

Disciples India



Email ID – inpddmwebsite@gmail.com

01/08/2022

FREEDOM AND HEAVEN

The month of August reminds us of two essential aspects of our life namely, Freedom and Heaven. We are living in an era of instant gratification in which freedom is all that matters and the thought of heaven has taken a back seat even in religious life. The popular view of freedom suggests that the more you keep your options open, the freer you are. Freedom is understood in terms of the variety of possibilities that are open and also in terms of the lack of responsibilities that one has. Unfortunately, responsibility is thought of as contrary to freedom, and commitment as the shrinking of freedom.

Freedom is a creative power that is meant to align us with God's will for us. What God wants for us is maximum freedom which is another way of understanding that what God wants for us is "Fullness of Life" (Jn 10:10).

The greater degree of freedom that a person achieves the easier virtuous acts become. This is because when a person loves deeply, what previously was very difficult may now be relatively easy. The virtue of charity has become so strong in a person who has achieved deep freedom that what others find very difficult to do the loving person may find not very difficult at all. This demonstrates the words of St Augustine who said, "Love and Do what you Like".

God, our father has invited us to make our lives a love stories through our free choices. We have free choice, and God is never going to force us to accept his love. God has total respect for our freedom. When you love, you take a chance on the beloved. Our heavenly father has taken a chance on us and will never withdraw his commitment. God's loving and faithful freedom and our loving and faithful freedom will write beautiful stories. Mother Mary responded to God's will freely and totally that her story turned out to be a "Call to be the Mother of Jesus our Saviour and Redeemer". She, in her death, was taken up in to heaven body and soul, was crowned queen of heaven and earth. Commitment shapes a person's story. How our stories will turn out depends on how we respond to the gift of God's love for us.

How mysterious Freedom is and how mysterious We are.

Sr M. Regina Sebastian

On August 15, we invoke God's choicest blessings on our Sisters who Celebrate their Feast day, Profession Anniversary and Particularly the 40th year of Profession Anniversary - the Ruby Jubilee (Sr Rose Mary Muttasseril, Sr M. Laetitia D'Souza, Sr M. Anceline Enoch, Sr M. Jayaseeli Maria Dass, Sr M. Delphine Maria John & Sr M. Regina Sebastian).

Dear sisters from New Delhi & Tura, thank you very much for your contribution to this issue of Disciples India. For the next issue Guwahati & Kohima communities are invited to contribute. The others are always welcome.



I AM AN INDIAN FLAG SPEAKING TO YOU MY BELOVEDS



Every story has a beginning and my story starts in 1921 when Mahatma Gandhi proposed me to the Indian National Congress. With great triumph, I was adopted by the constituent assembly on 22nd July 1947, as a symbol of unity, just few days before the Independence. I was designed by a person called Pingali Venkayya. I am also known by the name Tiranga which means three colours.

The Saffron colour stands for sacrifice and courage. The White colour for peace and purity, and navy-blue colour Ashoka Chakra on White portion is a symbol of continuous growth. At the bottom, green colour stands for prosperity and energy. These three colours also represent three major religions of India: Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. Though I am of three different colours I am one.

I am glad to be remembered by you all, on this particular day 15 August. May you also become a flag to others, so that their lives too will become colourful. **HAPPY 75th INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

Sr M. Rowena Patil

ASSUMPTION: GOD'S GIFT TO MARY

All of us receive gifts from God. Beginning with life all that we are and all that we have are God's gift. But Mother Mary received a very special gift- "**The Gift of Assumption**" that is she was assumed body and soul into heaven.

The feast of the assumption is very important feast in the Catholic Church. Pope Pius XXII in 1950 defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith. The earth could not resist her purity; neither could it hold her completeness. The grave was not the place for her body. So, God took his most treasured possession to himself.

Mother Mary stands out as an example to each of us, to live a life pleasing in the sight of God. She shows us the way to life, way to God, and the way to heaven. As we walk the journey of discipleship, when the desire for greatness creeps into our hearts, let us gaze at Mary for her greatness consisted in magnifying God and not herself. Her life is a reminder that with God everything is possible for us. May she continue to intercede for us.

