

August 15, 2021

Assumption of the BVM

Rev 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16

1 Cor 15:20-27

Lk 1:39-56

MOTHER MARY, OUR MODEL!

A Catholic woman decided to join a Christian Women Club, from different denominations, who love to read the scriptures weekly. The group planned to study the women in the bible like:

- **Eve** (*Eve is an example of a person who went against God's clear command. She insisted on her will rather than God's will.*);
- **Delilah** (*Delilah is an example of a person who allowed greed to hold her. Thus, she deceived and betrayed Samson.*);
- **Esther** (*Esther is an outstanding example of courage, humility, and modesty. In spite of her beauty and position as Queen, she humbly sought counsel and help from others.*);
- **Hannah** (*Hannah is an example of a person who treasured prayer well. Her prayer life helped her endure trials in life and remained grateful*);
- **Ruth** (*Ruth is an example of hard work, devotion and faithfulness even in the midst of misfortune.*);
- **Mary Magdalene** (*Mary Magdalene is an example of a person who supported generously the ministry of Jesus and remained a zealous disciple*);
- **Martha** (*Martha is an example of a hospitable person. She made sure that Jesus was well-attended when he came for a visit to her home.*) ... to name a few.

The Catholic woman was very happy learning about these women in the bible. However, she noticed that in their study plan, the name of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was not in the list. She asked, **"How come the name of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is not in the list? Are we not going to study her life too?"** Her questions were left unattended.

As Catholic Christians, we don't ignore Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the story and history of our salvation. The celebration of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** we are having now attests to our love for her. Others have a hard time understanding our love for Mary because they thought that

we are raising Mary into the level of Jesus. In no way, we are not putting Mary in the level of Jesus. Yes, we honor Mary because she is the Mother of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, but we never worship her. Adoration and worship belong to her son, Jesus and not to her. We **honor the finite** while we **worship the infinite**.

We honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as she assumed, body and soul, into heaven. Her assumption into heaven was through the grace and power of God. Where she is now gives us hope that one day, we will be there too. Like her, we hope we will share in that glory someday. We hope that her destiny will be our destiny too!

Before our Blessed Mother Mary assumed into heaven, let us look at how she lived her life here on earth. Let us look at her in the context of the four (4) pillars of stewardship.

- **First**, regarding **hospitality**, our Mother Mary was very graceful and attentive in listening to the news of the angel Gabriel during the annunciation. She was courteous and open to God's possibilities. The news she received did not go in vain. Thus, after the dialogue with the angel, she said with all humility: "**Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.**" (Lk 1:38)
- **Second**, with regard to **prayer**, our Mother Mary was a woman of prayer. Her posture of 'keeping everything in her heart' during the annunciation was a posture of prayer. Her prayer life was manifested in her attentiveness to what God wants. Her song to God in the gospel proclaimed today demonstrated her deep relationship with him. She said, "**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**" (Lk 1:46-48)
- **Third**, with regard to **formation**, our Mother Mary showed her willingness to be formed and transformed by God. In the annunciation, the mere fact that she submitted herself to 'God's will' displayed/exhibited her openness to be a 'clay in the potter's hand.' In the lost and finding of Jesus in the temple, she was continuously being formed by her son when she was reminded, "**Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?**" (Lk 2:49) The gospel says that '**his mother kept all these things in her heart.**' (Lk 2:51) At the wedding in Cana, her formation and transformation continued. She encouraged others to do the same when she said, "**Do whatever he tells you.**" (Jn 2:5)

- **Fourth**, regarding **service**, our Mother Mary was generous in sharing her time serving others. The gospel proclaimed tells us that she went to her cousin, Elizabeth, in haste. She went there to help Elizabeth who was pregnant in her old age. The gospel says that she remained with her for about three (3) months. Her 'magnificat' was a song of a servant acknowledging the power of a loving and generous God.

Looking at our Mother Mary, there is no doubt that she lived the four (4) pillars of stewardship. Thus, she is our model of stewardship as a way of life.

As we celebrate her solemnity, let us ask ourselves these questions:

- **How gracious and attentive am I in listening to the Word of God?**
- **Do I keep in my heart God's message and allow it to grow within me?**
- **Am I willing to be formed and transformed like Mother Mary?**
- **Am I generous in sharing my time serving God and his Church?**

In this Mass, let us ask the intercession of our Mother Mary to help us become stewards of the Gospel. We ask her to assist us to live hospitality, prayer, formation, and service faithfully.

Our Lady of the Assumption, pray for us!