



Seven decades have passed since Pope Pius XII defined the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This year, as we celebrate this solemn feast in her honor, we find solace and consolation in her assured maternal protection as we perilously live during this time of a protracted pandemic that worsens our daily cares, troubles, and anxieties. During this direst of circumstances, our Holy Mother Church invites us to ponder more profoundly the relevance of the Dogma of the Assumption to us Filipino Catholics who call ourselves “*Pueblo amante de Maria*” or people who are in love with Mary.

The Assumption recapitulates the Blessed Mother’s life lived entirely for God. It is the supreme culmination of all the privileges accorded to her as expressed in the fundamental beliefs: the decay of the tomb did not touch her; death had not triumphed over her just like her Son, our Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ; her body and soul were taken up into heaven where she was crowned as Queen. Indeed, the perfect harmony of graces in our Blessed Mother empowered her to carry out her unique role in salvation history. As the angel Gabriel acclaimed, she was full



# STEADFAST Love

by Allan Basas

of grace, and this fullness shone forth in her when she gave her undivided fiat to God. Lest we forget, her positive response was not in anticipation of the glorious coronation that awaits her but an

expression of her absolute faith in God and the humble acceptance of all the joys and pains that such obedience entails. It should be striking for us that it is not the rewards or privileges brought about by her exalted position that matter for our Blessed Mother. For her, it was enough that she lovingly watched over her Son when He was just an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and as He hung upon the cross dying for the salvation of the world. In other words, we can reflect more deeply on the meaning of the Dogma of the Assumption by remembering the images of the Blessed Mother never leaving the side of Christ. Therefore, our Blessed Mother teaches us a valuable lesson in overcoming pain and suffering, especially during this pandemic: remain steadfast on the side of Jesus Christ.

As we reflect on her Assumption and Queenship as proclaimed in our readings today, we must not look past the fact that our Blessed Mother’s triumph is that of her Son’s victory over sin and death. Today, our celebration must leave us with the message that when sufferings come our way, and they will, we must imitate the example of our Blessed Mother’s steadfast faith and undiminished hope and love.

## PASTORAL CATECHESIS FOR THE YEAR OF *MISSIO AD GENTES*

### *Engaging in Interfaith Dialogue*

Fr. James H. Kroeger, MM

All evangelizing activities are inserted into specific contexts; particularly in Asia, these activities naturally assume an interreligious dimension. Thus, the Church in Asia, similar to most places in the world of today, accomplishes her mission in pluralistic and diverse cultures; she enters into **interreligious dialogue**, cooperating with the followers of the great religious traditions. Interreligious dialogue takes many forms; there are the dialogues of daily life, deeds of service, religious experts, and faith experience, as well as other forms. Pope John Paul II (RM 55) asserts: “Interreligious dialogue is a part of the Church’s evangelizing mission.”

In contemporary circumstances, dialogue with religions and cultures is the truly appropriate Christian faith-response. We listen to insightful words of Pope Paul VI (EN 53): “The Church respects and esteems these non-Christian religions because they are the living expression of the soul of vast groups of people. They carry within them the echo of thousands of years of searching for God, a quest which is incomplete but often made with great sincerity and righteousness of heart.”

Paul VI continues, asserting that these living faiths “possess an impressive patrimony of deeply religious texts. They have taught generations of people how to pray. They are all impregnated with innumerable ‘seeds of the Word’ and can constitute a true ‘preparation for the Gospel.’” “This is why the Church keeps her missionary spirit alive.”

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Rev 12: 1)

*(Recited when there is no opening song.)*

**A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here.)*

**P**—Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All**—And with your spirit.

### Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)*

**P**—Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII formally proclaimed in his Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* the dogma of Mary's assumption into heaven both body and soul. God willed that Mary should be exempted from the corruption of the body because of her unique privilege as immaculately conceived. And so, Mary, closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, now shares in his glorification.

As Christians, we also believe that one day, like Mary, we will also be assumed into heaven both body and soul. Do we seek the help of Mary who has preceded us into eternal glory?

