

Daily Homily
St. Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles
Feast
Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time, Thursday
22 July 2021
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Next to Mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, is the next woman whose praises are sung in the Scriptures and whose presence is honored by the Church.

When it comes to the Resurrection, we really do not have any of the details of the event. When it comes to the birth of Christ, we have many elements going on ... a census, Mary and Joseph headed back to Bethlehem, no room at the inn, a manger, swaddling clothes, shepherds, angels, kings, etc. When it comes to the Resurrection, nothing. Jesus is crucified and placed in the tomb. What happens in the tomb, how the stone that covered the tomb was moved, how Jesus stepped out of the tomb – nothing. When the Gospel writers take us back to the tomb all of that has already taken place, somehow and somehow.

What we lack in details about the moment of Resurrection we more than make up for in the details regarding the effects of the Resurrection. It begins with Mary Magdalene. She is in the midst of what she normally should be doing – at the tomb grieving, weeping, there is tremendous loss here. However, the Resurrection has interrupted all that, changed it even. The grave has been robbed – not of Jesus' body – but has been robbed of having the last word, of being a place of finality, of being the end of the line. Great sadness and weeping is turned into joy. Eyes unable to see rightly and recognize the Risen Christ is turned into seeing clearly when her name is called. Wanting to hold onto the moment forever, like the Apostles on the mountain of Transfiguration, she is told to “go,” she is the first to be commissioned to proclaim to the others that “I have seen the Lord.”

What Mary Magdalene saw should help us to rightly see as well. The effects of the Resurrection reach into our own times and into our own days. If it was not for the Resurrection, none of us would be here. But we are here. We do not necessarily need to know what happened in the course of the three days in the tomb, how the stone was rolled away, or how Jesus emerged from that place. What we do know is that it has made all the difference as we continue to live in the light of his Death and Resurrection.

When deadly things seem to encroach on our lives, things out of our control and things that interrupt our own plans, there is still cause for great hope. The Resurrection proclaims that death and anything associated with it, no longer has the last say. The effects of the Resurrection are ongoing and forever, even into eternity.