

## Could It Be True?

### *This Week's Readings at Mass*

- Acts 10:34a, 37-43 • Peter's discourse
- Colossians 3:1-4 • Mystical death and resurrection
- John 20:1-9 • Peter and the disciple at the tomb

As the Easter Season begins, the church replaces the Old Testament readings with passages from the Acts of the Apostles instead. The readings recount the disciples' words and miraculous actions as they begin to spread the word about Jesus far and wide beyond Jerusalem.

All of the resurrection stories begin with the first witnesses to the resurrection being confused and/or afraid, not fully comprehending what they see or hear. It makes sense that they didn't understand. As readers 2,000 years later, we have the benefit of knowing the "end of the story" before Jesus' friends and family did. Although several times Jesus told his followers that he would be killed and then raised from the dead, the evangelists wrote that the apostles didn't understand what Jesus was saying then. How could they have?

Mary Magdalene is a central figure in this resurrection story, as she is in all of the other Gospels. She stayed with Jesus throughout his torture until he died, and all four Gospels tell us she was right there three days later when they discovered the empty tomb. Peter and a mysterious unnamed "other disciple" are a part of this story, too, as they realize Jesus' body is missing. They seem to realize that his corpse wasn't stolen (if it were, the burial garments surely would have gone with it). The unnamed disciple "saw and believed," but we aren't told what



he believed. The passage ends, suggesting the trio still doesn't understand what has happened. The seven verses that follow this passage tell us that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, and she comes to believe he is alive again.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 Mary Magdalene is the only person mentioned in all four Gospels to have learned of or met the resurrected Jesus first. What does that say to you?
- 2 When you hear news that seems too good to be true, how do you first react? Do you believe it and thank God for it, or do you look for reasons it can't be true?

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