

Homily  
Feast of St. Mary Magdalene  
Monday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time  
July 22, 2024

I am a deacon, a husband, an engineer, a project manager, a father and a grandfather. Each of these titles are merely labels that loosely paint a picture of who I really am. But these don't tell you who I am as a person. Many of you have similar titles associated with who you are. But do they really say who you are as the person God made you to be? They may paint a picture, but all of us have a different vision of what that picture looks like, based on our own experiences and biases.

Mary Magdalene was a disciple of Jesus and has been given the title Apostle to the Apostles based on today's Gospel. There are many other titles associated with Mary Magdalene based on our limited knowledge from scripture. We believe she was the sister of Martha and Lazarus. We believe she was the one whom Jesus drove out seven demons. We believe she was the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet. Some believe she lived an immoral life before meeting Jesus. Even if all these are true, we do not really know who Mary Magdalene was as a person. About all we can be sure of is that she followed Jesus and is now in the company of the angels and saints.

What do we know about each other? What do we know about ourselves? We cannot see and hear the things we do and say and accurately know someone. If we honestly and truly looked into our own hearts, we realize that there is much more to us than meets the eye. And there is much more to us than we even know about ourselves. But Jesus knows. He knows our rising and our resting; He knows our thoughts and our intentions; He knows and counts every hair on our heads. And He loves us more than we can know. God created us good. All of us are made in the image and likeness of God with the free will to choose good or evil.

Regardless of what we think we know about each other and ourselves, we know these things for sure: God gave His only Son; Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose to new life for our salvation. And God commands us to love Him and each other. It doesn't matter what we think about each other, as long as we love one another. And that love will direct our hearts and our minds towards the love God wants for all of us.

When we stand before God, He will not ask us what we think about others; He will only want to know that we love one another.