

Reflection Thursday Week 17 Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus 2021

In Bethany, Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, and the Gospel of John stresses that he loved them. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death. The three siblings gave an “important evangelical witness” by “welcoming Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life.” Martha is associated with the active works of hospitality and charity — no mean feat when Jesus arrives with 12 apostles, hungry and sweaty from the trip, in need of food and washing. Mary, we associate with contemplation and being attentive and receptive to the Lord’s words; being told by Jesus she had chosen the “better part.” If Martha is active, and Mary receptive, Lazarus appears to be the passive one. Lazarus does nothing in the Gospels that we might emulate, says nothing that might inspire us. He reminds us though, in his passivity, that God’s love and the gift of life are God’s initiative not ours, and that discipleship begins with God who loves us first, and who grants us the gift of life before we can even be passive or receptive, let alone active. Summer time is often family time, and this feast highlights the family aspect of Jesus’ life. We celebrate a family home where Jesus was loved and welcomed. We pray that all homes will be open and welcoming to Jesus.

Dear God, give us wisdom to make the best choices for our family.

Give us grace to trust in you even when we don’t see immediate answers.

Give us hope to carry on in spite of the circumstances around us.

We thank you for your constant care and peace. Amen.

- Good mums let you lick the beaters. Great mums turn them off first.
- After nearly 50 years, my grandmother has finally forced grandfather to stop biting his nails. She hid his teeth.