



## Assumption of Mary into Heaven –

In celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, we celebrate her life which points us towards the victory gained by her Son and His triumph over death

and evil. Her life shows the pattern of discipleship which we are invited to share. We reflect on four aspects of Mary's life: 1) the woman of faith, 2) the woman of the cross, 3) the woman of love, 4) the woman of joy.

1 – Mary, the woman of faith. At the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel invited Mary to undertake the vocation to be the Mother of God. Mary was fearful and trembled at the angel's words. In her great moment of decision she surrendered to god's plan and spoke "let it be with me according to Your word." She would later hear the words of Simeon that a sword would pierce her heart. Filled with joy at Christ's birth, she would soon have to flee into Egypt, like a refugee, in fear of her child's life.

2 – These words of Simeon point towards Mary the woman of the cross. Standing at the foot of the cross, she suffered and grieved the death of her Son. Her heart must have pondered the events of His birth and His short life. Her prayer must have stormed Heaven. In this same moment, she would become the Mother of the Church so that the prayers of all people might be brought to mary who can intercede for her children. Mary is a help when we pray for people who are suffering.

3 – Mary the woman of love. Mary's life sows a care and concern for people who need assistance. On hearing that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant she hastened to her to help with her daily tasks. With sensitivity she approached Jesus at the wedding feast at Cana to ask if He could provide more wine when it was apparent that the host might be embarrassed. Mary knew the importance of the details of life and that love is expressed in everyday gestures towards those who are nearby.

4 – Mary the woman of joy. The Magnificat, which we hear in the Gospel for this Feast, is the song which Mary celebrated the blessings and deeds of God in her life and in the lives of those whom God chooses.

Mary offers the pattern of discipleship to those who live Christian faith. It is an invitation to imitate her life through prayer, faith, love and suffering. In the midst of the events of life, Mary trusts in God. Her life, through the Assumption, also reveals the hope of the disciple who will share in the resurrection of Christ at the time of death. Because Jesus has been raised from the dead, all may

follow. God triumphs over death and evil. As disciples we are encouraged by the life of Mary to be faithful in trials and struggles, asking her intercession for our needs.

Following the Feast of Mary's Assumption into Heaven on August 15, the Church celebrates the Feast of her Queenship among the angels and saints as the Queen of Heaven and Earth August 22 - (5<sup>th</sup> Glorious Mystery of the Rosary).

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World  
& for Peace.

No Jokes this week, but something else for the lighter side



8-20

© 2012 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

**"Summer vacation's almost over,  
Sam. We need to do as much  
of nothing as we can."**