

Homily for the Assumption of Our Lady 2024: Rev 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45; 1
Corth 15: 20-27; Lk: 1: 39-56

“Mary as the Great Sign of Hope in Spiritual Darkness”

1. **Today we celebrate Mary sharing in the victory of her Son Jesus over Satan, sin and death, which each one of us is called to share in someday.** After tasting death, for a brief time (a few minutes, hours?) our Blessed Lord raised her body and soul (her Assumption) to the glory of Heaven. She is now a spiritual shining star pointing us to that same destiny: eternal life in Heaven with the Trinity. **It has been said that her Assumption is our Assumption since she is the model for the human race both in following the Lord Jesus in total self-giving love, and now in sharing in His victory** per St. Maximilian Kolbe (whose feast is August 14th; he gave his life up for a Nazi prisoner at Auschwitz), St. John Vianney, etc. All human beings are all called to share in this same victory one day - if we are faithful to the Lord as Mary was in her life. **We now need to trust in her maternal intercession to help us arrive at victory. This is now her God-given role in salvation history.** We are living in a tough time with so much corruption and even moral depravity in our culture: so many broken families and hearts, so much sexual immorality, so much death – be it thru abortion, euthanasia, mass shootings, war, terrorism, and just overall coarseness and contempt for God and the dignity of human life from conception until natural death. It’s so easy to get discouraged and give up. **The life of Mary shows there is way out of this pit of darkness: by focusing on our union with the Blessed Trinity thru living our Catholic faith with integrity.** The last two decades of the Glorious mysteries: the Assumption and the Coronation of Mary both show us in a beautiful way her role now as Spiritual mother of all the faithful in particular, but even of the whole human race, many of whom do not know who she is. I encourage you to read the works of St. Louis Marie de Montefort to get deeper insights into this profound reality, esp. his *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin & The Secret of the Rosary.*
2. **Mary is the truly the protector of our new life in God.** She wants to lead us spiritually by the hand into ever deeper union with Jesus, in every aspect of our

life. She wants to help us do this well, amid the serious challenge of living our Catholic Faith in the modern world surrounded by the prevailing spirit of disobedience and self-will which even crops into the life of the Church on a fallen human level – see **the heresy of modernism**. Mary also wants to help us, in contrast to the spirit of disobedience, to be ever more docile and obedient to her spiritual spouse: the Holy Spirit, who wants to form us, like He formed her, into the shining image of Christ: the perfect image of the Father. Thus, by growing in devotion to her, Mary will help us to enter into closer communion daily with the Blessed Trinity. She is also the one who protects us from the wiles of the evil one (Satan) and his minions (the other fallen angels) who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls (c.f. St. Michael prayer/chaplet, and 1 Peter 5:8-9).

- 3. Finally, the Blessed Virgin Mary teaches us by her example and prayers not only how to love God better, but also how to love our neighbor better.** How beautiful it is to see in the Gospel today her loving devotion to her elderly cousin St. Elizabeth in her pregnancy with St. John the Baptist. We could imagine that Mary would have been justified on some level to just be concerned about herself at that moment: since she just received, at the age of 14 or 15, the amazing announcement from the Archangel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah. *However, that would fly in the face of her most noble quality besides her total devotion to God, which was: her tender love for the people around her while forgetting herself – beautiful sensitivity.* This **neighborly charity** in imitation of our Blessed Mother Mary especially applies to praying and trying to help the people who don't like us or we don't like for any reason, real or imagined, but still willing the good for all, in the Lord as our Lady always did, especially when her Divine Son Jesus was being unjustly persecuted and later put to death by His detractors and enemies both in the spiritual and human world. By cooperating at each moment of her life with God's grace, Mary was full of His total self-giving love. Let us ask her to help us to grow in that virtue daily, so that we may truly learn in her maternal heart to love God with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourself. God bless you. †