

MORNING MEDITATION

Saint Mary Magdalene

Serenity is present deep within us and at the depth of all creation here and now. All we need is to wake up to it.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Paul says, “the love of Christ impels us” – the love of Christ became the moving force in the life of Paul. This love, he says, makes us a “new creation”, with a new life style. This is God’s gift of reconciliation and peace. In Jesus, God has reconciled us to himself so that we may become “the very holiness of God”. How awesome and how challenging!

Be faithful to your calling! You have been reconciled and called to the “very holiness of God”!

Psalm 63

**O God, you are my God whom I seek;
For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts,
Like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.**

John 20:1-2, 11-18

Mary of Magdala wept, standing by the tomb of Jesus. She saw two angels through her tears.....behind her stood Jesus whom she did not recognize. She was afraid, she wept, she did not understand the scriptures.....But she recognized the voice of Jesus, the one she loved much.

Our ability to recognize the voice of Jesus depends on how much we have listened to him, known him and loved him. We recognize the voice of the one we love!

Jesus tells Mary not to hang on to him, but to go and announce the good news to the disciples. She went and she proclaimed: “I have seen the Lord”.

It is up to us, Easter people, people of the resurrection, people of hope to proclaim the good news today! We are called to deepen our experience of the risen Lord and are sent to share the good news with the world around us!

Saint of the day, July 22 - St. Mary Magdalene and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

Mary was from Magdala, a fishing town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus healed her of physical and spiritual illness and that she was one of the women who traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry "out of their resources" (Luke 8). According to the four canonical gospels, she traveled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion and resurrection. She is mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles and more than any other non-family woman in the Gospels.

Many scenes from the Gospels tell us that Mary had an intense devotion to Jesus. The Gospel of John tells us that Mary was one of those who stood by the cross as Jesus hung on the cross and that she went to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning on the first day of the week, found the tomb empty, ran to tell the disciples what she found, returned to the tomb and wept, met the risen Lord and became the messenger of the good news of the resurrection to the disciples of Jesus. All four gospels identify her as the first to witness the empty tomb and the first to witness Jesus's resurrection. For these reasons, Mary Magdalene is known in some Christian traditions as the apostle to the apostles.

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