

REFLECTION

Martha always gets a bad rap. In traditional interpretations of her story, she is said to be too preoccupied or anxious about the details of hospitality to attend well to her guest. Her sister, by contrast, sits in rapt attention at Jesus' feet, drinking in his every word. When Jesus declares that it is Mary who has "chosen the better part," the message we are supposed to take away, according to many commentators, is that contemplation, rather than active service is the harder but better choice, and that no one can minister without first sitting and learning at Jesus' feet. While finding the right balance between contemplation and action is a perennial challenge for most Christians, that may not actually be the question that today's Gospel addresses. There are many tensions in the story left unanswered by the traditional interpretation.

Recently New Testament scholars have proposed that this Gospel incident may be more a reflection of the situation of the Lucan communities and the questions they were trying to resolve, rather than a report of an episode in the life of Jesus. They have noticed that what concerns Martha is much diakonia, and her distress is over her sister leaving her to carry it out alone. Both the noun diakonia and the verb diakonein occur in verse 40.

Elsewhere in the New Testament, these terms refer primarily to ministerial service, as in Jesus' declaration of his mission "to serve," not to "be served" (Mk 10:45; Lk 22:27). In New Testament times, diakonia covered a wide range of ministries. In the case of Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and the other Galilean women who "provided for" Jesus and the itinerant preachers "out of their resources," diakonein refers to financial ministry (the Greek word hyparchonton connotes monetary resources, Lk 8:3). This is the same nuance diakonia has in Acts 11:29 and 12:25 regarding Paul's collection for Jerusalem. In Acts 6:2 diakonein refers to table ministry, while in Acts 6:4 diakonia connotes ministry of the word. In Acts 1:25 diakonia is apostolic ministry. One individual in the New Testament is named a diakonos, Phoebe, "deacon of the church at Cenchreae" (Rom 16:1).

Scholars are now thinking that the incident in today's Gospel is not about preparing a meal; instead, Martha voices how burdened her heart is over the conflicts surrounding women's exercise of their ministries in the early church. Some people were greatly in favor of women evangelizers and teachers like Prisca (Acts 18:26), Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:3), women prophets like Philip's four daughters (Acts 21:9), and women heads of house churches, like Nympha (Col 4:15), Mary (Acts 12:12), Lydia (Acts 16:40), and Prisca (Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19). Others, however, argued that a woman's place was in the home and that speaking and ministering in the public sphere belonged to the men (e.g., 1 Cor 14:34-35; 1 Tm 2:11-12). Luke takes the latter position, giving it validity by placing approval of the silent Mary on Jesus' lips.

There was never any question in the early church about women becoming disciples. Both Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus and the word he spoke (vss. 38-39). The controversy swirled around what women would do with what they learned while sitting at Jesus' feet. The answer Luke gave was quite understandable for his time. Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on what answer Jesus might give today to the question of woman's place in the ministries of the church as they have now evolved.

—America Magazine, July 2010

FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Open Enrollment for new students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade continues now through September 15th. Avoid the rush and register early before classes are filled. Call the Parish Office if you have questions.

Youth Group Do you love to sing? Teens 7th grade through college interested in singing in the Youth Mass at 12:00 Noon are invited come to Choir Practice every Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Church. Come and share your God-given talents with your peers and community. We'd love to have you!

Love working with children? We are always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated Catechists willing to learn and deepen their faith. Faith Formation classes are held just once a week for about an hour. If interested in answering God's call, please contact Josephine at 447-2354 x 833. Ongoing training will be provided.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Week of July 18, 2010

Step One: Listen to the Word - As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

Theme: Hospitality - We welcome Jesus in our lives.



Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Name a time when you shared what you had with a friend, or a classmate at school.

PARISH SECRETARY/OFFICE MANAGER

The Parish is seeking a full-time Parish Secretary/Office Manager .

The hours are from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Job responsibilities would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Perform secretarial duties for the pastor, or other designated staff; receives and places phone calls; types written communications and processes mail. Greets and refers to visitors in the parish office. Prepares bulk mailing.
- Maintain office record-keeping and filing systems. Attend staff meetings and other meetings as required.
- Schedule parish facilities for weddings, funerals, and other parish events. Maintain calendar of events and facilities use, coordinate the use of keys for facilities.
- Prepare and produce weekly bulletin. Coordinate outside vendors and advertisements for bulletins.
- Maintain parish offering envelope system. Update data and post contributions on a weekly basis. Prepares and mails contribution and pledge statements.

Skills/Abilities: Typing at 50 WPM; strong computer skills including the use of Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint and Quickbooks; ability to set priorities and organize work efficiently, ability to compose correspondence, minutes and/or reports; ability to represent the parish to those who call, write, or visit; ability to honor and maintain confidentiality; supervisory and office management experience preferred.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail resume to: St. Joseph Church, 1791 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687, (707) 447-9322 (fax) or djones@stjoseph-vacaville.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date - Fabulous 50's "Bowl-A-Thon"

to benefit Notre Dame School's Scholarship Fund. Friday, August 13, 2010 at Stars Recreation Center from 1-4. Contact Emma McDonald at 448-7318 or Ernestine Esparza at 448-0213 for more information.