Prayer to our dearest Mother in Heaven

A - A disciple par excellence you were
S - Selfless throughout life oh mother,
S - Surrendering all to God was your way of life and
U - Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit you shined.
M - Mary our Mother guide and lead us
P - Preserve us from the evils that threaten us.
T - The heart which beats with love
I - Is all that we need in
O - Order to join you one day in heaven.
N - Nothing else we ask but help us to live as you lived.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS FOR WELFARE
AND NOT FOR EVIL,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE
AND A HOPE.

jeremiah 29:11



- Sr M. Suganti Lakra

Mother Mary & Mother India

A mother can take the place of anyone but no one can replace her. A mother's influence in one's life is beyond imagination. On August 15, we are celebrating the feast of two great mothers namely, the Assumption of Mary into heaven and the Independence of our Mother Land, India. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with her son Jesus. Likewise, Independence Day marks the end of British rule in India and the establishment of a free and independent Nation.

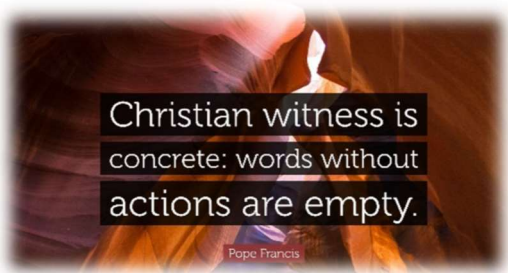
Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." Mary completed all her responsibilities that the Lord had entrusted to her on earth with much love, dedication, and trust even when she did not understand God's plan for her. Indeed, the Assumption of Mary is God's greatest reward to her as she was taken up with body and soul into heaven.

Like Mary who sacrificed her life for our salvation, our freedom fighters sacrificed their lives to free India from the oppressive British rule. Our country became Independent on 15th of August 1947. Independence Day is celebrated throughout India with flag- hoisting ceremony, drills, and singing of the National Anthem. The whole nation cherishes this beautiful day. We pay our respect and admiration to our freedom fighters who have shed their blood for the liberation of our motherland.

As the feast of the Assumption of Mary gives us hope, so too for every citizen of India the celebration of the 75th glorious years of Independence gives hope for a better, stronger, prosperous Nation, where everyone can enjoy the freedom of Right to equality, Right to freedom, Right against exploitation, Right to freedom of religion, Cultural and educational rights, Right to constitutional remedies. It's our bounding duty as citizens of India to preserve and promote Peace, Unity, Harmony, Justice, and Brotherhood as we live and move in this our Mother Land.

Sr M. Rahil Lakra

The Transfiguration of the Lord



On mount Tabor, when Jesus was transfigured, he revealed himself to his three disciples Peter, James and John. They witnessed and experienced Jesus' glorification. It was like a heavenly vision. The place where Jesus transfigured, was filled with bright light. And they heard the voice coming from cloud saying "this is my beloved son listen to him". The environment was extremely very pleasant, which made the disciples unwilling to come down from the Mountain. This

experience was enough for Peter to cry out; "it is good that we are here".

This feast of Transfiguration picturizes our own life in this present world. We are chosen, set apart and consecrated by Jesus. We should make heaven on earth and make a difference to all those whom we are coming in contact. We need, to transform ourselves, our communities, our society and the world at large. Our founder Blessed James Alberione, Apostle of the media, often used to exhort his spiritual sons and daughters with these words, "Knees bent on earth, and eyes raised to heaven". Let us also enter in to this same experience of the disciples at mount Tabor, when we meet Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let our life, our thoughts, our desires be like that of Christ. Let us allow ourselves to be transformed. Let God work in us and make us according to his image and likeness.

Sr M. Anjela Samad

ALTER CHRISTUS

St. John Maria Vianney once said *“If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I should salute the priest before I salute the angel, the latter is the friend of God but the priest holds his place”*.

