



## ***FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION*** ***August 15<sup>th</sup>***

### **A reflection on Mary from the writings of our LSA Archives**

Mary's Assumption gives us the certainty that a new world is being prepared; she sustains our hope and gives us the courage to dedicate ourselves with our brothers and sisters in work for the transformation of humanity. LSA Rule of Life, 12

### **HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN** Carey Landry

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death. Amen.

**Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright,  
gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.**

1. You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son.  
You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.
2. Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too.  
Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

"Mary's Magnificat helps us enter into the historic dimension of Salvation. It is the prayer of a woman whose joy knew no bounds, a collective prayer of a people, a revolutionary prayer, a song of adoration, of liberation. Contemplation of God's glory, of fidelity to his Promise, of his gratuitous Love and of his everlasting Justice. A song of God's attentiveness to the needs of the poor. A Covenant song. Prayer of the poor. This woman lovingly fashioned by God's confidence and bearing the hopes of all her people, was ready at the moment of the Call, chosen for a mission.

Marie- Madeleine Termont, 5<sup>th</sup> Superior General, Assumption 1980

### **A Modern Magnificat** by Joy Cowley

My soul sings in gratitude. I'm dancing in the mystery of God. The light of the Holy One is within me and I am blessed, so truly blessed. This goes deeper than human thinking. I am filled with awe at Love whose only condition is to be received.

The gift is not for the proud, for they have no room for it. The strong and self-sufficient ones don't have this awareness. But those who know their emptiness can rejoice in Love's fullness. It's the Love that we are made for, the reason for our being. It fills our inmost heart space and brings to birth in us, the Holy One.

## **SHARING OUR IMAGES OF MARY ~ WHO IS MARY FOR YOU?**

*To start us off, this is what Fr. Pernet had to say about Mary's Assumption:*

"The Blessed Virgin, our mother, is in heaven; she is there in **glory**, in **joy** and **happiness**. **She is in glory**. Who is she who rises "as beautiful as the moon", "as chosen, as high as the sun"? "**Beautiful as the moon**", that is to say, it reflects God as much as a creature can; for is it not perfectly pure in all its being, as well as being set on fire with the purest love for God? Is it not his glory?"

**"Raised like the sun"**, that is to say, she is like her motherhood ... it borders on divinity; she is not God as in a place, but she comes close to it by the beauty and holiness which are in her a mysterious radiance of the perfections of God himself. **She is happy** with a happiness so great, so complete, that no heart created after that of our Lord enjoys so much happiness: "He who is mighty has done great things in me," and these great things are to have preserved it, to have sanctified it and prepared it for this enjoyment of happiness in God.»  
...p 356 Meditations 1931

*Everyone is invited to share an image of Mary that has meaning for you and / or to share who Mary is for you and her significance in your life. Feel free to share a photo, a title – for she has many ...*

### ***Time for Spontaneous Sharing***

#### **End of Sharing sing:**

**Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright,  
Gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

We are a mission on this earth. Today, aware of being bearers of life and joy at all ages, like Mary and Elizabeth, we are called to an encounter that generates promise....  
General Chapter 2017

1. "Today, in celebrating the Assumption let us think of the triple love which Fr. Pernet taught us: Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Virgin and of the Church (the people of God). In the moment of history which is ours we need these three loves to strengthen and encourage us, to sustain us in Hope. The world in which we live is full of suffering, violence and threats... in an active, committed manner we wish to be God's accomplices in the birth of a new world where Justice and Peace will reign.

**ALL: Let us again ask Mary for the grace to be faithful to our Mission, to keep us always close to the poor and the workers, that she may win for us the grace to listen to the cries of God, the cries of our contemporaries, of doing "all that He tells us".**  
Sr. Theresa Dick, 6<sup>th</sup> Superior General, Assumption 1985

2. "May the Assumption, the feast of joy that we are celebrating wherever we are in our different countries, be a bond between us. May it be a communion and prayer with all women and men who are hoping for a world of justice, peace and tenderness, a world according to the plan of the Father (Eph. 1:9). Mary believed, Mary hoped, Mary entered into the plenitude of Love, the hope for a world in search of happiness. She is the realization of all our hopes and assures us that nothing is insignificant in our own journeying, and that death has not the final word."

