**MONDAY AUGUST 15 – XX WEEK O.T. [C]**

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.**

**Our God is made man. He is born of a Woman. He who created heaven and earth, to be like us, makes his Mother. He makes Her beautiful, stainless, with no shadow of imperfection. He preserves Her from the original sin. He makes Her a dignified dwelling of his Only Begotten Son. Since the moment of her conceiving God was fully in Her and She was fully in God. The dwelling of God was full in Her. “Full of grace.” “The Lord is with you.” The Lord is with Her. In her virginal womb, He is made flesh. Flesh from her flesh and blood from her blood. Without knowing any man. Christ Jesus is born of the Virgin Mary through the work of God, through the strength of the Holy Spirit, through the force of the Lord. “The Mighty One has done great things for me,” Mary knows that. She is called by the Angel Gabriel to become Mother of the Lord. “May it be done to me according to your word." With this acceptation, She becomes Mother of the Saviour, Mother in the flesh. In Her, the Son of God takes body and blood, is made man. She is the Mother of God, for She has conceived the Son of God in her womb. The Son of God and God himself is born of Her. The divine maternity is the greatness of Mary. It is a gift of God. What do you have that I have not received it? Mary confesses it: The Mighty One has done great things for me.” We Christian know it: all the good comes from God. It is his work. Mary teaches it t us. She wants us to imitate Her. Thus, celebrating the great things that have been made in Her, is celebrating the holiness and the mercy of God that for our salvation, She calls one of our offspring, of the offspring of Adam and constitutes Her Mother of Redemption and of Salvation.**

**Celebrating Mary is celebrating the Father of Heaven, the Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. Proclaiming the greatness of Mary is proclaiming the mercy of God and his eternal love in the faithfulness without time. Magnifying Mary is not divinizing Her. It is not making Her a God. She is a creature. She was made by God. Praising God is acknowledging the great things that He fulfilled. Mary is the work of God. The Mighty One has done great things for Her. But the Mighty One has made Her great. Our praise and our thanking to the Father of Heaven who has chosen Her as Mother of his Divine Son, to the Son Jesus that is He is made flesh, to the Holy Spirit, whose shadow has worked in her virginal womb! Not confessing the greatness of Mary is not confessing the work that the Lord has done. It is our obligation to confess it. It is an obligation of righteousness. The Christian man can misunderstand the work of God in any case. Mary is the wondrous work of his hands. She is the Immaculate Conception. There is no work that may be compared to Her. The righteousness wants one to praise and to thank the Father of Heaven. One is unfair, blind, ungrateful and ingrates if one does not exalts God for the gift He has given us, for the work He has made. Those who offend Mary offend God. Those who lash out at Her lash out at the Lord. Those who despise Her despise The One who has made them. Those who scorn Her scorn the Lord of glory.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 1,39-56**

**During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.**

**Mary is the deed of God. Celebrating the deed is celebrating the Author. The Author is the Father of the Deed. The Deed is the Mother of the Author of life, Christ Jesus, our Lord, the Only Begotten Son of the Father. Divine and heavenly deed, dignified dwelling of our God. Whoever loves the Son of God also loves the Mother of God. Whoever is of Christ cannot lash out at the One who has given us the Saviour. Whoever does not love Mary does not love the God of Jesus Christ. Going to Mary is going to God, acknowledging Him as Father and Lord, Creator and Love. It is exalting the God Trinity in this wondrous deed fulfilled by Him for the salvation of the world. We need today that our devotion to Mary is purified and raised. That is purified from every form that is an end to itself, done with the lips and not with the heart, for one moment and not for the life. You are blessed, oh Mary, today and always, for the eternal centuries. In your beatitude, ours will be, if we have loved you with true love of children.**