A Priest is a gift to the church and to each of us. He is not a priest for himself that is, he does not celebrate the Mass for himself, he does not absolve his own sins or administer the sacraments to himself but it is for others, it is for us. Every ordained priest share in the Paschal mystery of Jesus Christ. Through his sacred ordination he makes the greatest mystery of all time accessible to each of us. Every priest is another Christ, He continues to preach, teach and heal us through them.

Blessed James Alberione says “Mary gave Human life to Jesus and because of it we receive in the Holy Eucharist something of Mary. The holy Eucharist contains the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus.” Mary followed Jesus from the womb to tomb. She nourished, nurtured and prepared Him for sacrifice. Following the example of Mary our mother we too are called to accompany priests just as she accompanied Jesus. To be a priest in today’s world is challenging, God has not chosen supermen or angels, but those who were willing to take the cross, so let us pray for all the priests who, in their mission share the humiliation and trials for the sake of Christ, those who are battling against sin, temptation and loneliness. Pope Francis said “St Peter committed one of the greatest sins, denying Christ, yet he was made Pope”. So let us stop dwelling on the shadows of priesthood, instead turn our faces towards light. Every time we see a priest let us think of Jesus, He is Christ walking on the face of the earth today.

Sr M. Asha Maduri



Life is a precious gift from God. It doesn't mean that we will go through life without pain and suffering. As there is a familiar saying that “There is no sunshine without the night” instead of complaining that Roses have thorns, let us learn to appreciate that thorny plants do produce beautiful Roses.

Every person born on this earth has his or her own unique calling. We need to discover the purpose of this calling and in which we are to reach excellence and find our fulfillment. Then this search for meaning in life would make sense of our existence.

When the Lord sends you joy and peace, celebrate life. When you are down and out; do not be sad and frown but thank him for the lessons learned. Step by step, move on in life and build it up by what you choose.

We live but once and never twice. The good we can, we must do it today.

- There is beauty in our life because our hopes are kept alive.
- There is life when there is hope, so let us be hope for those who grope.
- Optimism adds color to life. Be colorful.
- Sanctity of life is the sole goal. Be Holy.
- Cheerfulness resides in every soul. Let it Radiate.
- Overcoming every trial with firmness. Life will be Easy.
- Maturing into gentleness, become Genuine human beings.
- Time flies but life's lessons are learned. Be a Learner.



Sr M. Shangla Ruth

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

OFFICIAL LOGO OF JUBILEE



The official Logo of the Jubilee year 2025 with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” has been released by Vatican. The Logo shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They each embrace one another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite peoples. The first figure is clinging to the Cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters.

Because often personal circumstances and world events call for a greater sense of hope, a description of the Logo says, the lower part of the Cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves.

Anchors often have been used as metaphors for hope.

The image shows how the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather communal, with the signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more toward the Cross. "The Cross is not static, but dynamic, bending toward and meeting humanity as if not to leave it alone, but rather offering the certainty of its presence and the reassurance of hope."

The Jubilee 2025 Motto, “Pilgrims of Hope” is also clearly visible in the colour green.

JUBILEES' IMPORTANCE TO LIFE OF THE CHURCH

“The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church. Since the year 1300, which marked the first Holy Year, God’s holy and faithful people have experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. In the Church, a Jubilee, or Holy Year, is a great religious event.

A Jubilee is “ordinary” if it falls after the customary 25-year period, and “extraordinary” when it is proclaimed by for some outstanding event. The last ordinary Jubilee took place in the year 2000 during the pontificate of Pope St. John Paul I. The year 2015, was an Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

DAYS TO REMEMBER:

1-August World Wide Web Day - This day is dedicated to the worldwide web that brought the whole world to our fingertips.

6-August - Hiroshima Day & 9th August - Nagasaki Day - Black day for Japan. This day we remember the people who lost their lives during World War II bomb attacks. Peace and love are promoted on this day.

12-August: International Youth Day - Focused on the protection and development of the young people. To give young peoples to raise voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.

13-August: International Left-Handers Day - Celebrating the unique and difference of lefthanders worldwide.

30-August: 1960 the definitive approval of our Constitutions - Call to Be a Joyful Disciples.