

PASTORAL REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

At the Vigil Mass for the Assumption this weekend, we hear the story of King David restoring the Ark of the Covenant to a structure called the Tent of the Presence. The Ark doesn't serve quite the same purpose as today's tabernacle because the Israelites never presumed that God was INSIDE the Ark. Rather, God sat ON the Ark as if it were a throne, and the Ark's presence reminded Israel that God dwelled among them.

The Church describes Mary as Ark of the Covenant because within her body in some wondrous way she contained the Divine Indwelling. Uniquely prepared as an earthly residence for God, Mary now enjoys a special place prepared FOR HER by God. We, the Church, revere and celebrate her for this among other things, on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

I like to think of St. Cronan as a kind of Ark of the Covenant in this same sense with the ways it speaks to us of God's Indwelling among us:

--in the welcome we try consciously to extend to those who come to us in need and/or to share their gifts with us.

--in the beautiful and carefully planned liturgical experiences we enjoy together.

--in the caring community we make every effort to nurture and celebrate here.

--and in the way each of us comes to be part of the Mystical Body of Christ, to grow in Christ, and to be Christ together for each other and for those who are touched by our lives.

Let us thank God for this priceless gift!

Sister Chabanel Mathison, O.S.U.