Notre Dame School is now closed for the summer and will re-open on Wednesday, August 4th. The Dennis Uniform sale will be from 2:00 to 5:00 PM on Wednesday, August 4th. Have a great summer!



FOOD COLLECTION - Last weekend's food collection to benefit St. Mary's Food Locker brought in a total of 1,047 canned and packaged food items. Thanks to all who contributed.

Thank you Bulletin Advertisers! Their support makes publishing our bulletin on a weekly basis possible. Our cover and ads change quarterly. If you are interested in advertising in our bulletin, contact the Parish Office at 447-2354.



Lifeline - Losing a job, the loss of a loved one or family struggles can be overwhelming for many of us. Sometimes talking about our difficulties can ease our troubles and help us move beyond our pain and relieve our stress. We at the Lifeline Ministry can help you during this difficult time. We offer one-on-one confidential meetings with you which are a free service offered through the parish. Please contact the Lifeline Ministry at 447-2354.

Catechist Ministry Day - Are you a catechist? Involved in RCIA, Youth Ministry, Parish Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, Marriage or Sacramental Preparation, or Respect Life Ministry? Then you won't want to miss this year's Catechist Ministry Day on Saturday, September 18th, at St. Francis High School in Sacramento. The day (8a to 4p) will include powerful keynote speakers, Mass with Bishop Soto, helpful workshops, vendor tables, and a delicious lunch. Full details and online payment/registration are available online at CatechistMinistry-Day.com. Don't have access to the Internet? Call (916) 733-0123.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriage Encounter Weekend - "Come to me all you who are weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). We all need a place to get away to rest if not in our dreams then somewhere else. The Marriage Encounter weekend offers couples the kind of rest only Jesus can give. Come now...take a break...and join us for this once in a lifetime experience at the **Marriage Encounter weekend** on August 21-22, 2010 at Holy Spirit Church Parish Hall at 1050 N. Texas, Fairfield, CA. The cost per couple is \$50. For more information please call Wally & Suki LaForga at 707-450-6298.

Theology on Tap - Monday, August 9, 2010, from 8-10 PM at Bud's Pub and Grill, 100 S. 1st Street, Dixon. St. Peter's Young Adult Group in Dixon invites you to an engaging evening of Catholic philosophy and discussion lead by the author of *Desperately Wicked*, Patrick Downey. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer 17:9). Join us as we traverse through ancient philosophy and sacred scripture to uncover the secrets of the human heart—it's sickness, and its cure. You are sure to leave this event with profoundly deepened insight into your faith. Patrick Downey holds a PhD in Theology from Boston College and an M.T.S. from Harvard University. He currently serves as professor of philosophy at St. Mary's College of California.

Family Retreat - "From Being Squeezed to Being Embraced" presented by the Christ the King Retreat Team. August 13-15, 2010 at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center, 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. Requested fee: \$115 per adult and \$55 per child (age 6-16), ages 5 & under free. For reservations and more information, contact Jane Oliver at (916) 725-4720, Ext. 303 or joliver@passionist.org. Families today are confronted with any number of challenges. The pressures and demands put upon us can often squeeze the joy and vitality right out of life. This family retreat is an opportunity to reflect on life's challenges as a means to growing in holiness. You are invited to nurture your faith as family and reflect on the real and often surprising ways that the Lord calls us to follow him. Gift your family with this sacred time of retreat, to be renewed in mind, body, and spirit as you experience the transforming power of God's loving embrace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Mi 6:1-4,6-8; Ps 50:5-6,8-9,16-17; Mt 12:38-42
 Tues. Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50
 Wed. Jer 1:1,4-10; Ps 71:1-4,5-6,15,17; Mt 13:1-9
 Thurs. Jer 2:1-3,7-8,12-13; Ps 36:6-7,8-11; Jn 20:1-2,11-18
 Fri. Jer 3:14-17; (Ps) Jer 31:10-12,13; Mt 13:18-23
 Sat. Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3-6,8,11; Mt 13:24-30
 Sun. Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-3,6-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM-----Josie Gomez, R.I.P.
 Tues. 7:00 AM -----Betty Torres, R.I.P.
 Wed. 8:15 AM-----Fred Roberson, R.I.P.
 Thurs. 7:00 AM-----Maria Hong, R.I.P.
 Fri. 7:00 AM -----Joseph Thuc, R.I.P.
 Sat. 8:15 AM -----Int. of Phuong Larson
 Sat. 5:00 PM -----Iwao Fuchigami, R.I.P.
 Sun. 7:00 AM -----Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8:30 AM -----Sick Members of the Parish
 Sun. 10:00 AM-----Peace
 Sun. 12:00 PM-----Vocations to the Priesthood