

Timothy J. Grassi

Assumption of the BVM 2020

St. Francis de Sales asks the simple question in his sermon for the Assumption: “What son would not bring his mother back to life and would not bring her into paradise after her death if he could?” On this feast of the Assumption, who could argue with a statement like that? In Mary’s Assumption the glory of Jesus’ Resurrection is first of all extended to His mother, but as we celebrate it, we celebrate likewise our own hope to share in this risen glory some day. It’s interesting that Pope Pius XII declared this dogma of the Assumption in 1950 which was not the greatest of times. We had experienced 2 world wars, the holocaust, the atomic bomb and the beginning of the cold war. At about the same time in 1950, the cult of the body and the glories of sexuality were beginning to take hold of society. The Church leaders could see that the more that sex and the body were idolized the more society would lose its respect for marriage and the family. The world had enough reason to feel hopeless. Contrasted with the pessimism of the time this dogma of the Assumption of the BVM offered hope that the destiny of the human race is more than wars, destruction and devastation; and in contrast to the glorification of the body as an object of pleasure, this dogma affirms the true dignity and the beauty of the body and the source of that dignity and beauty which is God’s grace within us. If the dogma of the Assumption of the BVM brought hope in 1950, I propose that it is even more needed today for hope.

The point I'm trying to make is that, if 1950 saw a great deal of hopelessness, what about today? Think of the craziness of our world with abortion on demand, same sex unions, gender identity issues; and then you have the pandemic which has literally turned our world upside down and created the most successful terrorist attack the world has ever seen. Many people are even terrorized about going to Mass. You compound this with current situations with racial wars and people tearing down statues and burning churches and destroying property and somehow trying to eliminate police and basically disregard the common good of human lives. Literally, satan has created hell on earth by creating chaos, doubt, and terror on all fronts. He has mostly emptied churches and mostly separated people from God in this planned attack. And that is precisely what hell is – total separation from God! Jesus is weeping a flood of tears. At Fatima, Our Lady said that if Her requests were not met, namely the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope and all the bishops united with Him, then Russia would spread Her errors of Communism around the world. Well, folks, we have lived to see the fulfillment of this prophecy. The errors of communism have spread and we are living with those errors and few people really seem to care. I don't believe there are any answers on the natural level, but with God all things are possible. And

much more than in 1950, this feast of the Assumption gives us hope! The Assumption tells us that God is not only concerned about our souls, but also about our bodies. They are temples of the HS. They are part of who we are, and so this feast of the Assumption is a feast that celebrates who we shall be. So, we need to go to Our Lady, now, more than ever. Our greatest weapon these days is the Rosary. If Her Immaculate Heart is going to triumph, then we need to pray Her Rosary with great fervor and surrender ourselves to Her. We must not waste our time worrying about what might happen when, but rather we must pray and trust that Our Lady will care for us and in the end Her Immaculate Heart will triumph, and the Ark will be taken to Jerusalem which symbolizes Mary being taken, body and soul, into the Heavenly kingdom, the new and eternal Jerusalem where we hope to follow.