**Homily** **for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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        The issues of death and dying make many people afraid or uncomfortable. But, if we truly believe that the Resurrection of Jesus applies also to us, then we have nothing to fear, and much to look forward to. Thanks to Jesus, we anticipate a new life beginning when this life ends, taking us to a world where there is no more sadness, sickness, disappointment, or death. How strong is your hope in this promise of God?

        Belief in new and eternal life is what the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is all about. Today, we celebrate Mary’s complete entry into glory where she lives fully the risen life of Christ her Son. The Assumption is a feast of Mary’s full victory in Christ and the promise of our own. It is a truth about Mary’s life and also about our future life.

        “Mary,” the Second Vatican Council says, “shines forth on earth, as a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim people of God.”

        In this world, between our birth and death, we are pilgrims on the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. Our pilgrim way is beset with difficulties and pain, which come from the world that is not always friendly to us.
        Mary also confronted difficulties and pain on her own pilgrim way in this world. She had to walk often in darkness. Imagine her life. Mary was a woman who lived with sorrowful passion because of her Son. From the Annunciation to the Crucifixion, Mary had lived her whole life to follow God’s mystery. She fully participated in and offered herself to the Divine mystery.

        Sometimes, there was great joy, but other times, there was great pain and suffering. No matter what, she always followed God’s will even when she couldn’t understand His mystery. She never complained about her suffering and her situation. She just trusted in God’s plan and His goodness.

        In the Gospel reading today, we hear Mary, a young girl of about seventeen, singing of God’s love and justice in the ‘Magnificat.’ Then, about fifty years later, she is taken into heaven.

        According to sacred Tradition, Mary lived another 20 years after Jesus’ Ascension into heaven. When her earthly life ended, it is believed she simply went to sleep rather than die. Then, her body and soul were taken into the glory of God, and there, now she continues to pray for us on our pilgrim way. So, she is a sign of certain hope and comfort to us who are the pilgrim people of God.

        The Assumption is the conclusion of Mary’s life and holds a promise of our own future glory. It says to a great and deep hope we all share. We hope that we will live not just in the memory of others, but forever in glory with God.

        So, today’s feast reminds that the magnificent conclusion of our time here on earth is not just death, but new and eternal life, where Mary has gone before us we hope to follow.

        Not only does Mary assist us with her powerful intersession, but also her life and her Assumption show us what awaits all of us who are faithful to Christ. So, the Assumption of Mary is our story about future glory, and this is our destiny that God promises to us.

        As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption today, with Mary, we need to renew our faith to live faithfully to be accomplished God’s plan for us, then, one day we may praise and glorify the Lord, and say, as Mary said, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Because the Almighty has done great things for me.”