

4.9.79: 10.0 p.m.

Supplement to ARCIC 211 Infallibility/2

Appendix

To complement the Anglican question about the definability of the two Marian dogmas it is important for the whole Commission to explain the Roman Catholic understanding of these definitions. The Marian dogmas are inseparably connected with the mystery of the salvation given by and through the person of Christ. The affirmation of Immaculate Conception indicates that the salvation won by Christ was operative among mankind before the birth of Jesus. The affirmation of the Assumption of Mary indicates that the life of the world to come has already broken into the life of our world.

The two dogmas are meant to present Mary as a prophetic figure of the Church of God, that is of the Church both before and after the incarnation. The righteous of the epoch of the Old Testament were saved by the redemption of the coming Christ and they were at the same time instruments through which God prepared for Christ's coming.

For the Catholic faith it is the conjunction of these two elements which is given and signified in Mary. These unique privileges come solely from the redemptive act of Christ. At the same time Mary provides for the Son of God that humanity which God willed.

The resurrection of Christ marked a new beginning in human history, expressed in the Church from Pentecost. The intimate association of Mary with the glory of her Son by her Assumption is the full manifestation of the future glory of which the Church now possesses a foretaste - the two dogmas are the official expression of the devotion of the people of God towards the Mother of God in her relation to the whole mystery of the Church.

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