

## CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Archdiocese of Miami - Ministry of Christian Formation



April 12, 2009 Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord (Cycle B)

***Christ is Risen! Alleluia!***

**Gospel reading**

**John 20:1-9**

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

### **Brief commentary:**

During the Easter Vigil we read Mark's account of the resurrection. On Easter Sunday we read John's narrative. While all four Gospels have women visiting Jesus' tomb and finding it empty, the details in each account differ. In today's text from the Gospel according to John, Mary of Magdala appears to approach the tomb by herself and runs to tell Peter and John. This is followed by a "race" between the two disciples to get to the tomb first. The symbolic race highlights the importance of a deep love relationship with Jesus: John arrived first, because he was "the disciple whom Jesus loved." The Johannine community for whom the Gospel of John was written had a marked preference for the Beloved Disciple! The story presents three contrasting reactions: Mary of Magdala thinks that someone has taken the body of Jesus away, Peter remains perplexed, but the Beloved Disciple responds with faith, "He saw and believed." This clarity of vision is a sign of those who love and are loved deeply.

*Today's reading offers three significant messages:*

- We do not have scientific proof of the resurrection. Faith is a free gift from God that we are free to accept or refuse.
- The resurrection is the place to start to follow developments in the Christian understanding of Jesus.
- Christians believe that if we live and die with and in Christ, we shall live forever with God.

### **For our shared or personal reflection:**

*After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas or feelings.*

1. If you had found the empty tomb, would you have reacted like Mary, Peter, or John? Why?
2. How can you bring new life in Christ to the situations of "death" around you especially today?

*Suggested readings:* Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 515; 638-642; 651-658; 2174.