

a truth divinely revealed by God, and infallibly taught by the Church. There is no greater certitude than the certitude of a dogma of Faith. So sure and certain is it, that to deny it, or to even call it into question, would be heresy. It would be a heresy in the strict sense of the word.

Thanks to this infallible definition by Pope Pius XII, we know with the absolute certitude of Faith that at the end of her earthly life, the Most Blessed Virgin Mother of God was taken, body and soul, into heaven. As the Apostles gathered around Our Lady between the Ascension and Pentecost Sunday—for strength and inspiration—so we do the same now. We do this throughout the course of our journey through the desert of life to the Promised Land of heaven. We gather at the feet of our heavenly Mother for strength, for encouragement, for consolation and intercession. In the midst of our trials, our crosses, and yes, our failures, we have recourse to her. She, in turn, has recourse to her Divine Son on our behalf, and He is powerless in His own filial goodness to refuse her anything. It is thus that she helps us through the desert of life as that woman helped those men through Death Valley. She is there for us, as was that good and strong woman who did inspire and save the lives of so many. Our Lady, by her holy cheer and by her heartwarming encouragement, moves us through life towards heaven's Golden Gate. Thus, in spite of what we are, we persevere and we await, with hopeful expectation, the completion of our journey. We look forward to our own assumption, as it were, into the glory of heaven with the help of Our Lady and her intercession. We are children of Mary. We may be weak and frail children, but children we are. We may be subject to every manner of trial and temptation, but children we remain. We are not alone. We are not abandoned. We have Our Lord. We have the Holy Ghost as our Advocate. We have Our Lady as our Mother. The Son of God gave her to us for this journey. This fact should inspire in us great confidence, not because we are good, but because she is good; not because we are strong, but because she is our powerful intercessor. Thus, in spite of what we are, we may and should be confident.

As you know, the Son of God made Man

performed His first public miracle through the intercession of His Mother. He turned water into wine. Let us never forget that by the intercession of that same Mother, He will do all that is necessary to turn the water of our weakness and sin into the sweet wine of grace and final victory. As we rejoice in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven, we pray, at the same time, that through her intercession we may receive the grace to lead good Catholic lives and the grace of final perseverance. As we do this, we look forward to our own heavenly reunion. At that reunion we shall sing her praises and thank her Son for giving her to us. We will sing her praises as those men sung the praises of that strong and good woman in the desert, who filled them with good cheer and encouragement, in the course of their perilous fifty-two day journey through Death Valley.

I don't have to tell you about life's difficulties. You know all about them. You know about the constant worldly distractions, the temptations, the obstacles and hindrances of this life. Go to Our Lady. Turn to her every day. Turn to her with her Rosary in your hand and her praise upon your lips. Turn to her, for we all need her powerful assistance. And, if we do turn to her, she, good Mother that she is, will not fail us. Her Divine Son has put at her disposal all His power. He has given it to her, and her to us as our special protectress and intercessor. Mary will lead us to Him in this life and the next. She is the surest and most certain path to Christ, for she loves Him with all her being. Through her, He came to us. Through her, we must go to Him. Through her, Jesus Christ will reign in the world and in our hearts.

This month, as we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, let us renew our devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mother of God and our Mother. Let us have recourse to her in all things. If we do, we shall surely save our souls. As a mother, she never deserts her children. She protects them, she intercedes for them, she pleads their case before the tribunal of her Divine Son. Resolve never to abandon devotion to her. Resolve to say the Rosary every day. It is your anchor to her and to Jesus. Say it every day and you will be a true child of Mary. As a true child of Mary, you will not lose your soul.