

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Szesnasta Niedziela Zwykła JULY 18, 2021



**Saint John Paul II Polish Center
Ośrodek Polonijny im. Świętego Jana Pawła II**

*Catholic Church in the Diocese of Orange * 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886
tel/fax: 714 - 996 - 8161 * email: polishcenter@sbcglobal.net * website: www.polishcenter.org*

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My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

— John 10:27

SHEPHERDS FOR TODAY

In much of Western society there is a crisis of authority nowadays. Merely being placed in charge no longer ensures unquestioning obedience. The ideal leader today is one who can win respect and generate trust, one with an obvious sense of responsibility, who can get things done while respecting other people's dignity and feelings. Shepherds in faith are people of integrity who care for others (Jeremiah); people who help us follow the right path (Psalm), and show compassion toward others in their weakness (Gospel). The shepherd image does not apply only to bishops as the official "pastors" in succession to the apostles, or to the local pastors in the parish. The shepherd role applies in one way or another to all kinds of leadership, in the household and social spheres as well as in matters of faith. We are invited today by God's word to examine what sort of leadership we ourselves provide for others.

The shepherds condemned by Jeremiah were the leaders who neglected their responsibilities and let abuses thrive. His message today might be to political figures, ministers and government officials at all levels, who have the task of keeping public order, defending the rights of citizens and promoting fairness for all, insofar as possible. The shepherd image suggests that authority is not mainly the power to impose rules. The shepherding role is one of service more than dominion. Its goal is to set a good direction and enable a community to live together in peace, where each individual has dignity and an equal chance of personal fulfilment.

Besides the official leaders of Church and State, many others must offer pastoral leadership at a local and domestic level. Parents and teachers are the most obvious examples of this. In practice it is they who help to develop a child's character, laying the foundations for growth into adult maturity. They pass on values by which young people can live, and foster qualities that can grow over the years. For this they need the sensitivity and compassion shown by Jesus in today's Gospel. "He had compassion for them and began to teach them many things."

CONTEMPLATIVE MOMENTS

In July many are in the middle of their annual holidays. We all need a break from our routine, whatever that routine might be. Most of the time we go on holidays with somebody, or we go away to stay with somebody. Most of us like to be with others when we are away from our routine. In the gospel we find Jesus taking his disciples away together for a period of rest and quiet. They have had a busy time and were full of all they had done and taught and wanted to share it all with Jesus. He suggests a change of pace and of location, to take them away to a quiet place, where they could rest. This was to be a time of reflection in the company of Jesus, a time when they

did nothing except be present to each other and to the Lord.

The second part of today's Gospel proclaims another value. The lonely place suddenly became a crowded place, even before Jesus and his disciples had reached the place. Jesus and his disciples stepped out of the boat not into quietness and peace but into human need and demand. We want to be alone and we are inundated with people. Jesus and his disciples experienced a major interruption to what they were intending. Interruptions are part of all our lives, and as one writer put it, God is often to be found in the interruptions. Jesus responded to the interruption by become completely present to it. He did not try to avoid the crowd or to send them away; he became fully present to them. In the words of the gospel, 'he took pity on them', 'he had compassion for them.' That is very much at the heart of our own calling as the Lord's followers, to be present to others, even when they turn up unexpectedly and interrupt what we had carefully planned. It is so easy to get worked up and irritated when something happens that is not part of the script we had in our head. We can be so fixed on that script that we can look on people as nuisances instead of being present to them with the compassion of Jesus. Jesus had the habit of spending time alone with God; it was those times of presence to God in prayer that enabled him to be present to others, no matter who they were or how they turned up. Our contemplative moments, our desert times, help us to be contemplative, attentive, in our way of relating to those who cross our path in life.

—Internet
Today's Readings: *Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34*

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

For centuries, the only Eucharistic Prayer we heard as Western Catholics was the old Roman Canon, usually recited in a low voice by the priest, in Latin. By the 1940s, many Catholics were learning to follow along with the actions of the priest by means of a bilingual missal, with Latin on one side and English on the other. Drawings of the priest's position at the altar, moving from one side to the other, or bowing or standing with uplifted hands at the center, helped the readers stay on track.

