

Dear friends in Christ,
This week we continue this series of homilies given by Pope Leo XIV. Today, I want to share with you excerpts of a homily given last Sunday to an enormous crowd of youth gathered in Rome for the jubilee of young people:

...We too, dear friends, are made this way, we are made for this. We are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and static, but for an existence that is constantly renewed through gift of self in love. This is why we continually aspire to something "more" that no created reality can give us; we feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy. Knowing this, let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations! Let us rather listen to them! Let us turn this thirst into a step stool, like children who stand on tiptoe, in order to peer through the window of encounter with God. We will then find ourselves before him, who is waiting for us, knocking gently on the window of our soul (cf. Rev 3:20). It is truly beautiful, especially at a young age, to open wide your hearts, to allow him to enter, and to set out on this adventure with him towards eternity.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on his intense search for God, asked himself: "What, then, is the object of our hope [...] Is it the earth? No. Is it something that comes from the earth, such as gold, silver, trees, crops, or water [...] These things are pleasing, these things are beautiful, these things are good" (Sermon 313/F, 3). And the conclusion he reached was: "Seek the one who made them, he is your hope" (ibid.). Thinking of his own journey, he prayed, saying: "You [Lord] were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you [...] You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you (cf. Ps 34:8; 1 Pt 2:3) now I hunger and thirst for more (cf. Mt 5:6; 1 Cor 4:11); you touched me, and I burned for your peace" (Confessions, 10, 27)....

...There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom and mediocrity?

In recent days, you have had many beautiful experiences. You have met other young people from different parts of the world and from diverse cultures. You have exchanged knowledge, shared expectations and entered into dialogue with the city through art, music, technology and sport. At the Circus Maximus, you also approached the Sacrament of Penance and received God's forgiveness, asking for his help to live a good life.

Through all this, you can grasp an important point: the fullness of our existence does not depend on what we store up or, as we heard in the Gospel, on what we possess (cf. Lk 12:13-21). Rather, fullness has to do with what we joyfully welcome and share (cf. Mt 10:8-10; Jn 6:1-13). Buying, hoarding and consuming are not enough. We need to lift our eyes, to look upwards, to the "things that are above" (Col 3:2), to realize that everything in the world has meaning only insofar as it serves to unite us to God and to our brothers and sisters in charity, helping us to grow in "compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience" (Col 3:12), forgiveness (cf. ibid., v. 13) and peace (cf. Jn 14:27), all in imitation of Christ (cf. Phil 2:5). And in this way we will grow in an ever deeper understanding of what it means that hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (cf. Rom 5:5).

*Dear young people, Jesus is our hope. It is he, as Saint John Paul II said, "who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives [...] to commit... to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal." (XV World Youth Day, Prayer Vigil, 19 August 2000). Let us remain united to him, let us remain in his friendship, always, cultivating it through prayer, adoration, Eucharistic Communion, frequent Confession, and generous charity, following the examples of Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis who will soon be declared saints. Aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. You will then see the light of the Gospel growing every day, in you and around you. **POPE LEO XIV***

THANK YOU FR WILLIAMS, SJ !

This coming week we say farewell to Fr. Michael Williams, SJ who has been such a great help these past few weeks.

We have been so blessed by his presence, his ministry and his preaching. Please join me in thanking him for his ministry among us this summer. We are so grateful for priesthood. This year he celebrates 50 years of service as a priest. Congratulations and ad multos annos! May the Lord continue to bless his service to the Church as a Jesuit and in particular his teaching at Springhill College in Alabama.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY IS FRIDAY

This coming Friday we celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary body and soul into heaven. Please join us for this important Holy Day celebrating the special grace she was given by the Lord.

Blessings on your week!
Fr. Johnson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, August 11

9:00 AM Daily Mass
10:00 AM Women of Faith
7:00 PM Baptism Preparation Class

Tuesday, August 12

No Daily Mass

Wednesday, August 13

8:30 AM Confessions
9:00 AM Daily Mass
11:00 AM Funeral Mass for Jean Schindler
7:00 PM House of Prayer

Thursday, August 14

9:00 AM Daily Mass
12:15 PM Steps to Freedom
1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle

Friday, August 15

**SOLEMNITY OF THE
ASSUMPTION OF MARY**
A Holy Day of Obligation

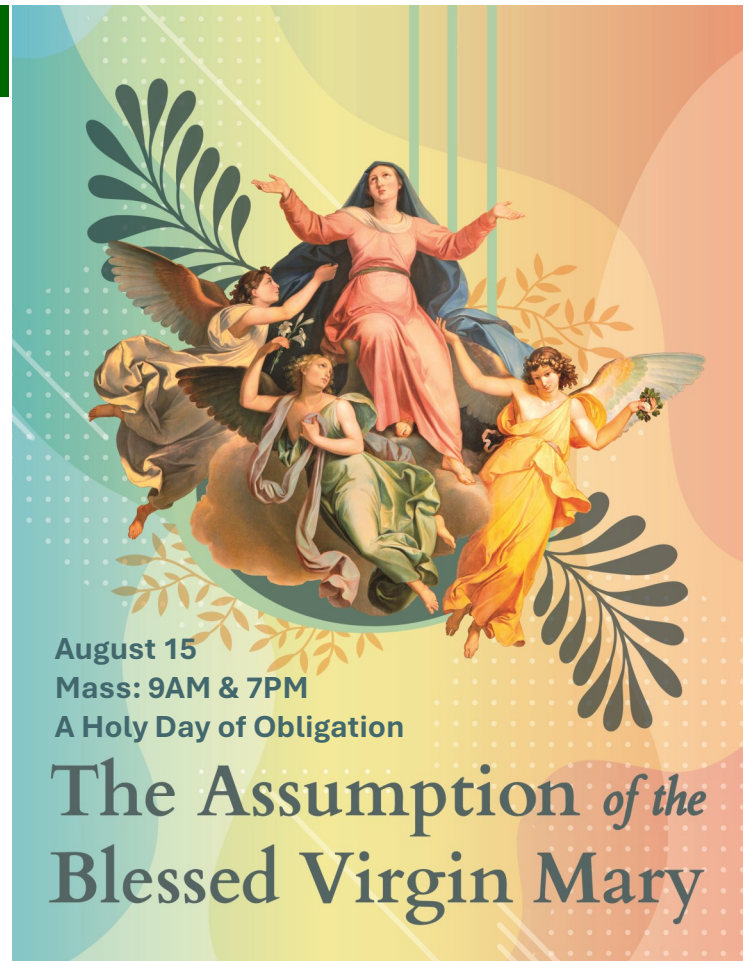
9:00 AM Assumption of Mary Mass
Benediction, then Adoration,
ending early at 6PM
7:00 PM Assumption of Mary Mass
8:00 PM Ice Cream Social in Parish Hall

Saturday, August 16

3:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass

Sunday, August 17

9:00 AM Sunday Mass
11:00 AM Sunday Mass



Adoration Schedule Change:

Adoration on August 15, 2025 will end early at 6PM. Join us for Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 7PM.

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