THE APOSTLE OF THE APOSTLES

A RETREAT GUIDE ON ST. MARY MAGDALENE

COMPANION GUIDE

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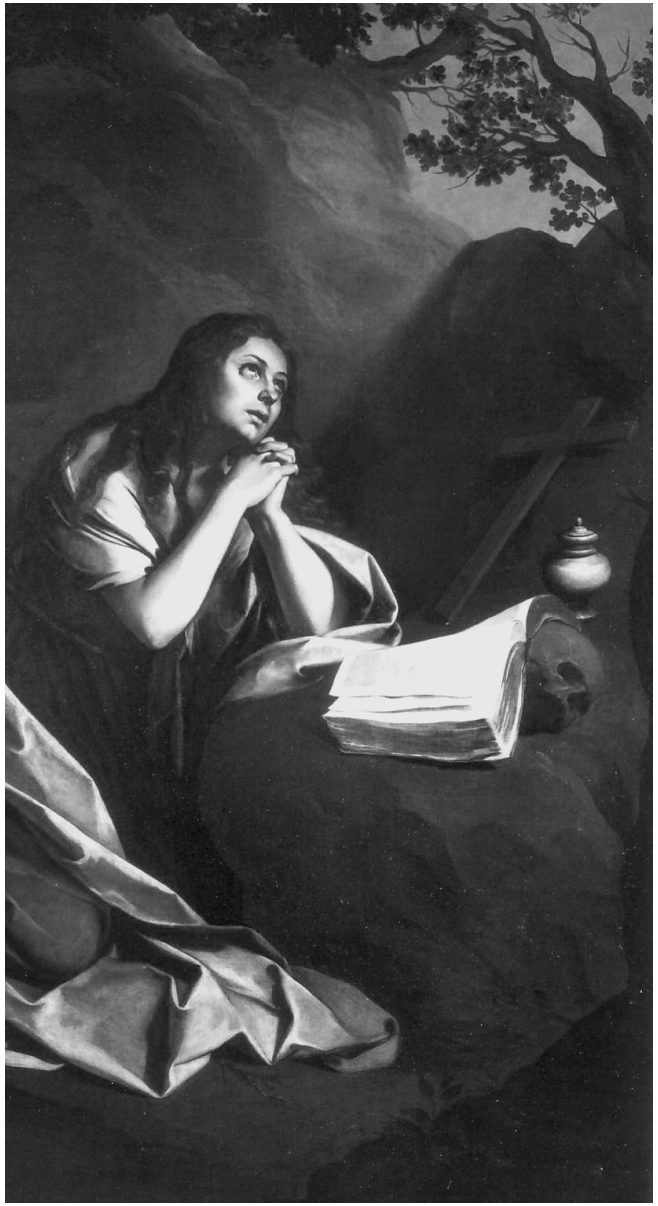

FIRST MEDITATION

Sought

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. At times God seems to hide so that we look for him. In what ways is the Lord asking me to search for him right now?

2. What or where is my own "tomb?" And how does Jesus want to help me to look into that by the power of his merciful love?

3. What are my deepest and holiest desires?

QUOTATIONS TO HELP YOUR PRAYER

"Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us… God thirsts that we may thirst for him.

—*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2560

"By withdrawing, God allows himself to be discovered. Hiding himself, he allows himself to be found. By refusing himself, he surrenders.

—St. Hedwig of Antwerp

"As a human being, you are a thirst (noun, not adjective). Every single choice you make all day long is proof that you seek, you desire, you want, you lack. Nothing is ever enough… You are engaged in

an endless whirl. Always you seek, desire, want, lack. Nothing is enough: not praise, not success, not youth, not love. You are a thirst in the flesh, an incarnated thirst. You yearn for endless beauty and joy, endless love and delight, endless security and happiness—and an immortality in which to enjoy it all. You cannot help being an incarnate thirst. Nor can I. We were born that way and we will die that way…

—*You Are Christ's*, by Fr. Thomas Dubay

NOTES

SECOND MEDITATION

Found

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION/GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How is Jesus disguised in my own life? Where (and especially, in whom) does he want me to recognize him?

2. St. Mary Magdalene recognized the Lord when he said her name. What do I hear when Jesus says my name?

3. Where am I most tempted to "hold on" to my own idea of Jesus? What does he want to say to me in that?

QUOTATIONS TO HELP YOUR PRAYER

"Incline your ear and come to me, hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, merciful love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call nations that you know not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the Lord, your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

—Isaiah 55:3–5
RSVCE

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I intend, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

—Isaiah 55:8–11
RSVCE

Seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, all the time, and his hand in every happening; This is what it means to be contemplative in the heart of the world. Seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus, especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor.

—Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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CONFERENCE

Sent

1. What are the most apparent ways the Lord is asking me to be an apostle right now?
2. To whom, specifically, is he sending me?
3. What are the greatest fears I face in that, and how does God want to speak to those fears?
4. What are the greatest external challenges I face in that, and how does God want to speak to those challenges?
5. How present am I as a Christian in the world? What's one way I could be more present this week?
6. How attentive am I to opportunities to share Christ's love with others? What's one way I could be more attentive this week?
7. What is one invitation I could extend to someone this week?
8. Who could help me to discern the answer to the previous questions (perhaps a spiritual director, a family member, or a friend)?

NOTES

FURTHER READING

If you feel moved to continue reflecting and praying about this theme, you may find the following books helpful:

The Soul of the Apostolate,
by Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard.

Go! 30 Meditations on How to Best Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, by Fr. John Bartunek, LC

Story of a Soul, by St. Therese of Lisieux

Christifideles laici (On the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church), by St. John Paul II.

EXPLORING MORE

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