



## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

What exactly do we mean by the “Assumption”? On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII made a solemn declaration: “The Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever-virgin, after her life on earth, was assumed, body and soul, into heavenly glory.”

What does this say to us today? First of all, it calls us to look at our own mortality. Secondly, it serves as a reminder to us of what our own faith is all about; a faith in the resurrection of Jesus, one who was like us in all things but sin. Thirdly, it reminds us that we too will rise to new life and be with God. Christ has risen from the dead. We need no further assurance of our faith. In the document written by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled *Behold Your Mother*, we find the following statement: “Mary assumed into heaven serves as a gracious reminder to the Church that our Lord wishes all whom the Father has given Him to be raised with Him. In Mary taken to glory, to union with Christ, the Church sees herself answering the invitation of the heavenly bridegroom.”

The Assumption gives Mary the honor and privilege of not succumbing to bodily corruption because of her role in history, but also because of the way she lived her own life. We too are called to respond to the Lord in the same way. We can respond by saying “Yes” to what God asks of us as Mary said “Yes” to what God asked of her: to be the mother of His Son. We can respond as Mary responded by trusting in God as Mary trusted in God. We can try to respond in love and be willing to do the will of God as Mary responded in love and did the will of God.

We ask ourselves, “What is the will of God for me?” Each of us must search that out for ourselves, as far as particular ways of serving the Lord are concerned. We need to see what gifts and talents we have been blessed with and assess how we can best use them. In general, however, we are all called to love, service, dedication and faithfulness. Let us look at Mary, the Mother of God, as one who embodied all of those characteristics in a most extraordinary way, and try to implement them in our own lives.

*Father David*



**Tuesday, August 15th: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
*A Holy Day of Obligation*

**Masses will be celebrated at the following times:**

8:00 A.M.

12:15 P.M.

7:00 P.M.