

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

August 15, 2021

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab † 1 Corinthians 15:20–27 † Luke 1:39–56



Reflection by: Sister Barbara Moore, OP

“And Mary remained with her for about three months and returned to her home.”

— Luke 1

This Feast invites thought-provoking questions. We are left to wonder, to envision, to relate. What was Mary’s everyday life like in those infant Church Communities? Where did she live? Tradition tells us that John took care of her. Was she ever “OLD” by her cultural norms? How old was she really when she died? Two empty tombs, one in Jerusalem and the other in Ephesus leave us still with questions. An image of Mary that reflects the evolving aging process is hard to find! Mary shapes the understory inviting us to contemplate, relate and fill in for ourselves.

Layers of oral tradition, artistic rendering and spiritual experiences help shape one’s own relationship with Mary. She can personify for each of us glimpses at times in our own life journey. Simple faith draws strength from her simple graced-filled life.

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary has come down to us through centuries of oral tradition in a unique timely fashion for the faith needs for each century. Pius XII, in 1950, affirmed our long tradition of the Assumption. It could only be that Jesus would gather his Mother to himself.