

CONTEMPLATING THE ASSUMPTION

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Year A/B/C

Homily by Dcn. Tom McConnell

Rev 11:19,12:1-6,10; Ps 45:10-12,16; 1Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

This past Tuesday morning around 2am, the Lord woke me up with a vision. I rushed to my computer and wrote down what I was contemplating. Then on Wednesday, Fr. Valentine asked me to preach tonight. Coincidence? I think not...more like Providence?!

So, let's try something a little different tonight. Let's venture deep into our own imaginations. Close your eyes and follow me as we go back in time and space...Let's contemplate the Assumption together...

Mary looked over at John, writing at his table, and smiled. He had always looked so young and the years had not aged him very much. She could understand why Jesus had such a special place in His heart for John, with his gentle ways and his easy love for people.

She gathered her cloak around her against the cold and closed her eyes as she thought about the many years of her life. So much of it was beyond understanding and yet she believed it and accepted it. She had been given a courage, faith, and humility that could only be a gift from God. How else could she have overcome her fears and said "Yes" when Gabriel asked her to be the mother of the Savior?

Her son, Jesus, had been a wonder in her life. She had not always understood all of what He did, but she knew He had a special role on earth. Their hearts had been bound together in faith and an unbreakable love. She had watched Him leave home, teach, heal, and challenge the authorities.

Her heart had been pierced with such sorrow when He was arrested...and tortured...and finally put to death. Her faith in the Father had carried her through those days...and the incredible joy-filled days that came after.

"Imma?" John, said using the most intimate form of "Mother". He laid a gentle hand on her shoulder. "You are so quiet these days." She smiled at him with affection. "Dearest John, my life has been long and I have so much to be grateful for. These years together have been so full."

It was true. In the weeks after He had risen, Jesus had spoken to them of a new order, a new way of life. She had resisted the urge to cling to Him and not let Him go again. She had to trust. "I will be with you always," He had said. In her heart, she knew it was true, and once again opened her life fully to God's will. She watched with joy as He was taken up into the clouds. In the years that had followed, His message and life had given hope and meaning to a growing number of

followers. She had spoken to so many of the disciples and followers in those times.

Jesus was in her life too...in a vivid and very real way. She felt His presence with her as she grew tired. She spoke to Him from her heart constantly, just as she did when He was on earth. She felt a strong connection that was as unexplainable, as it was real. She closed her eyes again in thought.

"*Imma,*" came the familiar loving voice. "*Blessed are you among women.*" She knew it was different. She was not in John's house anymore, but with Jesus, standing in a place that filled her with a different kind of joy. "*My son!*", she said softly as they embraced. She felt his cheek firmly against hers.

She did not know how or why. There were no questions and no answers for this. He had promised her she would be with Him and the Father. She touched her body in wonder and knew she had been drawn to a different place by power

not her own. It was her same body and yet different, more vibrant.

"You said 'Yes' to the Father's request, Imma," Jesus said to her. "Your life was prepared in a special way and you followed it with such faith. You made My work possible."

She knew that somehow she was experiencing the resurrection in a way others would have to wait to experience. As she had so many times before, she paused and opened her heart in prayer. *"The Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is His Name."* The Queen Mother now reigns in splendor with her son, King Jesus! The Blessed Virgin Mary had been assumed into the heavenly Jerusalem....

...May God bless you all!