

# Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



## The Fourth Glorious Mystery

### The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin



#### Method of meditation

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) **Memory:** firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) **Intelligence (knowledge of God):** secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) **Will (love of God):** finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) **Memory:** read slowly the **text from St. John Damascene** (page 2).
- 2) **Intelligence:** read and think longer about the **first series of considerations upon the this text** (page 3).
- 3) **Will:** read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the teaching of this text (page 4).

**End by** reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

## 1. St. John Damascene on the Assumption of Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary did not on this day return to dust. For no sinful propensity ever inclined her towards the earth. No, the sentiments of her heart were ever directed upward towards Heaven. And since she had long since become a living Heaven, it was proper that she should be assumed into Heaven. Why should she have to taste death from whom was born the true Life of All? Still she submits to the general law of death, since it was promulgated by her Son. As a daughter of Eve she submits to the ancient decree, as indeed her Son who is the Life Itself, submitted to it. But, in as much as she is the Mother of the Living God, she was worthy to be taken up to Him.

Eve harkened to the inspiration of the serpent. The pains of motherhood and of death are therefore her punishment and in the gloomy dungeons of Limbo she is appointed a dwelling. But the Blessed Mother of Christ harkened to the word of God and then the efficacious might of the Holy Ghost descended upon her. After the angelic salutation she conceived in a virginal manner the Son of the Most High. She bore Him without any pain and devoted herself thereafter without reserve to the Incarnate God. How could she become the prey of the ravages of death? Why should she have to descend into the penal dungeons of the afterlife? How could decomposition claim the possession of that body in which the life of our Life was conceived? Rather a direct, plain, and easy path to Heaven was prepared for her. Did not Christ, the Truth and the Life, Himself say: "Where I am, there also my minister shall be." How much more should not Christ's very own Mother be in Heaven where Christ is (Second Sermon, On the Assumption).

## 2. Considerations

### 1st series

1. I stand in spirit at the death-bed of the Mother of God in Jerusalem. She is tormented by no physical pain; simply the longing to be with her Divine Son is consuming her earthly tenement of flesh.
2. The Mother of God dies the most beautiful of deaths. Here, there is no disquiet of any kind of guilt to distress her last hours. Her life from her Immaculate Conception to her death lies stainless before her eyes. It has been adorned with the most resplendent virtues through the closest possible union with God. It has led her oh! so often through the way of the cross and of humiliation. For one who has led such a beautiful and fruitful life, death can have no terrors.
3. Mary dies without pain as gently as ripe fruit falls from the tree. Her soul ascends on high to exultant union with God.
4. Her sacred body St. John lovingly consigns to the grave. I stand in spirit at Mary's tomb. The earth has lost the dearest of all mothers,—no, not lost, for least of all in Heaven will this Mother forget her children.
5. Mary's body will not see corruption, for never has the stain of sin inclined her towards the dust, as is the case with me.
6. From this body the Son of God assumed flesh and blood. Hence, it was as little possible for the holy body of Mary to be delivered over to corruption as it was for the body of Jesus, her Divine Son.
7. Christ awakens His Blessed Mother to a new life. He endows her with a most glorious transfiguration, while angels bear her on high into Heaven.

## 2nd series

8. I rejoice exceedingly, O my heavenly Mother, at the sublime privilege that has fallen to thy lot! To us thou hast brought supernatural life. Hence thou shouldst not be subject to the law of corporal dissolution: thy deserts are incorruptibility and eternal glory.
9. O Mary, assist me through thy intercession to journey through life without reproach in the way that leads to Heaven. Help me to make my life rich in prayer and union with God and fruitful in good works. Help me, through resignation to God's Will, to transform the thorns of tribulation into the roses of eternal merit.
10. O Mother of God! Assist me at the hour of my death, receive my poor soul, and lead it with a plea for clemency to thy Divine Son, my judge.

## Resolution

My resolution: I shall be continually ready for death by a life of virtue in union with Our Lord. O Lord, transform my heart and fill it with the desire to possess Thee in Heaven for ever.