

Reflection on the Annunciation

The Church celebrates today the feast of the Assumption of Mary. It's a feast with Easter character, a feast of hope. Today it becomes clear what we say every Sunday in the Creed: "I believe in the resurrection of the dead and life eternal." We celebrate that this statement to Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been fulfilled.

Mary, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45), has arrived in Paradise and that is our destiny: we can all reach Paradise. The feast day of Mary is also our own feast day, which shows us what our real destiny is: eternal life with God. Mary is our guide on this path. She gives us orientation so that we can also achieve this goal.

There are three main attitudes of Mary which can help us:

1. Mary was a believer. Faith had a firm place in the life of Mary. The Gospels show us this at various stages: at the Annunciation by the angel, when the twelve-year-old Jesus challenges her on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, at the wedding in Cana or under the cross, to name just a few examples. Belief in the God of their people Israel, who proves himself mighty in the small and lowly, was part of her and her life. And this belief made her say yes to God and to life in all situations.
2. Mary was a praying person. There are many old paintings that show Mary praying when the angel Gabriel brings her the message of becoming the Mother of God. She made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and prayed in the temple. She prayed with the apostles after Jesus' ascension to call down the Holy Spirit. Whoever prays reaches out to God and heaven, but he is also firmly rooted and stands firmly in the storms of life. Prayer gives support and orientation.
3. Mary was a helping person. At all times Christians have called upon Mary for help in their need. Whoever asks Mary as a powerful helper must also recognize that he himself has to be a helper for his fellow human beings. Mary set out to help her relative Elizabeth during pregnancy. The Mother of God was a co-worker of God and her Son Jesus Christ for us humans. She wants to make us her helpers for the well-being and salvation of the people. Honestly, we can only ask Mary as a helper if we are ready to help ourselves wherever we are asked and can help.

Mary, who was taken into heaven and there crowned, recommends these three attitudes to us in our often disoriented time: believe and trust, pray, and help as she did.