

From My Rectory Window...



It was truly heartwarming to see the devotion of our Parishioners who had gathered on August 14/15th to mark the Assumption of Our Lady. Many wore blue and even brought beautiful bunches of flowers to put around the special shrine that we erected for the Feast. The singing was wonderful and it was obvious that they had “gotten into” the spirit of this great and glorious feast. It was St. Bernard the Cistercian Monk who was a great devotee of Our Lady who said “De Maria nunquam satis” (of Mary we can never say enough). At the beginning of my homily, I was really delighted that when I started, rather spontaneously to sing one of the “oldies, but goodies” at least in the devotional hymn category: many in the congregation chimed right in on *“Mother dear O Pray for me, whilst far from Heaven and Thee. I wander in a fragile bark o’r’e life’s tempestuous sea”*. No one had better complain about the corporate memory of our good parishioners who belted out this definite 1930s hymn like they had sung it yesterday. If it was possible to have great fun during Mass, we certainly had it as a community of believers, even for those who did not know the hymn but got a kick out of us seniors singing with abandon. I know Our Lord and His Holy Mother were certainly pleased. So many were touched at our modest attempt to honor she who is “higher than the Cherubim”. I think that the Assumption is certainly my favorite of the Marian feasts. You probably noticed the lack of festive bells in the back-ground playing hymns and sounding a call to worship. Well, it seems that the last really big storm which came with lightning and high wind literally fried our loud speakers and the equipment with it. So, we can add this to our list of things which were affected by the storm (TVs, computers phones, sensors etc.) and hopefully our insurance will kick in. There’s never a dull moment. Thanks for so many of you who assisted Sister Maria from the Seton Hill Sisters of Charity (outside of Pittsburgh) in being so generous to their great apostolate of Charity and social service all over the world. Devotees of the Blessed Mother will be happy that we will mark the “octave day” (8th day) since the Assumption with the annual procession in honor of the Queenship of our Lady, (Tuesday, August 22nd) beginning at 4:00 P.M. in the Chapel with devotions and then an outdoor procession with Our Lady’s Statue (weather permitting). The Rosary will be recited and there will be Eucharistic Benediction at the end of the service. Come bring your rosary and join us. Now that Assumption is over well you know what that means! Christmas Shopping of course! I always do this very early as things have a way of getting very wild closer to the Feast of the Lord’s birth (and this year the way the calendar falls is going to be a real challenge). Actually, I am almost done. It is really good to do these things whether early or not, as they cover and relive a multitude of stress, wear and tear in the “ordinary” give and take of life. I think of giving in this way as an occasion to receive special graces, because what you give in the Lord’s name always returns to you. It always makes me so happy! But I promise not to hang any lights until the 17th of December at the earliest! Enjoying the rest of the summer with you and looking forward to the colorful autumn with its swirling leaves.

Your Pastor and servant:

Father Pat Papalia