

August 11, 2019

**From Fr. Jim . . .**

**The Feast of the Assumption** is Thursday, August 15 and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass is at 7pm.

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. The following is a quote from Catechism of the Catholic Church 966, pg.252: "Finally the Immaculate Virgen, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgen is a singular participation in her Son's resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians: In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dominion, you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death."

I learned in the seminary that Dogmas of the Church are often influenced by or respond to situations and circumstances at the time the dogma is promulgated. The Dogma on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgen Mary came some years after the end of World War II. Considering the many casualties from this war and the destruction of life, the Dogma on the Assumption shows life as holy and whole and that death does not get the final say over it. Sharing in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior is the final say for us. All life and our bodies are to be treated with the utmost dignity and respect with our eyes always fixed on the finished line. What God wants for Mary; God wants for all of us. God has conquered sin, evil and death for all of us.

I think a good way to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption is to do something you like to do for yourself. Take care of yourself. Eat well and healthy. Exercise and give thanks to God for our bodies and the ways our bodies become homes for the presence of the Lord with the promise that our bodies too will be more fully conformed to the Lord's one day. In our bodies, our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior, now and forever!

**Day of Hope:** Day of Hope is this Saturday, August 17, Noon to four. Saint Leo is one of the sponsors of this Day with other churches and ministers from our neighborhoods in cooperation with District Three of the Cincinnati Police Department. Please come and join us.

