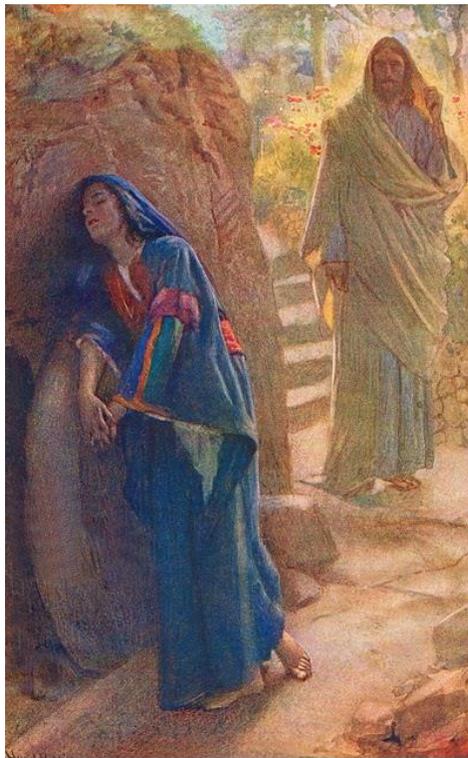


April 14 2020; Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/041420.cfm>

“Why Are You Weeping?”

Two angels at the Tomb asked Mary Magdalene, “*Woman, why are you weeping?*” Moments later Jesus would ask her exactly the same question, “*Woman, why are you weeping?*”



Mary Magdalene and Risen Christ by Harold Copping

Of course, they knew why she was crying: Mary Magdalene loved Jesus in a very special way for having so beautifully and powerfully brought her healing. Her life radically changed by Christ, she followed Him closely in His ministry and was ultimately a personal witness to His brutal execution on the Cross. Now, with her head and heart already swirling with many emotions, Jesus' Body is gone and who knows where they took Him..?! Yes, she had plenty to cry about; but her rollercoaster of emotions was about to take another sudden turn – for in just a few moments there would be tears of joy (and shock!) as she recognized Christ when He called her by name... Indeed, the angels and Jesus understood the cause of Mary's sorrow, but hoped to point her instead to cause for greater Joy...

The rollercoaster ride of the pandemic and our subsequent separation from the Holy Eucharist may elicit our own swirl of emotions. Being separated from the Eucharist, the “source and summit” of our faith is challenging. The words of the Psalmist in today's Morning Prayers say it so well: “*My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary...*” (Ps 63). But as much as we long for Christ in the Eucharist; as much as we, perhaps even like Mary Magdalene, miss His special Presence, we should not weep! -- lest the angels of heaven and Jesus himself say, “Why are you weeping? Let not your heart be troubled! I AM still with you, I AM still in you, even to the end of time!”

My brothers & sisters, may the trials of this time never overshadow our infinitely greater cause for Joy!

Peace,

Dcn Ron