

## Holy Father's Sermon on Day He Proclaimed Dogma of Assumption

This is an English translation of the address made in Italian by Pope Pius XII on November 1, after he had proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

Venerable brothers and beloved sons and daughters who have hastened to Our presence, and all you who hear in this holy Rome and in every region of the Catholic world!

Touched by the proclamation, as a dogma of faith, of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin in body and soul into Heaven, exulting with the joy which floods the heart of all believers, their fervid desires quenched; We feel the irresistible need of lifting Our voice together with you in a hymn of thanksgiving to the loving Providence of God Who has wished to reserve to Us the joy of this day and to Us the comfort of placing upon the brow of the Mother of Jesus, our Mother, Mary, the radiant diadem that crowns her singular privilege.

BY INSCRUTABLE Divine design, upon men of this generation, so belabored and sorrowful, so lost and deluded, but also healthfully uneasy in their search for the great good that has been lost, there opens a luminous expanse of sky, glowing with radiance, with hope, a blissful life where is seated next to the Sun of Justice, Mary, Queen and Mother.

For a long time invoked, this day finally is Ours; and finally yours. The voice of ages in fact, We would say, the voice of eternity is Ours which with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, has solemnly defined the outstanding privilege of the celestial Mother. And it is the cry of the centuries, your cry of today which breaks in the vastness of this venerable place, already sacred to Christian glories, the spiritual harbor of all people, and now the altar of your overwhelming piety.

AS THOUGH moved by the psalms of your hearts and



PIUS XII: 'POPE OF THE ASSUMPTION'

the emotion of your lips, the very stones of this patriarchal basilica vibrate and it seems that together with them exult with mysterious quiverings the

innumerable and ancient temples erected everywhere in honor of the Assumption, monuments of a single faith and earthly foundation of the

heavenly throne of glory of the Queen of the universe. A fertile inspiration to renewed holiness.

In this day of joy, under this Therefore, We raise Our eyes with confidence to this lofty expanse of sky, together with the wave of angelic exultation, in harmony with that of all the Church Militant, there cannot

but ascend upward souls a torrent of grace and teaching, as this, our time, and in this generation, shouting to all: "Lift up your hearts."

To many anxious and uneasy souls—and result of an uprooted and turbid past era—souls oppressed but not resigned and who no longer believe in life's goods and being at last compelled, accept only the momentary—the humble and unknown girl of Nazareth, now glorious in Heaven, will open higher visions and will comfort them when contemplating the destiny which befell her, who, elected by God to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word, meekly accepted the word of the Lord.

And you—especially near to Our heart, who are the tormented anxiety of Our days and Our nights, the anxious cry of each of Our hours, you, the poor, the sick, the refugees, the prisoners, the persecuted, you whose arms are without work, your heads without roofs, sufferers of every kind and of every country, you to whom life on earth seems to yield only tears and privations. Regardless of what your efforts are made or should be made to help you—lift your eyes toward the Virgin, who has walked ahead of you the ways of poverty, of contempt, of exile, of sorrow, whose very soul was pierced by a sword at the foot of the cross, and now gazes steadily at the Eye of the Eternal Light.

IN THIS WORLD without peace martyred by mutual distrust, by divisions, by contrasts, by hatred, because the faith has dimmed and the sense of love and fraternity in Christ is almost extinguished while We beseech with all our hearts that the Assumption mark the return of warmth and life in human hearts. We will not cease to remind that nothing must ever prevail over the fact and knowledge that we all are sons of the same Mother, Mary, who lives in Heaven—a bond of creature from this earth, in union with the Mystical Body of Christ—as a new Eve, and new Mother of the living, who wishes to lead all men to truth and to the grace of her Divine Son.

And now, prostrated, let us devoutly pray.

## Pope Piu

(Continued from P. 1) considered the teaching posed to the doctrine of the Assumption as blasphemous, if not heretical.

Thus, like many a Peter Cardinal, after declared that the "Assumption" signified glorification, not only of the soul but also of the body and has solemnly proclaimed this mystery of the Assumption for many adds these words of

"This teaching has been accepted for ages, held as certain minds of the pious people it has been taught to the Church in such a way that those who deny it have been anathematized as heretical rather than as

At the same time Suarez, when he was in the field of the norm that "keeping the standards of propriety when there is no control or repugnance on the Scripture, the mystic grace which God has in the Virgin must be understood by the ordinance of the divine spirit (13). Supported by the faith of the entire Church, the Assumption, he concludes that this mystery be believed with the assent of assent as that the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. The ready held that such could be defined.

Sacred Writing All these proofs and arguments of the holy and the theologians a upon the Sacred Writing their ultimate purpose. These set the reverend of God as it were be very eyes as most in joined to her divine as always sharing His sequently it seems in to think of her, the conceived Christ, brought forth, gave Him into His arms, and Him at her breast, apart from Him in body though not in soul. S Redeemer is the Son of He could not do other the perfect observer of law, than to honor His eternal Father. His most beloved Mother since it was within His to grant her this grace to preserve her from rapture of the tomb, believe that He really this way.

We must remember by that, since the Secular, the Virgin Mary designated by the holy as the new Eve, who, subject to the new A most intimately associated Him in that struggle the infernal foe which, told in the protoevangelium (14) finally resulted most complete victory sin and death which ways mentioned together the writings of the Apostles the Gentiles. (43)

Consequently, just glorious resurrection of was an essential part final sign of this victory that struggle which we won to the Blessed Virgin her divine Son, she brought to a close by if position of her virginity for the same Apostle "when this mortal life put on immortality, the home to pass the way" written: Death is swallowed up in victory." (44) Hence the reverend Mother, God, from all eternity

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