

LIVING FAITH

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 21, 2022

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY: Luke 13:22-30

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be saved?'

He said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.

When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us",

then in reply he will say to you, "I do not know where you come from."

Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets."

But he will say, "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!"

There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out.

Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

The Gospel that we heard proclaimed today is another difficult Gospel. What is it all about? There are many possible interpretations. The key might be in the very last line, "some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." What is certain is that, in the Kingdom of God, all is not as it is in other places; somethings get turned upside down! Do we seek position and prestige? Or do we seek to serve? If we look to Jesus, we will find our model.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- Have you seen anyone who puts other first? ... who really seeks to love and serve? What inspires you about such people?
- What would our world look like if people put others before themselves?
- What about you? What kind of person do you want to be?



The Narrow Door

"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to." Luke 13:24 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 13:22-30



H I I E J Y K N D V F T F Q O
P L E A D I N G F R S O B Y W
X B N V Q S T A N D A E U M N
C N D E T Q D E Y Q S N I K E
D L A I D F F M J P F D K E R
O T O H Q R O H A T Y X G Y Z
O D Z S E P M M H N P Y E I H
R H Z W E R L G R P Y U K K D
R O S J O D U J B L Z L N F C
T N U Z D A N A R R O W O B D
A E L T T E P M T O V T C A R
E E N S S W X H O U S E K C Y
Q I A T Z I C S T D Q P I D A
A L S T E I D J Y X A T N Q O
V C N M E R V E I P Y F G Q E

TAUGHT
CLOSED
NARROW

STAND
HOUSE
ANSWER

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ENTER
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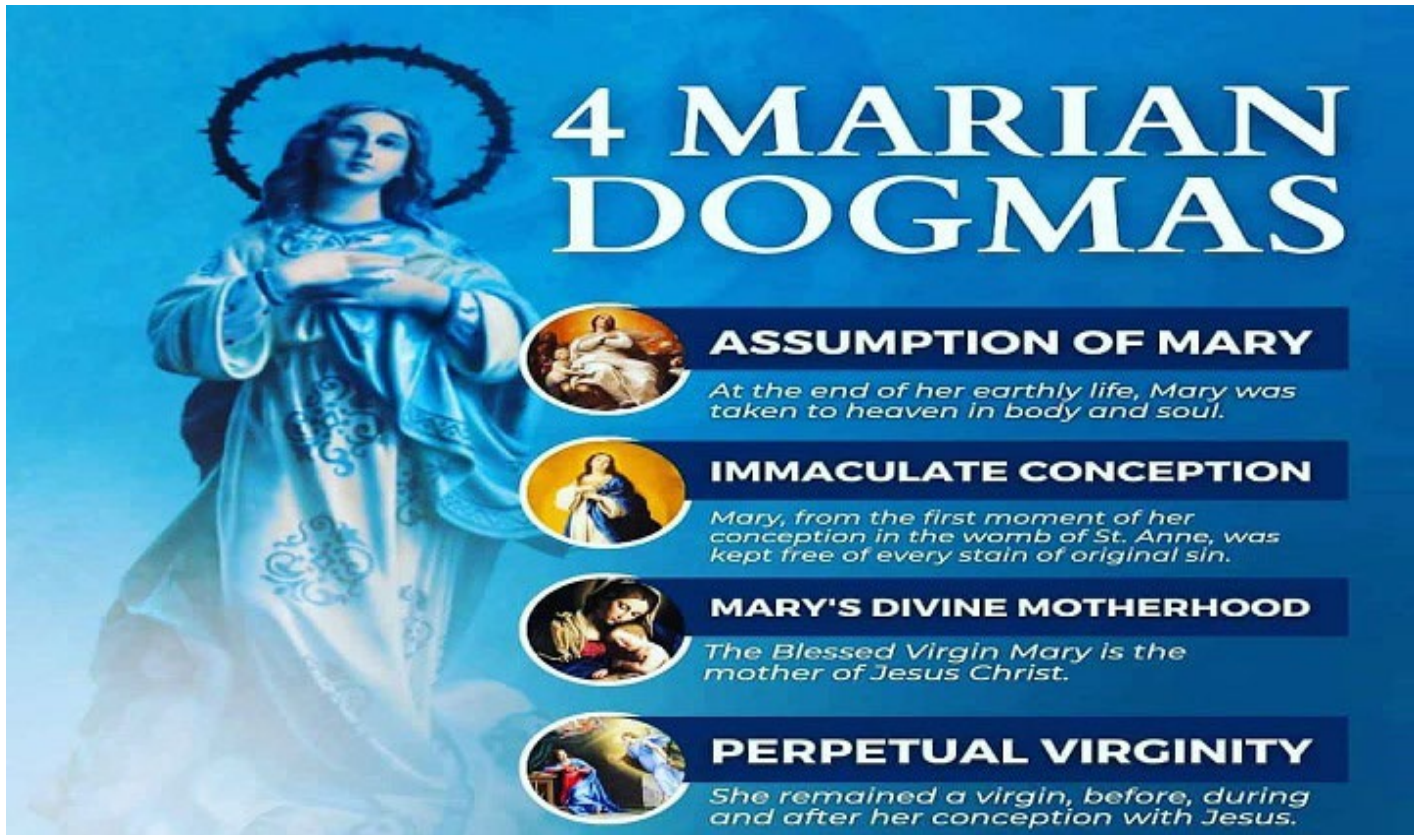
DRANK
ATE
OUTSIDE

