

Mary of Magdala and the women witnesses of the Risen Lord

"On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb" (Jn 20: 1).

The gospel of Easter day begins with the story of a woman who seeks the Lord, she seeks him even after his death on the cross. Driven by love for him, Mary is the woman who wants to remain still next to the Master and thus heal her inner pain.

However, the Gospel makes us observe that the search is made in the dark, that is when the morning light has not yet descended to the earth. Thus, we can legitimately understand that the love for her Master, whom she had listened, served and followed since the days of his presence in Galilee, had not cooled down and she had not fallen victim to the scandal, in the dark moment of the passion and death of Jesus. In the image of the love of his Mother, she is still a woman with an undivided heart, entirely of her Lord.

At this particular moment, in fact, the women of the circle of Jesus are the ones who keep the torch of faith alive. If we read the gospels carefully we realize that the disciples and almost all the apostles appear lost and incredulous. Even when news from these women that Jesus has truly risen as he had predicted, reaches their ears, they still remain incredulous and lost (cf. Lk 24:11).

The story, the one of Mary of Magdala, is a story similar to that of "many other" women

disciples of the Lord. For example, the Gospel of Mark recalls their courageous presence during the passion and death of Jesus (15:40). It reminds their commitment to service and sequel to the end and above all from the beginning, from the "first day of the week". It reminds of their presence at the beginning of the apparitions of the Risen Lord (16.1-11).

In particular, Mary of Magdala was one of these faithful witnesses. In fact, Mary is the woman who experiences the transforming power of the grace of Christ and who never loses the living memory of Jesus. Even in the pain of his physical absence, she is present. Freed from the terrible imprisonment of sin - St. Luke tells us that seven demons had "come out of her" (cf. Lk 8: 2) - she transformed her debt of love towards God into searching. Healed from her evils and courageous witness of his death on Golgotha next to the Mother and the disciple that Jesus loved, she even becomes the first instrument of the Risen Lord who is opposed to the unbelief of his own apostles. Like his Mother, she is still beside him, she is able to walk in the dark because she is illuminated by the light that her Master had kindled in her. In fact, she is there where the others are not because of their little love and little faith in the words spoken by Jesus. She is there, in the garden, and that is why she receives the grace of being the first announcer of the great novelty of the Risen Lord.

The Church of all times needs these, faithful women disciples. It is no coincidence that Pope Francis recently reminded us: «The Lord wanted to manifest his power and his love through two human faces: that of his divine Son made man and that of a creature who is a woman, Mary. Women give their contribution to the Church according to their own way and by prolonging the strength and tenderness of Mary, his Mother" (Ex. Rev. Querida Amazonia, n.101).

Father Domenico Concolino



Holy Easter of the Lord

Dear in the Lord, to all the Apostolic Movement, which was founded in Catanzaro on November 3, 1979 through my person, I offer joyful wishes in dead and risen Christ, who loved and loves us up to death and death by the cross.

May Easter make us serene and confident.

I have always fond, thought of and loved you in God the Father, God the Son and Holy Spirit God, offering my sufferings.

May the Virgin Mary, Angels and Saints bless our journey.

Best wishes to the Holy Father Pope Francis, who as a loving father guides the Church and urges us to remain united in the same boat of Christ. Let us welcome with love his invitation to live this mo-

ment of suffering with faith and fraternal charity, imitating the good Samaritan. Let us join in prayer for the sick, the health personnel, the deceased and all the needy people.

Best wishes to the Pastors who have followed and guide the Apostolic Movement for a journey of remembrance of the Gospel, especially to our Bishop of this Diocese, H.E. Msgr. Vincenzo Bertolone.

Best wishes to the priests, deacons, lay consecrated women, the president and all adherents who work with humility in the Lord's vineyard.

Let us be united with our hearts and in holy prayer, for nothing is impossible to God.

I love you in the Lord,

Maria Marino

Inspirer of the Apostolic Movement

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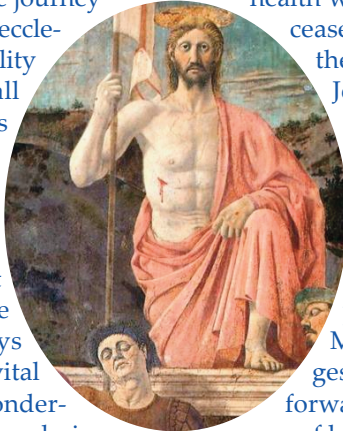
Best wishes from the President of the Apostolic Movement

Dear brothers and sisters of the Apostolic Movement, I do not hide my emotion in formulating you the Holy Easter greetings for the first time. When I joined you on this non-obscurable journey of faith that originated on November 3, 1979, I never thought I could be called to perform the service as President.

