



Mary waits for us . . .

While Catholics refer to the *Assumption*, the Orthodox use the term *Dormition*. We gather that the approach to this mystery is different but the reality is the same. Pius XII did not want to initiate a debate when he proposed this dogma. Instead our attention is focused elsewhere. This is what is proposed by the Preface which introduces the Eucharistic prayer for this feast. It is an excellent starting point for those who wish to understand the liturgical feast of the Assumption.

The Preface today is particularly enlightening. It invites us to contemplate Mary who is *the pattern of the Church in its perfection*. We are not focusing on someone whose life mission surpassed our wildest dreams, but someone whose final hours would enable us to catch a glimpse of what our future holds for us.

We may also understand Mary by reading the Gospels and reminding ourselves of her intimate connection with Christ. Anything that we could say or write about Mary would have no meaning unless it is read and understood from a Gospel perspective.

There are few details but they provide us with the essentials. We learn that Mary was a discreet woman, *the mother of Jesus* who was directly involved with her Son's tragic and glorious destiny. We also learn that following that sorrowful Good Friday, St. John *took her home with him*. Just before his death, Jesus said: *Woman, here is your son ... here is your mother*. It was through John the beloved disciple that Mary's role would continue as a reserved, quiet, prayerful and faithful mother for the disciples.

Mary, who was chosen by God and lived her life through the glory of her Son, is first and foremost a mother. Mary was and is always discreet. She is our model of holiness, unselfish love, perseverance, faith and courage. Her life experiences rather than her discourse are her legacy.

Though Mary has already experienced the future enlightenment promised by the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, she still takes us by the hand. She *guides and supports the hope of the Church* because we are still *on our lifelong journey*. Mary of the Assumption provides us with the example of what awaits us.

Jacques Houle, c.s.v.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli