

LSA INTERNATIONAL LAITY COMMISSION FOR THE SHARING OF THE CHARISM



Invites you to Join Us at our online

Assumption Celebration

This is a time of **renewing the Pact** with our **Lady of the Assumption** which began in 1903 and **joining together** to celebrate, **to recommit** and strengthen our **connection with all** who share **Life and Mission** with the **Little Sisters of the Assumption**.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH

Prayer Service at 9am EDT—See timetable below

8am Colombia, Peru // 9am EDT USA, Montreal, Canada //
10am Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay // 1pm Burkina Faso //
2pm Ireland, Portugal, Tunisia and DR Congo //
3pm Paris, Italy, Belgium, Spain // 4pm Madagascar //
8pm Vietnam // 3am August 15 New Zealand

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89212212488?pwd=ZUdSWVBhdnVLMVUzb3d3bnhtenU4QT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 892 1221 2488 and Password: MARY. Translation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

For more information or to RSVP contact Maryalice Spencer at 845.544.3482 or coordinator@lsafim.org

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
The Seasons of Mary’s Life

WELCOME! Thank you for being here.

United with our Family throughout the world, today we take a moment to reflect upon the Seasons of Mary’s life in keeping with the Spiritual Journey towards our General Chapter 2022. The reflections were gleaned from the writings of some of our previous International Leaders, otherwise known as our Superior Generals. You will also recognize the Core Values of our Common Treasure which are integrated into this prayer.

OPENING HYMN: HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN by Carey Landry *(Lyrics in Video)*

SPRING



Hope

Belief in the capacity to rise beyond one's struggles.

Throughout her whole lifetime, there were many more events which seemed incomprehensible to her than there were times during which she experienced the realization of Prophecy. (Celine Heon 1996)

Hope Demands patient waiting. It takes courage to surrender life unconditionally (Marie-Madeline Termont 1980)

Today in her Assumption, Mary lets us glimpse how intently she looks at Him whom she received, whom she loved and whom she gave to humanity. She teaches us the attitude of availability that transforms, that opens us up to what is universal and prepares us for reciprocity. (Celine Heon 1989)

SUMMER

She knew how to question. Hers was not a passive faith accepting everything blindly but it led her into a dialogue with God and her son. She needed to know what was required of her even if this led her into even greater mystery. Hers was also a faith of patient waiting. It is a faith that becomes fidelity to another. (1988)

Mary was determined to seek God and to find him out there in the city of noise and clamor and in the struggle to survive, where relationships are made and broken; where laughter and love and human goodness are joyfully celebrated right on the margins of daily living, in the pain and the squalor and the meanness of life...Like Mary let us not be afraid to go beyond the barriers of individualism, injustice, extremism, of everything that destroys human dignity. In this mission, it is our Hope that is at stake. Let us unite with woman and men who are already engaged in responding to the cries of those impoverished families, migrants, refugees, woman all in search of happiness and aspirations of a habitable planet. (2017 General Chapter document)



Believe

We live what we believe, that we are sent to those who have neither voice nor influence in this world.



Transformation

Our spirituality leads to personal transformation and the transformation of the world.

HYMN: LLENA DE GRACIA by Verónica Sanfilippo *(Lyrics in Video)*

AUTUMN

As she journeyed trustingly. Mary was called to go back down into the depths of her heart to compare what she was encountering with what was slowly being revealed to her. Often drawn back to what is essential, she was not spared a world of darkness. (Celine Heon 1996)

Mary's love is strong and tender, she who stood at the foot of the cross is the same who had compassion on the couple at Cana, and she is the same who accepted not to understand everything, who , kept these things in her heart. Like her love, our own should grow strong in the love of Christ, be strong and tender, faithful in the daily struggle, simple and true in our relationships. Like faith and Hope, love is gift and response. (Theresa Dick 1984)



Care

*We care for one another.
Caring gives birth to covenant relationships
– empathy, friendship, tenderness,
compassion, mercy, unconditional love
and deep respect.*

WINTER

Like Judith and Esther, but to a far greater extent she kept faithful even when all seemed lost, standing by the cross of her son, and watching all her hopes and those of her people die. (1988)

The Congregation is a living community in which the Holy Spirit effects unity. “There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit: there are all sorts of services to be done, but always the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them (1Co 12,4-6). The more multiple and diverse these realizations are, the greater and deeper should our unity be in the Holy Spirit. This is why we cannot dissociate collaboration,

information, co-responsibility and dialogue from our religious life. (Sr. M. Madeleine Godelieve 1969)

Like our Lady of the Visitation hastening to her cousin, Elisabeth, so as to share with her the secret of her joy, let us communicate to others the light received, let us share experience, news and life, let us transmit the more clearly perceived aspect of the Good News. (Sr. M Madeleine Godelieve 1969)



Mutuality

*The power of growth is in relationship
where in every encounter
we are both giver and receiver.
We value
'power with' instead of 'power over'.*



Commitment

*We are one family,
bonded together and sent to
change conditions that breed
poverty, injustice, discrimination
and marginalization.*

AN ASSUMPTION MESSAGE FROM THE LAITY IN BRAZIL



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 PEOPLE OF GOD, THE CHURCH,
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 HYMN: THE MAGNIFICAT ~ Dance by our Vietnamese Sisters

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**Origin of the Pact:** On March 26, 1903, the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Assumption was 25 years old. The Superior General, 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 (100) francs and fifty (50) 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 Day of Our Lady of the Assumption, August 15th, to give thanks for the gift of our mission and to ask Mary's guidance for our mission today.

