

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

From the Sermon given by the Cure of Ars

When we behold, dear brethren, how the Blessed Virgin in her humility lowered herself beneath all creatures, we behold at the same time that her humility exalted her above everything but God. Not the powers of princes of this earth have raised her to this highest degree of dignity, in which it is our happiness to contemplate her today, no, the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity have placed her upon this throne of glory. They have proclaimed her the Queen of heaven and earth, and made her the keeper and dispenser of the heavenly treasures. IT is safe to say, dear brethren, that we shall never comprehend sufficiently the glories of Mary and the power which Jesus Christ, her divine Son, has given to her; that we shall never fully appreciate the ardent desire she has to make us happy. She sees in us her own children; she rejoices in the power to help us, which God has given her. Yes, Mary is our great helper; she it is, who presents to her Divine Son, all our prayers, our tears, and our sighs; she it is, who obtains the graces for us which we need for our sanctification. The Holy Ghost tells us that amongst all creatures Mary is a miracle of might, a miracle of sanctity, and a miracle of love. What a happiness for us, dear brethren, what hope for our salvation! Let us strengthen our confidence in this good and tender Mother by contemplating the glories of Mary.

To attempt to speak of the glories of Mary, means, my dear brethren, to lessen the exalted idea which you should have formed thereof; for St. Ambrose tells us, that Mary is raised to such a high degree of glory, of honor, and of power, that not even the angels can realize it; it is known to God alone. We may therefore conclude, that all that which human creatures might be able to say and to appreciate, would be nothing, or nearly nothing, to that which she really is in the sight of God. The highest praise which the Church gives her, is in the words: Mary is the daughter of the eternal Father, the Mother of the redeeming Son of God, and the Spouse of the Holy Ghost. When the eternal Father chose Mary to be His daughter, what flow of graces must He not have poured into her soul? She received for herself alone more graces than all the angels and saints together. He began by preserving her from original sin, a grace which was granted to her alone. He fortified her in grace with a perfect security, so that she never lost it. Yes, my dear friends, the heavenly Father enriched her with heavenly gifts in just proportion to the great dignity to which she was to be exalted. He erected in her a living temple of the three Persons of the Most Blessed Trinity. Let us say briefly: He did for her everything which it was possible to do for a creature. While the eternal Father took such care of Mary, we see that the Holy Ghost adorned her soul in such a high degree, that already at the moment of her conception she was an object of delight to the three divine Persons. Mary had not only the happiness of being the daughter of the eternal Father; but also that of being the Mother of the Son, and the Spouse of the Holy Ghost. Through this incomparable dignity she now beholds herself made, to form the most adorable body of Jesus Christ. God made use of her to overthrow the dominion of the evil spirit and to annihilate it. She was allied to the three divine Persons therefore to redeem the World, by giving it a Saviour. Can we ever sufficiently comprehend an abyss of such greatness, power and love? Next to the adorable body of Jesus Christ, she is the most beautiful ornament of the heavenly court!!!

We may say that the triumph of the Blessed Virgin in heaven is the culmination of the graces of the sublime Queen of heaven and earth. Then she obtained the last jewel of her incomparable dignity as Mother of God. After having been subjected for a time to the miseries of this life and the humiliation of death, she enjoys the most glorious, and most honorable existence which a creature could ever enjoy.