The Roman Canon is a long prayer, and since it was done every day for every occasion, priests had a way of galloping through it. Even though long, its structure is fairly simple, with the consecration and sacrifice clearly marked out. Sadly, this surviving prayer had triumphed over many treasures of our tradition that emphasized other dimensions of Eucharist. The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* in 1963 did not call directly for new Eucharistic Prayers, but that direction was inevitable. Discussion began almost immediately, and by 1967 the Vatican approved three new Eucharistic Prayers. In 1974, the Congregation for Worship unveiled the experiment of two Eucharistic Prayers for Masses of Reconciliation, and three for Masses with Children. At last, a period of creativity and enrichment had begun.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF MARY MAGDALENE—22 JULY

Sometimes called Mary of Magdala, or simply the Magdalene or the Madeleine, was a woman who, according to the four canonical gospels, traveled with Jesus as one of his followers and was a witness to his crucifixion and its aftermath. She was mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of the apostles and more than any other woman in the gospels, other than Jesus's family.

Mary's epithet Magdalene may mean that she came from the town of Magdala, a fishing town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in Roman Judea.

The Gospel of Luke lists Mary Magdalene as one of the women who traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry "out of their resources", indicating that she was probably relatively wealthy. The same passage also states that seven demons had been driven out of her. In all the four canonical gospels, Mary Magdalene was a witness to the crucifixion of Jesus and, in the Synoptic Gospels, she was also present at his burial. All the four gospels identified her, either alone or as a member of a larger group of women which includes Jesus's mother, as the first to witness the empty tomb, and the first to witness Jesus's resurrection.

For these reasons, Mary Magdalene is known in some Christian traditions as the "apostle to the apostles". Mary Magdalene is a central figure in later Gnostic Christian writings, including the Dialogue of the Savior, the Pistis Sophia, the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Philip, and the Gospel of Mary. These texts portray Mary Magdalene as an apostle, as Jesus's closest and most beloved disciple and the only one who truly understood his teachings.

The portrayal of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute began after a series of Easter sermons delivered in 591 when Pope Gregory I conflated Mary Magdalene, who was introduced in Luke 8:2, with Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:39) and the unnamed "sinful woman" who anointed Jesus's feet in Luke 7:36–50. This resulted in a widespread belief that she was a repentant prostitute or promiscuous woman. The identification of Mary Magdalene with Mary of Bethany and the unnamed "sinful woman" was a major controversy in the years leading up to the Reformation and some Protestant leaders rejected it. During the Counter-Reformation, the Catholic Church emphasized Mary Magdalene as a symbol of penance. In 1969, the identification of Mary Magdalene with Mary of Bethany and the "sinful woman" was removed from the General Roman Calendar by Pope Paul VI, but the view of her as a former prostitute has persisted in popular culture.

Mary Magdalene is considered to be a saint by the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches. In 2016 Pope Francis raised the level of liturgical memory on July 22 from memorial to feast, and for her to be referred as the "Apostle of the apostles". Other Protestant churches honor her as a heroine of the faith. The Eastern Orthodox churches also commemorate her on the Sunday of the Myrrhbearers, the Orthodox equivalent of one of the Western Three Marys traditions.

—Internet

ŚWIĘTO ŚW. MARII MAGDALENY—22 LIPCA

Przypada 22 lipca w kalendarzu liturgicznym , patronki dobrej przemiany. Magdalena, wierna uczennica Chrystusa, była przy Jego śmierci i pierwsza ujrzała Go po zmartwychwstaniu wczesnym rankiem dnia paschalnego. Jej kult w całym Kościele zachodnim rozpowszechnił się od XII wieku. Od początku patronuje też Zgromadzeniu Matki Bożej Miłosierdzia do którego należała św. Siostra Faustyna, a szczególnie dziewczętom i kobietom potrzebującym moralnego odrodzenia, wyhodowaniem których zajmują się siostry.

