

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
Sunday, August 9, 2015

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Saturday, August 15

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church on Saturday, August 15. This day is usually a Holy Day of Obligation, but this year it is not. However, this day provides us with a wonderful opportunity to praise God for the wonders He has done throughout the earth through the prayers and intercession of our Blessed Mother. Holy Mass will also be offered on August 15 at 8:00 a.m. in the cathedral.

A Meditation for the Solemnity of the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In their homilies and sermons on this feast the holy fathers and great doctors spoke of the assumption of the Mother of God as something already familiar and accepted by the faithful. They gave it greater clarity in their preaching and used more profound arguments in setting out its nature and meaning. Above all, they brought out more clearly the fact that 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.

Thus Saint John Damascene, preeminent as the great preacher of this truth of tradition, speaks with powerful eloquence when he relates the bodily assumption of the loving Mother of God to her other gifts and privileges: "It was necessary that she who had preserved her virginity inviolate in childbirth should also have her body kept free from all corruption after death. It was necessary that she who had carried the Creator as a child on her breast should dwell in the tabernacles of God. It was necessary that the bride espoused by the Father should make her home in the bridal chambers of heaven. It was necessary that she, who had gazed on her crucified Son and been pierced in the heart by the sword of sorrow which she had escaped in giving him birth, should contemplate him seated with the Father. It was necessary that the Mother of God should share the possessions of her Son, and be venerated by every creature as the Mother and handmaid of God."

Saint Germanus of Constantinople considered that it was in keeping not only with her divine motherhood but also with the unique sanctity of her virginal body that it was incorrupt and carried up to heaven: "In the words of Scripture, you appear in *beauty*. Your virginal body is entirely holy, entirely chaste, entirely the house of God so that for this reason also it is henceforth a stranger to decay: a body changed, because a human

