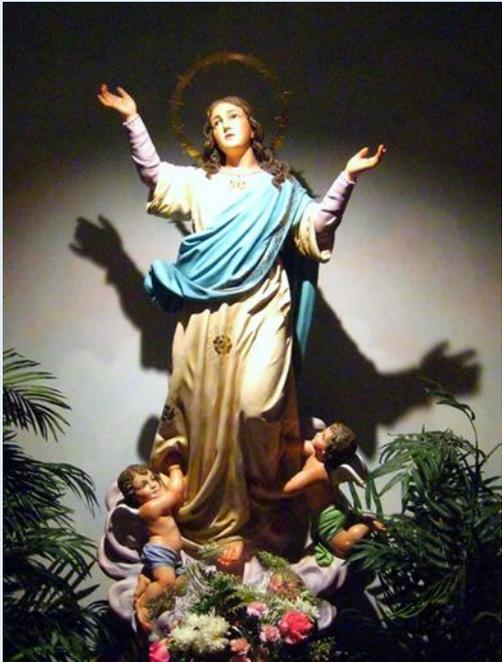


# THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION



Presentation by  
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August 12, 2020



# OUTLINE OF TODAY'S PROGRAM

- **Welcome and Summary**                      **Mary Ann**
- **Opening Prayer - Novena for the Assumption**      **Sr Marie**
- **Sr. Marie shares about her special relationship with the feast of the Assumption**
- **Mary Ann shares some history and facts about the Assumption**
- **Celebration of Sr Marie's 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and her Birthday (Sept 26<sup>th</sup>)**

# Novena Prayer for the Feast of the Assumption

Mary, Queen Assumed into Heaven,  
we rejoice that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth.  
You have given your holy fiat to God and became the Mother of our Savior.  
Obtain peace and salvation for us through your prayers,  
for you have given birth to Christ our Lord, the Savior of all mankind.  
Intercede for us and bring our petitions before the Throne of God.  
*That God may strengthen all healthcare workers with his grace,  
pour out his healing love on those suffering with coronavirus, and  
grant eternal rest to those who have died from coronavirus.*  
Through your prayers, may our souls be filled  
with an intense desire to be like you, a humble vessel of the Holy Spirit  
and a servant of the Almighty God.  
Pray for us O Queen Assumed into Heaven,  
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.



# Where did Mary live after the Resurrection?

## EPHESUS

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a house near Ephesus in Turkey was found, based on the visions of Anne Catherine Emmeich, an Augustinian nun in Germany. It has since been visited as the House of the Virgin Mary by Roman Catholic pilgrims who consider it the place where Mary lived with the apostle John as Jesus requested until her assumption.

# THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

- Have you thought about Mary's Assumption into heaven?
- What *do you know* about the Assumption of Mary into Heaven?
- Do you have questions about this feast that puzzle you?

**Did Mary ascend into heaven?**

**No.**

**She was assumed into heaven.**

***What's the difference?***

# **12 things to know / share about The Assumption of Mary into Heaven**



# 1) What exactly is the Assumption of Mary?

The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory [Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus* 44].

## 2) What level of authority does this teaching hold?

- This teaching was *infallibly* defined by *Pope Pius XII* on *November 1, 1950* in the bull *Munificentissimus Deus* (Latin, “**Most Bountiful God**”).
- As Pius XII explained, this is “a divinely revealed dogma” (ibid.).
- This means that it is a dogma in the proper sense. It is thus a matter of faith that has been divinely revealed by God and that has been infallibly proposed by the Magisterium of the Church as such.

### 3) Does that mean it is an “ex cathedra” statement and we have to believe it?

- It is a **dogma defined by the pope**. It is an “*ex cathedra*” statement (one delivered “from the chair” of Peter). The term refers specifically to the exercise of the pope’s authority as the successor of St. Peter. (St. Peter’s *cathedra* or “chair” symbolizes the pope’s authority.)
- **Pope John Paul II explained:**  
The definition of the dogma, in conformity with the universal faith of the People of God, *definitively excludes every doubt* and calls for the express assent of all Christians [General Audience, July 2, 1997].
  - **Note:** *all infallibly defined teachings are things we are obliged to believe, even if they are not defined ex cathedra”.*
- The bishops of the world, teaching in union with the pope (either in an ecumenical council or otherwise), can also infallibly define matters, but these are not considered “ex cathedra.”

## 4) Does the Dogma require us to believe that Mary died?

It is the common teaching that Mary did die. In his work, *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*, theologian Ludwig Ott lists this teaching as *sententia communior* (the more common opinion).

