

20th Sunday In Ordinary Time Of The Year

(Revelation 11.19| 12.1-6,10, 1 Corinthians 15.20-26, Luke 1.39-56)

**Theme: Like The Virgin Mary, Say "YES" To The Word Of God
And Receive God's Blessings.**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus; today we are celebrating the feast of the *Assumption Of Our Blessed Virgin Mary* into heaven. The first reading today from the book of Revelations says, "A great portent appeared in heaven: A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

This reminds us of the exalted position God has given to the Blessed Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ and our mother. Mary enjoyed all these favours from God because of her role in our salvation history.

The "YES" of Mary to the Word of God lead to the incarnation, the coming of our God in human flesh into the world to save us from sin and damnation. The "YES" of Mary to the word of God, is not a simple yes, but a "YES" to the will of God to happen, a "YES" that is filled with faith in God. It is a "YES" that signifies total sacrifice and total surrender to the will of God (Lk. 1:34-38). It means an openness to God, it means *"use me Lord and accomplish Your plan of salvation of mankind."*

Mary is a symbol of a good follower of God. Her heart is full of mercy and compassion for those who are in need. Mary left her home, even being pregnant with Christ Jesus, the Saviour, to the hill country of Judea to be with her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant in her old age. This visit to Elizabeth also marks her out as a special woman full of humility and love for others.

The sacred scriptures, tells us, that immediately Mary greeted Elizabeth, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and the child in her womb (John the Baptist) leaped for joy. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth spoke out, "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

This affirms that Mary is a great believer of the Word of God. She is a woman of great faith in God. At the wedding at Cana, Mary manifested herself as our great intercessor. She carries our needs and problems to Christ Jesus her son. (Jn. 2:1-12)

As a great disciple of Christ, Mary followed Jesus during His earthly ministry, throughout Christ's passion and was with Christ at the foot of His cross. Mary was also with the apostles and witnessed the descent of the Holy Spirit. (Jn. 19:25-26, Acts 1:14.2)

As a sign of our honor to Mary, let us always welcome her with her son Christ our Lord, in our lives and homes. So, like Elizabeth and her unborn child, John, our lives and homes will be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.