KNOCKING
OWNER
MANY

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THE CHURCH TEACHES



THE FEAST OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY-- AUGUST 22

Pope Pius XII established this feast in 1954. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announced that Mary's Son would receive the throne of David and rule forever. At the Visitation, Elizabeth calls Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, she is closely associated with Jesus: Her queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. We can also recall that in the Old Testament the mother of the king has great influence in court. In the fourth century Saint Ephrem called Mary "Lady" and "Queen." Hymns of the 11th to 13th centuries address Mary as queen: "Hail, Holy Queen," "Hail, Queen of Heaven," "Queen of Heaven."

The feast is a logical follow-up to the Assumption, and is celebrated on the octave day of that feast. In his 1954 encyclical *To the Queen of Heaven*, Pius XII points out that Mary deserves the title because she is Mother of God, and is closely associated with Jesus' redemptive work, because of her perfection, and because of her intercessory power.

FEASTS THIS WEEK A MOTHER AND SON

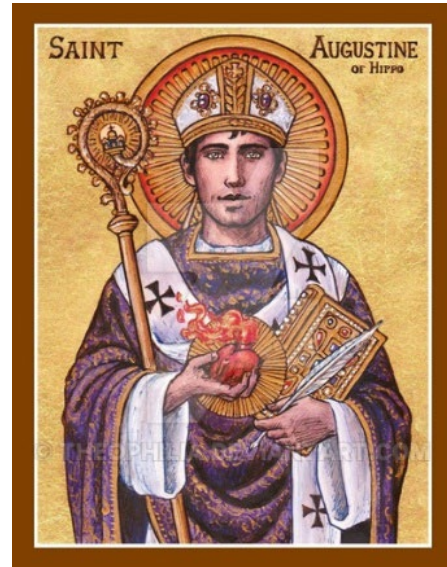


ST. MONICA (322-387)
AUGUST 27

Because of her name and place of birth, Monica is assumed to have been born in Thagaste, Algeria). She was married to Patricius, a Roman pagan, who held an official position in Tagaste. Patricius had a violent temper. Monica's alms, deeds and prayer habits annoyed Patricius, but it is said that he always held her in respect.

Monica had three children who survived infancy: sons Augustine and Navigius and daughter Perpetua. Unable to secure baptism for them, she grieved heavily when Augustine fell ill. In her distress she asked Patricius to allow Augustine to be baptized; he agreed, then withdrew this consent when the boy recovered.

Augustine turned to wayward ways, and Monica drove him away from her table. She visited a bishop who consoled her with the now famous words, "the child of those tears shall never perish." Monica followed her wayward son to Rome, and Milan, where he had gone secretly. Here she found Ambrose and through him she ultimately had the joy of seeing Augustine convert to Christianity after years of resistance. Monica died six months later at Ostia, the port near Rome.



ST. AUGUSTINE (354-430)
AUGUST 28

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in Algeria. He was the son of Monica and Patricius, a Roman African, early Christian theologian and philosopher from whose writings influenced the development of Western Christianity and Western philosophy. He was the bishop of Hippo Regius in north Africa and is viewed as one of the most important Church Fathers in Western Christianity. Among his most important works are *The City of God*, *On Christian Doctrine* and *Confessions*.

Believing that the grace of Christ was indispensable to human freedom, he helped formulate the doctrine of original sin and made seminal contributions to the development of just war theory.

Augustine is recognized as a saint in the Catholic Church, the Eastern Christian Church, and the Anglican Communion and as a Doctor of the Church. His memorial is celebrated on 28 August, the day of his death. Augustine is the patron saint of brewers, printers, theologians, the alleviation of sore eyes, and a number of cities and dioceses.

