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## St. Mary by the Sea Catholic Church

PO Box 390 275 S Pacific Street Rockaway Beach OR 97136

**August 15, 2021**

*We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.*



### Reflection from Father Angelo

Are you an authentic christian in thought, word and deed? This is a fundamental question that needs proper reflection and discernment. When I try to answer the question, I hesitate and feel ashamed. As I have mentioned in my homily a few weeks ago, to say we are christians is the highest honor we can give ourselves. It is boldly proclaiming that our identity is attached profoundly to Christ. Therefore, our very being should be centered on and glorify God.

This weekend, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When I look at our Blessed Mother, the image of a perfect disciple comes to mind. She shows us the way to authentic christianity. Even the celebration of her assumption to heaven points to the power of God. Her assumption to heaven teaches us that it is not her own doing but God's. This is the subtle difference between Jesus' ascension and Mary's assumption. Jesus, being the second person of the Trinity ascended on his own back to the Father. Mary, on the other hand, was assumed, by God's power, to heaven. Until the end, Mary has always known her role and place in God's plan of salvation. Her action and mission always points to God.

Authentic christianity teaches us that everything we do should point to the real presence of God in our lives. We can't call ourselves christians and be uncharitable in our words and actions. We can't be christians if our actions don't mirror or at least attempt to emulate Jesus who we receive in the Eucharist. Mahatma Gandhi's words should pose as a challenge for us. "I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." As we celebrate our Blessed Mother's feast. Let us learn to follow her example of humility, gentleness and charity. May everything we do, always proclaim the greatness of the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our savior.