

**Objective**

The children will understand that Mary went to heaven body and soul.

**Catechist Notes**

Pentecost is the last time the Bible mentions Mary by name. It's assumed that she either lived in Jerusalem, or went with Saint John to Ephesus. The doctrine of the Assumption is that when Mary's life was ended, she was taken to heaven body and soul. This doctrine was declared in 1950, although the church had believed it for centuries. The eastern church calls the passing of Mary the *dormition* or sleeping away.

**Materials**

- SEEDS
- SCISSORS AND TAPE OR GLUE
- GREEN CHENILLE STICKS
- GREEN AND YELLOW CONSTRUCTION PAPER
- COPIES OF ACTIVITY SHEET 16 ON HEAVY WHITE PAPER

**Activity**

- 1 Show seeds and compare their death to ours.
  - Have you ever planted seeds? What did they become?
  - A seed must die before it becomes a plant with flowers, fruit, or vegetables.
  - We too have to die in order to have new, eternal life.
  - At the end of the world, our bodies will be reunited with our souls. They will be glorified like the risen body of Jesus was.
- 2 Introduce the Assumption.
  - At the end of her life, Mary was taken immediately to heaven, body and soul. We say she was "assumed" into heaven.
  - The Assumption of Mary is a doctrine of the faith. We celebrate it on August

15, which is a holy day of obligation.

- Imagine how happy Mary was to see her Son, Jesus, again and know they would never be separated.
  - We too hope to see Jesus in heaven someday just as Mary has done.
- 3 Tell a legend about Mary's death.
    - There is a lovely legend about Mary's death. In the story, an angel tells Mary that she will be brought to heaven in three days. Mary asks for the apostles to be with her at her death. Miraculously, they all arrive in time. When they bury Mary, Jesus appears, and angels take her to heaven. One version says that the apostle Thomas was late. When the apostles take him to Mary's tomb and open it, instead of her body, they find roses and lilies.
  - 4 Distribute Activity Sheet 15. Guide the children in making lilies. You might display the lilies on a bulletin board to represent Mary's empty tomb.

**Prayer**

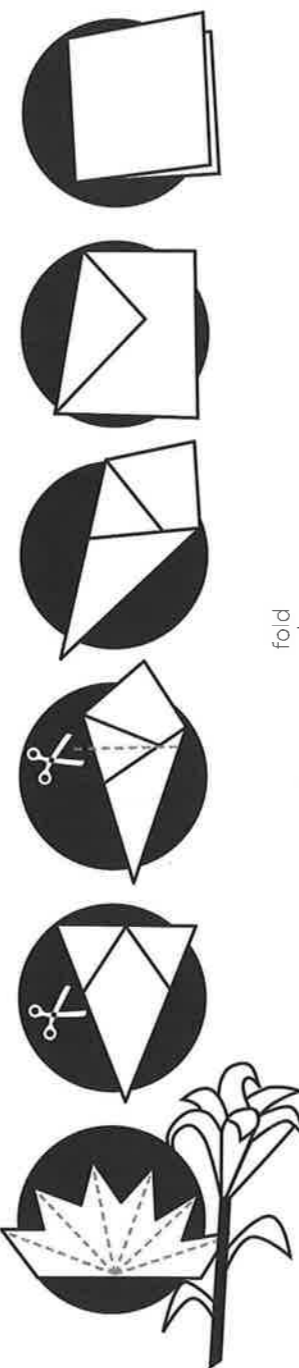
*Jesus, your mother was the first to be with you body and soul. May I live in such a way that I will join you some day.*

## Mary's Assumption

The lily is a symbol for Mary. Its pure white color reminds us that she is without sin. The gold stamens represent her royalty. Make a lily.

**DIRECTIONS**

- 1 Cut out the rectangle and fold it in half.
- 2 Fold the folded left side over on a diagonal one third of the way and then fold the right side over this.
- 3 At the bottom of the valley at the top, cut a straight line and remove the top piece.
- 4 Cut a peak at the top and open the paper.
- 5 Curl each petal by pulling it between a scissor blade and your thumb.
- 6 Tape the two end petals together.
- 7 Out of yellow paper cut three stamens like matchsticks and insert them and the stem, a green chenille stick, into the lily.
- 8 Cut leaves from green paper, and tape or glue them to the stem.



fold