

"But now let us ask ourselves: how does the Assumption of Mary help our journey? The first answer is: in the Assumption we see that in God there is room for man, God himself is the house with many rooms of which Jesus speaks (cf. Jn 14:2); God is man's home, in God there is God's space. And Mary, by uniting herself, united to God, does not distance herself from us. She does not go to an unknown galaxy, but whoever approaches God comes closer, for God is close to us all; and Mary, united to God, shares in the presence of God, is so close to us, to each one of us (...).

There is also another aspect: in God not only is there room for man; in man there is room for God. This too we see in Mary, the Holy Ark who bears the presence of God. In us there is space for God and this presence of God in us, so important for bringing light to the world with all its sadness, with its problems. This presence is realized in the faith: in the faith we open the doors of our existence so that God may enter us, so that God can be the power that gives life and a path to our existence. In us there is room, let us open ourselves like Mary opened herself, saying: "Let your will be done, I am the servant of the Lord". By opening ourselves to God, we lose nothing. On the contrary, our life becomes rich and great."

(POPE BENEDICT XVI'S HOMILY
15 August 2012)



Mary went ahead of us. God placed her high in the heavens as a star full of light, which fills us with hope as we make our way:

- **when our faith wavers, let us look to the star and ask Mary for the faith that gives us eternal life;**
- **when we feel without hope because of our problems, look to the star and Mary will give us hope;**
- **when we realize that self-centeredness is taking hold of us, let us ask Mary not to allow ourselves to be manipulated by others, for we carry within us the treasure of eternal life.**

Dear Friends of the ACI Family, dear Sisters,

The Assumption is a message of hope, which makes us think of the joy of reaching Heaven, the glory of God and the joy of having a Mother, who has already reached the goal towards which we are journeying. **If Mary has been raised to Heaven forever, this "assumption" transforms our gaze and our gaze begins to be that of the Living God.**

May Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, fill us with joy and hope and be the star, that leads us to the place where Jesus dwells.

Warmest regards,

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