

HOLY SATURDAY



As we prepare for the feast of the Resurrection, let us spend this day in prayer with Mary Magdalene. (John 20: 1-18)

I. COURAGE TO BE AT THE “EMPTY TOMB”

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark... (Jn 20:1).

We become aware of what is “still dark” in our lives....

We name the “empty tombs” that we sometimes haunt, the lifeless places where we waste our life.

We silently open ourselves to welcome the One who can flood our darkness with his marvelous light.

(7th Day, Spiritual Journey Retreat)

We call to mind the “dark places” in today’s world.

We recall the letter of our sisters in Haiti, the situation in Gaza or Ukraine and so many places in world where a lot of human pain is endured.

In the silence, we wait in hope...

II. DEPTH OF ENCOUNTER

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" ... And he said to her, "Mary!" (Jn 20: 15, 16) .

In the garden, we hear our name spoken by the Living One:
Jesus alone knows it and has the power to connect us to the deep
current of vitality and freedom that lies deep within us.

(7th Day, Spiritual Journey Retreat)

At this time in your life, what is the "garden" where you seek for Jesus?
What are you looking for? What are the tears and fears that you carry with you in this search?

In the silence, we listen...

III. HOPE AND JOY IN MISSION

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her. (Jn 20:18)

At dawn on Easter Day, Mary met Jesus in the garden: Jesus spoke Mary's name and confided to her the good news of his resurrection. And from then on, Mary lived only to announce... what her eyes had seen and to pronounce the name of the One who, by loving to the end, had definitively conquered death.

(7th Day, Spiritual Journey Retreat)

In the midst of the pervading darkness in today's world, how are we invited to be bearers of the marks of Jesus? How do we concretely live out what we proclaim:

*"strength in weakness
freedom in service
life through death."*

(RSCJ Constitutions #41)



CLOSING PRAYER

May our hearts, O Christ, be like yours, as wide as the world.

Make us great-hearted like you,
that we may carry your love to the ends of the earth.

Give us the grace to discover the depth of your love;
to be aware of our union with all those
who form the world-wide family of your Heart;
and to be grateful for the trust you have placed in our keeping.

O Jesus, be our exemplar in love, our companion in prayer.

Together with all those who thirst for truth and for justice,
and who long for your Spirit, we surrender our lives to you.

Amen.

Mary d'Apice RSCJ

Closing song: [Mary Magdalene - Kathryn Wehr](#)



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