



Celebrating the Feast of St. Mary Magdalen – July 25, 2021
First Reading: Song of Songs 3:1-4b
Second Reading: 2nd Letter of St. Paul to Corinthians 5:14-17
Gospel: John 20:1-2, 11-18

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

*Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher.
Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord," and then reported what he told her. (John 20:16-18)*

As we celebrate the Feast of the Apostle to the Apostles, let us love and follow Jesus as she did, come to him for healing as she did, support the Gospel out of our resources as she did, stand by his cross as she did, and go gladly where he sends us. St. Mary Magdalen, pray for us!

- Easter is victory of life over death, light over darkness, goodness over evil. For Mary Magdalen, great joy follows great sorrow. Can you recall a Good Friday event in your life from which good and blessing came?
- Tombs are everywhere. Tombs that entrap us, tombs we dare not approach – and sometimes tombs that we hide in. Because of the empty tomb marking Resurrection...because we believe that Christ conquered death...Can we also say in our lives: Guilt doesn't have the last word in our lives. Injustice doesn't have the last word. Addictions don't have the last word. Pain doesn't have the last word. Despair doesn't have the last word. Death doesn't have the last word. Because we know that death is not the end, because St. Mary Magdalen told us that "He is Risen" – do we approach our "tombs" differently?
- Before and after the Cross; before and after Easter Sunday ... In terms of mission: How did the resurrection of Jesus change Mary? How did the Resurrection of Jesus change the disciples? How does the Resurrection Good News make your job easier to go on mission to share Christ's saving story?
- In further reading of the Gospel of John, we are presented with three eyewitnesses who have seen the resurrected Jesus. Each one of the eyewitnesses did not expect to see Jesus alive. In fact, each of them needed to be convinced that Jesus had really overcome death. They all provide convincing proof that Jesus is alive and what his resurrection can do in the hearts and minds of people. The resurrection of Jesus can change everything. Complete these statements:

I will allow the resurrection of Jesus to change _____ about my life.

I want to use the power of the resurrection of Jesus to help _____ see that hope is not lost if you let Jesus be your hope.

Saint Mary Magdalen, pray for us. Disciple of Our Lord pray for us. Apostle to the apostles, pray for us.