

**The Presence of Christ**      Monday within the Octave of Easter      April 2, 2018      8:15 AM  
Acts 2:14, 22-33; **Mt 28:8-15**      (Meditate on the ways in which Jesus remains with us in our daily life.)

**Mary Magdalene and the other Mary are the ones who went to the tomb.** The men were afraid and they were holed-up in some room somewhere, staying together, but actually in fear for their lives because they were afraid the Romans would come and do to them what they did to Jesus, so it's very understandable.

Now Mary Magdalene is actually a very significant person, recently recognized more than previously. But since she was not a man she was never considered **one of the principal disciples** of Jesus, but in fact she was. And in a way, she was able to operate under the radar because she was a woman. So this is a very interesting story about how **Mary Magdalene was the one to first meet Jesus**, and most modern authors believe it to be very credible precisely because it wouldn't have been credible, if it hadn't been true. In other words, if they wanted to make up something they wouldn't make this up. So we can be assured that it was Mary that was the first to see Christ, and it was **Mary who originally did not recognize him**. And that's true of almost all **the disciples; when they first saw him they did not recognize him, except in the upper room**.

Now there are two reasons for this. The first is **we have no idea what Christ looked like**. Of course we don't know what he looked like physically in the first place, but we can't imagine that they were identical, and maybe weren't even similar. So the resurrection is really about the **transformation of the human person body and soul**, and what it shall be, we don't really know. But we do know that there was some sort of communication going on between Mary and Jesus, the disciples on the road to Emmaus and Jesus. They felt something, but they didn't know what. And this is really indicative of the fact that **the Church has always had a sense of the presence of Christ, but not necessarily visibly**.

Now this is part of what **we need to develop** in our own minds and our own souls, **a sense of the presence of Christ**. If we believe he was raised from the dead, if we believe that he continues to invite us to the Eucharist, we should have some sense of that. And we should be able to, **not only taste it in the sacrament, but we should be able to keep it with us during the day in some way**. So that will be our assignment: to **meditate on the ways in which Jesus remains with us in our daily life**.