

Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM – 08-15-2021

There are four dogmas of the Catholic Church that describe Mary's personal relationship with God and her role in human salvation.

They are her Divine Maternity, her Perpetual Virginity, her Immaculate Conception and her Assumption into heaven.

Next to the Incarnation of the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity – Jesus Christ – these are the greatest gifts that God could have ever given humanity.

Every one of them speaks to the dignity of every human being created in the image and likeness of God. Today we celebrate one of those dogmas – the Solemnity of Mary's Assumption into heaven.

According to Pope Pius XII, "what is commemorated in this feast is not simply the total absence of corruption from the dead body of the Blessed Virgin Mary but also her triumph over death and her glorification in heaven, after the pattern set by her only son, Jesus Christ."

This particular dogma is a sign and a promise to each one of us of our own future glory provided we remain faithful to Jesus Christ and his Holy Catholic Church in imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary was assumed into heaven, body and soul, and now she reigns as Queen of Heaven and Earth with her Son Jesus – the King of the Universe.

This is God's plan for us too but we only have this life to attain it.

At Holy Mass on Friday morning I mentioned that our earthly life is like a tiny grain of sand from one of Michigan's beautiful beaches.

The rest of the beach represents eternity. Just one tiny little grain is our life here on earth.

It seems so insignificant and indeed it is with respect to eternity but with respect to what it means it is infinitely important.

After this life, we are going to live somewhere forever – either heaven or hell.

Oh sure, unlike our Lady, we might have to do some time in purgatory but ultimately even that period is nothing compared to eternity and purgatory is just a stepping stone to heaven anyway. So ultimately it comes down to heaven or hell.

It is the will of the Most Holy Trinity that all of us – all of humanity – make it to heaven. Jesus wants us to reign with him for all eternity. Today's feast points to that very fact.

So let's not miss this opportunity by clinging to what amounts to a little grain of sand as if it were the end-all-be-all.

This life is very important but not for the reasons the world ascribes – a little earthly pleasure – but for the reason God ascribes – eternal happiness with the most Holy Trinity, our Lady and Saint Joseph and all the angels and saints in heaven for all eternity.

Let's not miss this once in a lifetime opportunity. There is way too much at stake.