Według biblijnej relacji Maria pochodziła z Magdali – "wieży ryb" nad Jeziorem Galilejskim, ok. 4 km na północny zachód od Tyberiady. Jezus wyrzucił z niej siedem złych duchów. Odtąd włącza się ona do grona Jego słuchaczy i wraz z innymi niewiastami troszczy się o wędrujących z Nim ludzi.

Po raz drugi wspominają o niej Ewangelici pisząc, że była ona obecna podczas ukrzyżowania i śmierci Jezusa oraz zdjecia Go z krzyża i pogrzebu.

Maria Magdalena była jedną z trzech niewiast, które udały się do grobu, aby namaścić ciało Ukrzyżowanego, ale grób znalazły pusty. Kiedy Magdalena ujrzała kamień od grobu odwalony, przerażona, że Żydzi zbezczeszili ciało ukochanego Zbawiciela, wyrzucając je z grobu w niewiadome miejsce, pobiegła do Apostołów i powiadomiła ich o tym.

Potem sama wróciła do grobu Pana Jezusa. Zmartwychstały Jezus ukazał jej się jako ogrodnik. Ona pierwsza powiedziała Apostołom, że Chrystus żyje. Dlatego też jest nazywana apostoła Apostolorum – apostołką Apostołów, a Kościół przez długie stulecia recytował w jej święto uroczyste wyznanie wiary.

Kult św. Marii Magdaleny jest powszechny w Kościele tak na Zachodzie, jak i na Wschodzie. Ma swoje sanktuaria, do których od wieków licznie podążają pielgrzymi. W Efezie pokazywano jej grób i bazylikę wystawioną nad nim ku jej czci. Kiedy zaś Turcy zawiadniali miastem, jej relikwie miały zostać przeniesione z Efezu do Konstantynopola za cesarza Leona Filozofa (886-912). Kiedy krzyżowcy opanowali Konstantynopol (1202-1261), mieli przenieść relikwie Marii Magdaleny do Francji, do Vezelay, gdzie do dnia dzisiejszego doznają czci. We Francji jest jeszcze jedno sanktuarium św. Marii Magdaleny, w La Saint Baume, gdzie według legendy miała mieszkać przez 30 lat w jaskini jako pustelnica i pokutnicą, kiedy ją w dziurawej łódce na pełne morze wywieźli Żydzi.

Liturgiczne wspomnienie św. Marii Magdaleny ma od 22 lipca 2016 roku rangę święta – decyzją papieża Franciszka. Maria z Magdali, której jako pierwszej objawił się Chrystus Zmartwychstały i która tę dobrą nowinę zaniosła apostołom, będzie odtąd czczona w liturgii tak samo, jak apostołowie, a więc świętym. Franciszek, jak czytamy w dekrecie, chciał w ten sposób podkreślić tak aktualną dziś w Kościele godność kobiety i znaczenie ewangelizacji, dając wiernym za przykład Marię Magdalenę. Przypomniano, że św. Grzegorz Wielki nazwał ją „świadkiem Bożego miłosierdzia”, a św. Tomasz z Akwinu „apostołką apostołów”.

—Internet



Our faith. Our future.

PSA 2021



We would like to extend sincere thanks and gratitude to all those from our Polish Center who contributed so far to our Bishop's annual Diocesan Pastoral Services Appeal campaign for the year 2021 as well as to Mr. Grzegorz Jabłonowski for all his efforts in overseeing this program. In total our goal is \$37,000 and so far we received pledges totaling \$34,320 from 101 families, individuals and organizations with the amount above the goal being returned to our Center for improvements, investments and upkeep. This year we are continuing to raise funds for the refurbishment of the bathrooms in the back of the main church building.

Thank you again as always for your generosity. God Bless and Bóg Zapłać!

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