

The Assumption of Mary 2009

Luke 1:39-56

We are once again invited to turn our gaze toward Mary.
It is only normal, for Jesus says to us, “Behold you mother”.
We do so in response to Jesus.
To “behold” is to “gaze upon with love”.

We once again read the story of the Annunciation.
Why no story of the Assumption?
Indeed, why so few stories about Mary in the Bible?
I would venture to say that the few number of Scripture passages that speak of Mary
does not suggest that she lack importance but a “secretness”.
Mary is God’s secret.

And, as with Jesus, we can only begin to grasp Mary if we live in communion with her.
That is why Jesus said, “Behold your mother”—*with no detailed explanation*.
The Church came to believe in the Assumption over time,
in communion with Mary, as it took time to grasp who she is.

What is the Assumption of Mary?
Mary is the hidden woman, the divine mother, perfectly seized by divine love,
and thus without sin, i.e. without any obstacles to love.
If so, it is fitting that her love affair with Jesus lead directly into His definitive embrace.
The perfection of divine love in her heart, her perfect oneness with J,
led to her being *assumed* body and soul into the glory of heaven.
There were no hoops through which to jump, no separation of body and soul even.
Hers is a singular participation in Christ’s resurrection and ascension
As we read in 2nd reading (I Corinthians 15:20-27): “in Christ shall all be brought to life”.
Mary is particularly “brought to life”.
Divine love has taken hold of Mary with particular completeness, i.e. including her body.

Hence, our 1st reading, the Book of Revelation (12:1):
“A woman clothed with the sun...with a crown of twelve stars.”
She now reigns...in love.
Mary herself speaks of her blessing: “All generations will call me blessed.”
She uttered her words in faith
—not knowing, of course, that she would be blessed in this way
She just knew she was blessed.

We need to glimpse the realism of this, the closeness of Mary in this.
We tend to ponder, and, at best, admire from afar.
It is not meant, *she* is not meant to be admired from afar.
We are her children, and her brothers and sisters.
A mother gives everything to her child.
Mary shares what is given her with each of us.
Mary shares the divine life with us.
Such is her motherly presence and role in our lives.
Because of the Assumption heaven is more present in our midst.

Let us celebrate her this day.
Let us celebrate, by her presence, heaven unfolding in our midst.