

## Reflection Wednesday Week 17 – St Martha 2020

We are more familiar with the gospel where Martha complains about Mary leaving her to do all the preparation for the meal only to be told that Mary has chosen the better part. Jesus might have changed his mind if Martha had joined Mary and he ended up with nothing to eat!! Today we learn the true character of Mary who publicly declares that Jesus is truly the Son of God, well before the apostles and disciples, except for Peter. She is a good model for us. She is unafraid to challenge Jesus but also willing to accept his response. She is a woman of deep faith and has the courage to proclaim it openly, with conviction and without shame.

**Pope Francis:** *Calling Mary Magdalene by name after his resurrection, Jesus shows us just how personal his relationship is with humankind. Mary then becomes an apostle of hope for the world, announcing the Lord's rising. The revolution of her life was destined to transform the existence of every man and woman, which begins with a name that echoes in the garden of the empty tomb. How beautiful to think that the first appearance of the Risen One took place in such a personal way! That there is someone who knows us, who sees our suffering and delusion, who is moved by us, and who calls us by name. After finally realizing who is speaking to her, Mary wanted to embrace Jesus, but he needs to return to the heavenly Father. Jesus invited her to bring the announcement to her brothers. So that woman, who is the first to encounter Jesus ... has now become an apostle of the new and greatest hope. Mary is "a woman of easy enthusiasm," who after seeing the empty tomb runs back to the apostles disappointed by what she saw. God, however, surprises her in the most unexpected way. She not only didn't notice the presence of two angels questioning her, but neither does she recognize Jesus, mistaking him for the gardener. Instead, she discovers the most incredible event in human history when finally, he calls her by name. Every person has a story of love that God writes for them on earth, calling each one by name. He knows us by name, he watches over us, he waits for us, he forgives us, he is patient with us. There is a God close to us who calls us by name and says: 'Rise, cease your tears, because I have come to free you!' Our God is not inert, but dreams of the transformation of the world, and he realized it in the mystery of the Resurrection. Mary Magdalen's example is one of hope, and her intercession helps us live the experience of the Resurrection, because "at the time of tears and abandonment, she hears the Risen Jesus who now calls us by name. With a heart full of joy let us, too, announce: **I have seen the Lord!**"*

**Bicycles are now the rage . . . .**

- **I used to pray every night for a bicycle.** Then I realized the Lord doesn't work like that. So, I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness!!!
- The guy who built my bicycle wheels also does commercials for the shop. He's a **spokesperson.**

