

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – AUGUST 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Parents,

The Assumption into Heaven of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, prompts me to review the four stages of life for almost all humans. When God assumes her into heaven, she skips two steps, or perhaps call it academically advancing Mary Summa cum Laude.

The four stages for humans appear to be: a Human Period with life on earth; death leading to a Reflective Period when our silver plate is burnished; the Saintly Period in which we enter fully into the Kingdom of Heaven, but without our body; the Resurrected Period when God unites us body and spirit.

Mary certainly lived the human period, suffered a spiritual martyrdom watching her son die. She then completed many more years in human life loved by John the Apostle. Jesus had to die as a sacrificial offering. Mary later in life died humanly in order to follow in the pathway forged by her son and her God.

When Mary humanly dies, there is no reflective period because her silver plate is untarnished. Upon death her body is assumed into heaven united with her spirit. She enters immediately into the Resurrected Period. In the Kingdom of Heaven she is reunited body and soul to her son who also is present there body and soul.

Think of what any mother would do now. She wants all her children to have this same glorious outcome that she has and so she becomes the most forceful intercessor in the Kingdom of Heaven. She wraps her arms around us, covers us with her mantle, and urges us on this journey.

She is the first of the fully human race to possess the fullness of the human race, the resurrected life. Heaven begins to take on the shape of a new heaven with a resurrected Jesus and a resurrected Mary. Where Mary has gone under the power of God, she wishes all men and women to follow. The peace and tranquility that we find in this Grotto of Mary is the pledge and promise to us of our full future in the Kingdom of Heaven longed for by the Mother of God.

Thanksgiving for the Sacraments

Please offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord through the intercession of Mary for the Sacraments that so many of you have received in the Triduum. You received the Sacrament of Forgiveness, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the Sacrament of the Eucharist. God bonds to us through the Sacraments. We will continue to use the Grotto as much as possible over the next two months.

Mr. Don Armbruster Takes on Chairmanship of Parish Council

Mr. Don Armbruster, long serving as our sexton, has joined the Parish Council and has accepted the position of Chairman. Mary Wells was most happy to step down from that leadership position but remains fully on the Parish Council. This becomes an important year for us as the parish and the school address all the opportunities and the tensions of this COVID 19 time. The Parish thanks you, Mary, for your leadership and your continued service. I look forward to working with Don Armbruster more directly as I did for several years when he was the Sexton of our peaceful cemetery.

