

# Prem



# Lahar

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**Dear Sisters,**

## **Love and Greetings from Pachmarhi!**

Soon we will be celebrating the glorious Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary's Assumption into heaven. And again 15<sup>th</sup> August is a precious and memorable day for us Indians spread all over the globe. As we celebrate these double festal days, let us reminisce some valuable thoughts and inspirations.

St. Alphonsus de Liguori whose feast we celebrated recently is one among the saints who writes that Mary died for sheer longing and love of the Savior. Below is a quotation from his seventh discourse, "The Assumption of Mary":



"And now death came; not indeed clothed in mourning and grief, as it does to others, but adorned with light and gladness. But what do we say? Why speak of death? Let us rather say that divine love came, and cut the thread of that noble life. And as a light, before going out, gives a last and brighter flash than ever, so did this beautiful creature, on hearing her Son's invitation to follow him, wrapped in the flames of love, and in the midst of her loving sighs, give a last sigh of still more ardent love, and breathing forth her soul, expired. Thus was that great soul, that

beautiful dove of the Lord, loosened from the bands of this life; thus did she enter into the glory of the blessed, where she is now seated, and will be seated, Queen of Paradise, for all eternity." *Glories*, p. 420

Let us now consider how our Savior went forth from heaven to meet his Mother. On first meeting her, and to console her, he said: *Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come, for winter is now past and gone.* (Liguori uses the imagery from the Song of Songs 2:10) Come, my own dear Mother, my pure and beautiful dove; leave that valley of tears, in which, for my love, you have suffered so much. *Come from Lebanon, my spouse, come from Lebanon, come: You shall be crowned.* (Songs of Songs 4:8) Come in, soul and body, to enjoy the reward of your holy life. If your sufferings have been great on earth, far greater is the glory which I have prepared for you in heaven. Enter, then, that kingdom, and take your seat near me; come to receive that crown which I will bestow on you as Queen of the universe. *Glories*, p. 427

The humble and holy Virgin, then kneeling, adored the divine Majesty, and all absorbed in the consciousness of her own nothingness, thanked him for all the graces bestowed upon her by his pure goodness, and especially for having made her the Mother of the Eternal Word. And then let him who can, comprehend with what love the Most Holy Trinity blessed her. Let him comprehend the welcome given to his daughter by the Eternal Father, to his Mother by the Son, to his spouse by the Holy Spirit. The Father crowned her by imparting his power to her; the Son, his wisdom; the Holy Spirit, his love.

Liguori continues by asking us to rejoice with Mary because God exalted her in such a way. But the saint also invites us to rejoice on our own account, "for though our Mother is no longer present with us on earth ... yet in affection she is always with us." (*Glories*, p. 436)

So dear sisters let us pledge our lives in the loving motherly care and protection of our blessed mother who continues to walk with us in our daily trifles of life and love her immensely. For her affection is always with us and will never abandon us.

### **Wish you a Very Happy Feast of Assumption of our Blessed Mother Mary.**

**15<sup>th</sup> August is a very special day for the nation and its people.**

Going through various adversaries of our country, we still need to pray that beautiful song composed by the greatest poet of all times, Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore: "Into that heaven of freedom my Father, Let my country awake."

We are well aware of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution

*We, The People Of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens:*

- *Justice, social, economic and political;*
- *Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;*
- *Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all*
- *Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation.*

The future, progress, and development of our great country do not depend solely on technological advancements but on how we build social cohesion and trust between our nation and its people. Let's continue building a great nation we can all rely on and be proud of.

As a nation, we need good leaders who we can trust—the kind of leaders who always put the public's wellbeing above their political or personal interests so that the yearnings and aspirations of the common people can be realized.

Every citizen should have a sense of belonging wherever they find themselves. May all our politicians rise to the great task of building trust between the people and the nation so we can have peace and stability in our country.

Freedom does not come so easily. We are all indebted to our national heroes who made this country what it is today. As patriotic citizens, let's put extra effort into performing our own civic responsibilities. Our diversity should not be seen as a weakness but as our greatest strength. It is only by working together that we can build a resilient and thriving nation.

Let us live in hope and with faith in the goodwill of people let us say “we shall overcome, some day”.

**HAPPY  
INDEPENDENCE DAY!**



**Wish you all a very Happy Independence  
Day.**

Yours affectionately

Sr. Maurice George

Sister Provincial,  
Province of Pachmarhi