**ALL: "Mary teach us to live your Magnificat daily. Teach us to recognize the presence of the Lord in our lives, around us in the world."**  
Celine Heon, 7<sup>th</sup> Superior General, Assumption 1988, 1984

3. "Woman of her people, she was formed by their life, moulded by their collective experience, fashioned by their longings. With her people, she watched in faith for the coming of the Messiah. In simplicity and poverty she welcomed the words of the angel. God set before her the impossible, the unthinkable, the totally new. He awaited her free response. She said yes without fully understanding how it could be realized She placed her confidence in God's promise, but that promise, was not simply foretelling the future: it required a commitment."

**ALL: "By her yes Mary yielded herself to the Holy Spirit, who overshadowed her with the power of God's creative love. She became a collaborator in God's coming. She was the door through which God entered human history. She became Mother of her Savior. She set out on an unknown route. Mary's faith was perfect trust." Mary, help us to trust.**  
Theresa Dick, Assumption 1984

4. "Our yes, freely given, commits us to the uncertainty of daily life. It is in the ordinary daily realities that our faith takes flesh, confident that nothing is lost in the economy of Salvation. Through faith, we enter into complicity with God's plan for the transformation of the world. Today when we look at the world we are conscious of its woundedness and its ambiguities."

**ALL: "May Mary help us to look on it with faith and hope and love which commit us in a lucid and courageous solidarity with all those who work for the revelation of this new world."**

Theresa Dick, Assumption 1984

5. We unite with our Assumption Family throughout the world on this special day. May all of us in this Family in Mission follow in the footsteps of our founders, Stephen Pernet and Antoinette Fage, and always be ready and willing to run to those in need with a truly loving heart, especially during this time that requires global solidarity with all who have lost loved ones and are suffering from Covid-19.

**ALL: May we have Boundless Hope in the midst of the impossible. May we give Unselfish Service in a world of radical individualism. May we offer Radical Hospitality as a stance of being open, present and welcoming to realities and people. May we be Responsive to suffering with radical love.**

### **Renewal of the Pact with Our Lady of the Assumption**

We come to you, Mary, with deep gratitude and complete trust. We thank you for all the graces received this year and once more we confide our Apostolic Life to you.

Teach us to serve Christ and to participate in His Mission of Salvation. We promise you fidelity to the Church, the People of God, and to the demands of our vocation. Lead the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Assumption and its Family in Mission according to the Plan of God. Amen.



**Closing Song: WE WILL RISE**

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**WE WILL RISE, WE WILL RISE      HAND IN HAND, SIDE BY SIDE.  
WE WILL RISE, WE WILL RISE      HAND IN HAND, SIDE BY SIDE**

1. Live in love, love, eternal love                      Sisters and Brothers live in love  
Be People of Hope, eternal Hope      Sisters and Brothers live in hope.
2. Seek the truth, eternal truth                      Sisters and Brothers seek the truth  
Live in peace, eternal peace.                      Sisters and Brothers live in peace.

## ORIGIN OF THE PACT

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 1903 the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Assumption was 25 years old. The General Superior, Mother Mary of the Blessed Sacrament, was called to court to account for the sisters' works and services among the poor of Paris. The Little Sisters were in defiance with the law which had forbidden such services.

When she was questioned by the prosecutor about the works of the Congregation, she said: "I have never believed that in France there was a law forbidding the liberty of charity. Therefore, I paid no attention to that law." There was silence in the courtroom following her statement.

Whereas numerous religious congregations had been persecuted or exiled from France for non-conformance to the law, Mother Mary of the Blessed Sacrament was fined one hundred francs and fifty francs for her companions.

The working poor who accompanied her to the courthouse carried her home on their shoulders to a celebration of friends, sisters and working poor families.

In remembrance of this event, Little Sisters of the Assumption all over the world gather on the Feast of Our Lady of the Assumption, August 15<sup>th</sup>, to give thanks for the gift of our mission and to ask Mary's guidance for our mission today.



This spirituality of Encounter and Visitation nourishes our relations and marks the quality of these experiences through prayer, silence, interiority, listening, celebration, compassion, forgiveness, respect, beauty, openness, simplicity and reciprocity. The path of Incarnation of Jesus Christ, Servant and Savior, dwells in us and guides our choices, our "being with" others.

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