

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Tuesday, April 14, 2020



**Tuesday of Easter Week April 14, 2020 , Readings:  
Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18**

Dear Parishioners:

Today's gospel reading for Mass is the account of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden that first morning of the resurrection. Mary has been to the tomb and found it to be empty. She is devastated, distraught - much like we are when we go searching for the Lord, He's not where we expect to find Him and our lives haven't played out the way we'd hoped. Two angels ask Mary why she grieves and she pours out her heart to them but she was so grief stricken that what they told her didn't sink in. She then encounters Jesus whom she thinks is the gardener. Thinking that he took the body of Jesus she begs to be shown where her Master's body has been taken. The risen Lord says one word to her: "Mary." At that, her eyes and heart are opened and she knows that Jesus is alive! Oh, how important are names are when spoken from the lips of Jesus. When we think nothing more could go wrong, and despite evidence that should encourage us in our walk with the Lord, it's not until we encounter Jesus and hear Him call us by name that we can see through the tears and confusion of our grief. Jesus then gives Mary Magdalene a job to do -- and with faith and gratitude she does it without hesitation. This is just one of the miracles of Easter, one of many miracles we should be celebrating today. Nothing else matters except our relationship with Christ, that He knows us by name and He has set us all on a mission to make Him known.

This was strikingly brought home to me personally when I received news the other day of the death of one of my classmates from the seminary when we were at the North American College in Rome. He is the sixth one of us to be called home now and it makes me that much more aware of the passing of time. The video obituary provided by the funeral home is a beautiful tribute to the life of a good parish priest. There never were any pretensions in that man. He just quietly, devotedly, simply did his job -- plowing the field the Lord had given him. He heard the Lord call him to priesthood, and now he heard the Lord call him home to the eternal peace he so richly deserves.

This is the Easter message. Our time here is temporary, transitory. We have been called by name by the Lord and we have recognized Him in our lives. Nothing else matters but our service to Him. Our politics and politicians, the economy, our social standing, the important places we might hold all amount to nothing when we hear Jesus call us by name and say: "It's time. You've done your work. Now, come home good and faithful servant. Come home and rest."

**A Little Humor:** The CHP (and anyone who's been on the freeway the last few weeks) report that with so many people staying home drivers in San Diego are speeding more than usual with the sad consequence of more - and often fatal - crashes. So, think of this:

At 45 miles per hour, sing: "Highways are happy ways. At 55 miles per hour, sing: "I'm but a stranger here, heaven is my home." At 65 miles per hour sing: "Nearer my God to Thee." At 75 miles per hour, sing: "When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there." At 85 miles per hour, sing: "Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling."

The weather appears to be turning nice. Don't weaken! Maintain social distancing and other antik-pandemic restrictions until we are told the danger is past and it's safe go out and about again.

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