

April 14, 2020` Tuesday in The Octave of Easter
Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Ps. 33:4-5,18-20,22; John 20:11-18

If, by good fortune, your name is "Mary" (or "Maria," or "Miriam," or another variant), well, as Christians say, "REJOICE!" – because you share the NAME of those whom God HONORED most!

The GREATEST Honor, of course, was for the VIRGIN Mary to be the mother of God-Incarnate, God "in-the-flesh." THAT Mary had the additional, preparatory Honor of being "full of grace," utterly with-OUT sin, and of remaining so throughout her life...her life of... "raising" Jesus... Honor upon honor...

Then, there is she whom we COULD call the "ANTI-Mary" – Mary Magdalene. We only hear of HER long after her virginity had been thrown away. We NEVER hear that she was the MOTHER of ANY-one... "Full of GRACE?" – hardly; SHE had been full of DEMONS, totally full of SIN, until Jesus "exorcised" and forgave her.

YET...it was to THIS Mary – Magdalene – to whom Jesus FIRST revealed His RISEN Self.

He had the WHOLE WORLD as a possible "beam-up" site for His Premiere Resurrection Appearance. He could have "transported" Himself to ROME...and kicked Caesar off his throne.

WHY, then, DID Jesus return FIRST to Mary Magdalene? ASK Him, when you see Him (as I pray we all shall!). Meanwhile, here is a POSSIBLE, almost certainly only PARTIAL, explanation.

BEFORE His Incarnation, the Greatest Work of God was the preservation OF the VIRGIN Mary from all sin. The Greatest Single Work of the INCARNATE Jesus was the forgiving and the freeing of one who WAS sin: Mary Magdalene.

Jesus came FIRST – AT His Incarnation – to humanity's HIGHEST Moral Pole: The Blessed VIRGIN Mary.

Jesus RETURNED first to what HAD been humanity's LOWEST Moral Pole: Mary Magdalene.

Interesting Picture, then: From "Pole to pole," it's a "MARY WORLD" – of Saints, and sinners, and the Struggling Forgiven...and...as the old song says:

"He's got the WHOLE WORLD...in His hands."