### Penitential Act

**P**—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

**P**—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**All**—Lord, have mercy.

**P**—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All**—Christ, have mercy.

**P**—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**All**—Lord, have mercy.

**P**—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All**—Amen.

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

**P** — Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All** — Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### First Reading

(Rev 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab) *(Sit)*

*The book of Revelation proclaims a great vision of a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet and in her head where there is a crown of twelve stars. This image also speaks of Mary's glorification in heaven.*

### A reading from the book of Revelation

GOD'S temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One."

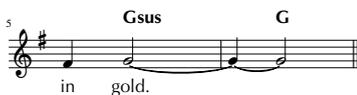
—The word of the Lord.

**All**—Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 45)

**R**—The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

C. A. Parco, FSP



1. Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father's house. **(R)**

2. So shall the king desire your beauty; for he is your lord. **(R)**

3. They are borne in with gladness and joy; they enter the palace of the king. **(R)**

### Second Reading (1 Cor 15:20–27)

*The Apostle Paul reflects on the*

*similarities and differences of Adam and Jesus Christ. Adam represents death because of sin but Jesus Christ, as the last Adam, represents man's salvation through his bodily resurrection.*

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians**

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS:** Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."

—The word of the Lord.  
**All—Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** (*Stand*)

**All—Alleluia, alleuia. Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Lk 1:39–56)

**P—**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
**All—Glory to you, O Lord.**

MARY set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who

believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary 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. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

—The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily** (*Sit*)

**Profession of Faith** (*Stand*)

**All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (at the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again**

**in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**P—**Let us pray to the heavenly Father that, like Mary, who was assumed into heaven both body and soul, we too may one day be raised into his heavenly kingdom and share Jesus' glory. Full of trust and confidence, we pray:

**R—Lord, hear our prayer.**

**C—**Like Mary, may the Pope, bishops, priests, and deacons bring Christ with joy through their proclamation of Jesus' resurrection in the world full of hatred and divisions. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**Like Mary, may government and civil leaders hasten into the hill country of human need to give care and comfort to our brothers and sisters who are greatly in need. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**Like Mary, may all those who have done great things for the sick, the abused, and the suffering receive spiritual and material blessings. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**Like Mary, may our beloved dead be filled with heavenly things as they rejoice in God in his eternal kingdom. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

**P—**Father, receive our prayers and sanctify your Church as we celebrate today the assumption of your Son's mother into your heavenly kingdom. May her intercession bring us joy as we await our

glorious hope of resurrection.

Through Christ, our Lord.  
**All—Amen.**

**LITURGY OF  
THE EUCHARIST**



**Presentation of the Gifts**

*(Stand)*

**P—**Pray, brethren...

**All—**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

**P—**May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and through the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you.

Through Christ our Lord.  
**All—Amen.**

**Preface**

*The Glory of Mary assumed into heaven*

**P—**The Lord be with you.

**All—**And with your spirit.

**P—**Lift up your hearts.

**All—**We lift them up to the Lord.

**P—**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All—**It is right and just.

**P—**It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God through Christ our Lord.

For today the Virgin Mother of God was assumed into heaven as the beginning and image of your Church's coming to perfection and a sign of sure hope and comfort to your pilgrim people; rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvelously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:  
**All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)**

**Acclamation (Stand)**

**All—**We proclaim your Death,



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**O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

**THE COMMUNION RITE**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**All—Our Father...**

**P—**Deliver us, Lord...

**All—**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

**Invitation to Peace**

**Invitation to Communion**

*(Kneel)*

**P—**Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All—**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Lk 1:48-49)*

**All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.**

**Prayer after Communion**

*(Stand)*

**P—**Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought

to the glory of the resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All—Amen.**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**P—**The Lord be with you.

**All—**And with your spirit.

**Solemn Blessing**

**P—**Bow down for the blessing.  
*(Pause)*

May God, who through the childbearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary willed in his great kindness to redeem the human race, be pleased to enrich you with his blessing.

**All—Amen.**

**P—**May you know always and everywhere the protection of her, through whom you have been found worthy to receive the author of life.

**All—Amen.**

**P—**May you, who have devoutly gathered on this day, carry away with you the gifts of spiritual joys and heavenly rewards

**All—Amen.**

**P—**And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All—Amen.**

**Dismissal**

**P—**Go in peace.

**All—**Thanks be to God.