Although it is the common understanding that Mary did die, and her death is referred to in some of the sources Pius XII cited in *Munificentissimus Deus*, he deliberately refrained from defining this as a truth of the faith.

## 4 cont.) Does the Dogma require us to believe that Mary died?

Pius XII avoided using the term 'resurrection'

The Bull *Munificentissimus Deus* **limits itself** to affirming the elevation of Mary's body to heavenly glory, declaring this truth a "divinely revealed dogma."

## 5) Why should Mary die if she was free from Original Sin and its stain?

- Being free of Original Sin and its stain is not the same thing as being in a glorified, deathless condition. Jesus was also free of Original Sin and its stain, but he could – and did – die.
- Ludwig Ott writes:  
“For Mary, death, in consequence of her freedom from original sin and from personal sin, *was not a consequence of punishment of sin.*”
- It's fitting that Mary's body, which was by nature mortal, should be, in conformity with that of her Divine Son, subject to the general law of death.

## 6) What are the earliest surviving references to Mary's Assumption?

John Paul II noted:

- apocryphal accounts entitled *Transitus Mariae* [The Crossing Over of Mary], whose origin dates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries.
- These are popular and sometimes romanticized depictions which in this case, however, pick up an intuition of faith on the part of God's people.

## 7) How did the recognition of Mary's Assumption develop in the East?

John Paul II noted:

- There was a long period of growing reflection on Mary's destiny in the next world.
- The Doctors of the Church spoke often about the fittingness of the privilege of Mary's Assumption. The grounds considered:
  - Mary's freedom from sin
  - Her Motherhood of God
  - Her perpetual virginity
  - Her union with the salvific work of Christ

## 8) How did Pius XII prepare for the definition of the Assumption?

John Paul II noted:

In May 1946, with the Encyclical *Deiparae Virginis Mariae*, Pius XII called for a broad consultation, inquiring among the Bishops and through them, among the clergy and the People of God as to the possibility and opportuneness of defining the bodily assumption of Mary as a dogma of faith.

The result was extremely positive: **only 6 answers out of 1,181 showed any reservations about the revealed character of this truth.**

# 9) What Scriptural basis is there for the teaching?

## John Paul II noted:

- The New Testament does not explicitly affirm Mary's Assumption.
- It offers a basis for it due to the Blessed Virgin's perfect union with Jesus' destiny.
- This union is manifested -
  - from the Savior's miraculous conception,
  - in the Mother's participation in her Son's mission,
  - in her association with His redemptive sacrifice,

**There are, thus, passages in Scripture that resonate with the Assumption, even if it's not spelled out.**

# 10) What are some specific Old Testament passages?

Pope Pius XII pointed to several passages that have been legitimately used in a 'rather free' manner to explain belief in the Assumption (meaning: these passages resonate with it in various ways, but they do not provide explicit proof).

- Examples: Ps. 131:8, Ps.44:10-14 ff, Song 3:6, 4:8, 6:9.

These are proposed as depicting that heavenly Queen and heavenly Spouse who has been lifted up to the courts of heaven with the divine Bridegroom [Munificentissimus Deus] 26.

# 11) What are some specific New Testament passages about the Assumption?

Pius XII continues:

- Religious Scholars recognize the Assumption of the Mother of God as signified also in *that woman clothed with the Sun whom John the Apostle contemplated on the island of Patmos* ( Rev. 12:1).
- Similarly they have given special attention to: *“Hail, full of Grace, the Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women”* (Luke 1:28)

# 12) How can we apply this teaching to our everyday lives?

According to Pope Benedict XVI:

- By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that **the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either...**
- Consequently, **we must not lose our serenity and peace** even amid the thousands of daily difficulties...
- **From on high, Mary follows our footsteps** with gentle concern, dispels the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, and reassures us with her motherly hand.... [General audience, August 16, 2006].

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

and other tidbits

before we move on to the next part of our presentation

- **How is Assumption Day celebrated in France?**

- **How is Assumption Day celebrated in Spain?**



**What other countries celebrate Assumption Day?**

Assumption Day is a public holiday in countries such as Austria, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, France, parts of Germany, Guatemala, Greece, Italy, Poland Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland

# Some recipes prepared on Assumption Day

- Crevettes a la Bechamel (Shrimp with Bechamel Sauce) a creamy white sauce
- Assumpta Salad
- Baked Cod, Portuguese style
- Cardemon Dressing
- Fruit and Herb Punch, Strawberry Punch
- Fruit Salad
- Heart Cake
- Herb Omelet
- Midsummer Fruit Salad Bowl
- Mint Jelly with Fruit
- Scaloppine al Marsala
- Shrimp Croquettes