

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

**Love Means Action**      **St. Mary Magdalene**      Saturday, July 22, 2017      8:15 AM  
Sng 3:1-4b;    Jn 20:1-2, 11-18    (Mary followed Jesus with a tremendous emotional affection.)

**Mary Magdalene is a very important figure in the story of Jesus' life**, although we don't know too much about her. She was an unusual person because she was a woman who was apparently independent and apparently she had some money because it says **she helped Jesus from her means**, so perhaps she was of noble birth or in some way unusual.

It says in Scripture that **Jesus cast from her seven devils**. What are we to make of that? It's not clear. Were they devils like whatever spirits possessed the Gerasene demoniac or were they something else? Is this meaning something else? It's very unclear.

What is clear is that **Mary followed Jesus with a tremendous emotional affection**. Of all the disciples **she was the one who first went to the tomb**. For her love impelled action, and **she is rightly honored by the Church** for that reason. We can allow fear as the other disciples did to impede our work for God. It's very natural. But Mary went before it was even light because for **her love means action, love means service**. And we rightly hold her up in our own eyes as one worthy of emulation.