



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As August hits its mid-point this week, we are given a tremendous reminder of God's Great Plan as we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Mother. While not a day of obligation this year, it is certainly worth celebrating. The Assumption is a great event: "a sign of sure hope and comfort to (us) pilgrim people" as we see our Lovely Lady take her glorious place in Heaven.

We are that "pilgrim people" and boy oh boy do we need sure hope and comfort.

There are a lot of deep items that need addressing: the violence and victimhood, division and divergence among humanity, including our closest of relationships. God is familiar with this "stuff" and He continues to offer clarity and wisdom to us. Our Blessed Mother was familiar with "stuff": an unplanned pregnancy, a sword of sorrow in her heart, the life of a widow with a Son who caused disturbance. Yet, she remained always and remains even now the Father's Beloved Daughter, A Bearer of Life and Love, the Star that points us to God. This week, as we celebrate her glorious day, I commend to you two poems for your prayer: "Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue" by Mary Dixon Thayer and here below, words of St. Bernard, whose feast is Saturday and who saw the Blessed Mother in her glory while still here on earth.

May we seek her and know her powerful intercession.

Peace.

Fr. Rogers

**"She, I say, is that shining and brilliant star, so much needed, set in place above life's great and spacious sea, glittering with merits, all aglow with examples for our imitation. Oh, whosoever thou art that perceiveth thyself during this mortal existence to be rather drifting in treacherous waters, at the mercy of the winds and the waves, than walking on firm ground, turn not away thine eyes from the splendor of this guiding star, unless thou wish to be submerged by the storm! When the storms to temptation burst upon thee, when thou seest thyself driven upon the rocks of tribulation, look at the star, call upon Mary. When buffeted by the billows of pride, or ambition, or hatred, or jealousy, look at the star, call upon Mary. Should anger, or avarice, or fleshly desire violently assail the frail vessel of thy soul, look at the star, call upon Mary. If troubled on account of the heinousness of thy sins, distressed at the filthy state of thy conscience, and terrified at the thought of the awful judgment to come, thou art beginning to sink into the bottomless gulf of sadness and to be swallowed in the abyss of despair, then think of Mary. In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name leave thy lips, never suffer it to leave thy heart. And that thou mayest more surely obtain the assistance of her prayer, see that thou dost walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, thou shalt never go astray; whilst invoking her, thou shalt never lose heart; so long as she is in thy mind, thou shalt not be deceived; whilst she holds thy hand, thou canst not fall; under her protection, thou hast nothing to fear; if she walks before thee, thou shalt not grow weary; if she shows thee favor, thou shalt reach the goal."**  
(Translation from Pius XII's encyclical, paragraph 31).

**St. Bernard on Mary, Star of the Sea**

Little Sisters of the Poor St. Jeanne Jugan Gala/Raffle

The Little Sisters of the Poor are excited to invite you to our St. Jeanne Jugan Gala, benefiting the Residents of Holy Family Home. The event will be held on Sunday, September 11 at Drexelbrook in Drexel Hill. Tickets are \$150 and includes a chance to win the \$10,000 grand prize. Order tickets at Holy Family Home, Dept. PB, 5300 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19143, on our website - [littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org](http://littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org), or call Catherine at 215-729-5153 for more information.

Thank you for your prayers and support.