hold out our hands full of ourselves thus preventing God from helping us. Since God can only give of himself to us if our hands are empty. We are called to give ourselves more to God. We are complex people and we give God only a fraction of our lives, the part that suits us. Should we wish to meet God in heaven we have to surrender ourselves fully to God, to allow God to be God in our lives, and accept that we are only human.

Mary's greatness lies in the fact that she humbled herself before God and surrendered herself to God. Her words to angel Gabriel at the annunciation, 'Let it be done unto me according to thy word' (Lk 1:38). Mary gave herself more and more to God as time went by it wasn't a spiritual honeymoon. We see evidence of it in the Gospels: at the presentation at the temple, Simeon said to her, that her soul would be pierced with sorrow; when Jesus was missing for three days and found him in the temple and when she inquired as to why he has done such thing, he said I must be about my Father's business, 'She treasured all these things in her heart'.

God filled her with his presence just as God fills us when we surrender ourselves to God. Mary was full of grace and sinless, that it led naturally to her Assumption. For us to surrender ourselves to God and be filled with God's presence like Mary is to say the Rosary daily. In saying the rosary brings us closer to God and in saying the mysteries we clam ourselves down and we are able to tune into God and our blessed Mother. The more we say the rosary we unite ourselves with Mary and echo her sentiments.

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid'

Fr. Christopher

“Jesus is the Father’s hand who never abandons us, the strong and faithful hand of the Father, who always and only wants what is good for us. God is not in the loud sound, God is not the hurricane, He is not in the fire, He is not in the earthquake – ... God is the light breeze – literally it says this: He is in the “thread of melodious silence” – that never imposes itself, but asks to be heard (see 1 Kgs 19:11-13). Having faith means keeping your heart turned to God, to His love, to His Fatherly tenderness, amid the storm.”

Pope Francis