My dignity on being it depends on the help you will give me, on the prayers that will keep on supporting the journey of this amazing and saving ecclesial reality and on my humility to welcome and treasure all your precious suggestions and encouragement.

In this Holy Easter period, my wish is that this people of God, animated by the mission entrusted it - "Go, save, convert" - can be the one body that always lives in the balance of the vital functions, constantly, wonderfully resumed thanks to the admirable and humble collaboration among its organs; has the sole objective of announcing and reminding the Gospel; continues its journey in the perfect Church communion and continues to give abundantly the vigour of faith to the Dioceses through priestly vocations, the Secular Institute and the many adherents committed in the various fields of evangelization and witness of charity.

Let us allow our existence to be conquered and transformed by the Resurrection! May the Light of Risen Jesus illuminate our way in the dark moments of our lives.



Let us welcome together, the vigorous and frequent exhortation of the Holy Father Francis to pray so that we can soon overcome this very hard time for humanity, tried by a mysterious and invisible evil, to start again more stoutly and more united than before.

In union with Christ, I invite you to experience the strength of communion and solidarity with all our brothers, in service to the sick and most needy, in proximity to health workers, in prayer for the deceased, supported by the love of the Father, the hope of Risen Jesus, the communion of the Holy Spirit, the heavenly protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption and the Angels and Saints.

Let us pledge a special prayer to our inspirer, Mrs. Maria Marino, who encourages and urges us to move forward with her prayer and the offer of her suffering. A grateful thought goes to our Pastors who guide us with love, in particular to H.E. Bishop Vincenzo Bertolone - benevolent and diligent pastor of the archdiocese in which we have our Central Seat -, to our assistant priests - tangible testimony of the Grace of God and source of evangelical wisdom -, to the deacons, the consecrated lay people and all of you adherents who spend yourselves in the service of the Church.

Happy Easter of Resurrection 2020!

Benedetto Caroleo
President of the Apostolic Movement

The
Lord's Day
ROMAN RITE

THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LORD FROM THE TOMB
(Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord)

THIS MAN GOD RAISED (ON) THE THIRD DAY (Acts 10,34a.37-43) Resurrection, other than a Christological event, is a very high theological reality. God sends his Only Son to earth to offer the man true salvation: returning on being in the truth of his image and likeness with his Creator. The man did not believe in this offer, he preferred to remain the man in the image of Satan. He testified this will by killing the Author and Creator of true life. The Father intervenes with his Holy Spirit and gives life back to his Faithful Servant. He transforms his body from flesh into light, clothes him of his own glory, raises him above the heavens and constitutes him the one and only way for man to go to Him and He to go to man. Here is the great anthropological significance of the resurrection. Whoever wants true salvation, to be a man according to God, might do it only in Christ. Otherwise one remains a man according to Satan, subservient to his power and slavery.

FOR YOU HAVE DIED (Col 3,1-4) The baptized person asserts that he is really dead in Christ, if he leaves the works of the flesh to accomplish the works of the Spirit, if he abandons sin and lives of perfect obedience in the kingdom of light. But Christ not only died, he has risen and ascended into Heaven. Being the baptized the true body of Christ, he also in the body of Christ ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From heaven he must show how the will of the Father is accomplished: bringing his body till up the cross and offering it for the redemption of mankind. If a Christian does not carry out

the life of Christ in his body, does not become "sacramental and real incarnation" of Him on earth, there will be no salvation for humanity. Salvation is from the living body of Christ which is the Christian. The theological anthropology must necessarily be the Christ anthropology, that is Christ-life fully lived by the Christian, that is true body of Christ and must be real life of Him.

SAW THE STONE WAS REMOVED FROM THE TOMB (John 20,1-9) Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb early in the morning to complete the work of embalming the body of the Master. The surprise is great when she sees that the stone had been removed from the tomb. She thinks that Jesus was stolen. Jesus had not been stolen. He had resurrected, just as the Lord had foretold in the prophetic scriptures. Rising, all the ancient promises of the Lord are fulfilled. Jesus is truly the Messiah, the Saviour and the Redeemer of his people. If he is the true Messiah, he is also the Saviour and Redeemer of every man. In him the Father has decided to bless all nations. Not only in Him and through Him, but also with Him, becoming us one life, one body, one truth and one mission. Since the resurrection is real, the fulfillment of the prophecies is real, the mission of Jesus is true; Jesus is true in every word, he is also true in every gift of grace and truth. All the ancient Word of God is in Jesus. In Jesus it is entirely accomplished, in every prophecy. In Christ all has been fulfilled, everything is fulfilled. The Father has to give nothing more to man. He gave everything in the Only Son.

by the theologian,
Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno