

December 27, 2023

Daily Reflections



IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's First Reading

Beloved:

*What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we looked upon and touched with our hands
concerns the Word of life -
for the life was made visible;
we have seen it and testify to it ...*

1 JOHN 1:1-2

Reflection

I find it interesting that for the Feast of John the Apostle and Evangelist, the Gospel is taken from John's account of Mary Magdalene's proclamation of the

Resurrection. She is known as “apostle to the apostles,” for she was the first to encounter Jesus once risen from the dead.

Her unconditional love of Jesus brought her to the foot of the cross and to early morning burial ritual despite her grief. Love enables powerful witness and ongoing fidelity! This seems most appropriate in that God is Love. Creates out of love. Sends Jesus out of love and to reflect the God of Love for all time. Love changes everything! Love makes self-gift possible despite the cost. Christmas and Easter are joined together. Incarnation and Resurrection surged out of love and stir up love.

The power and dynamic energy of love is the meaning of the scripture above. Read it aloud and sense its energy. Love is all that you take with you when death knocks at the door. Recounting our experiences of love and the opportunities to love others are the only accountability asked of us. Jesus knew this. So did Mary Magdalene, and John the Evangelist. The Incarnation and the Resurrection are interwoven as one abiding, dramatic, witness to Love. And as the old song goes, “What the world needs now is Love, sweet love...”

While Mary Magdalene was not guided by Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ, founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph, her own soul was on fire with love. We are urged to live and serve out of Love of God.

Maxim 27: “Love the hidden and interior life of Jesus Christ and love it as fully as you can to the extent that your works and zeal allow.”



For Pondering

Choose one of the Maxims below that best resonates within you and pray that it come alive in you this Season of Love.

Maxim 23: “Love nothing but God and what can be all divine.”

Maxim 36: “Love and act according to reason and duty, and not through caprice or natural inclinations.”

Maxim 76: “Fulfill all the duties that a great and sincere love of God requires of you, then you will have fulfilled everything.”

For Prayer

*God of Love and compassion,
awaken my soul to your Divine Light within me.
Help me ponder all that is Your Great Love.
Show me how to love as Jesus loved,
so I may witness to your Love found within me and in the world.
Amen.*

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