

Rolling Back Our Stones

Intro. It is the good writer who through her or his story enables the reader to enter the lives of the characters and their emotions – fear, courage, despair, hope. The gospel writers’ main work was to tell us about the life of Jesus, the Son of God, and the Father’s love for us. They also tell us about the men and women who were an integral part of his life. Today we hear how three women overcame the *worst* day of their lives and Peter and the others got the *best* news of *their* lives.

I. If we were there at the cross and saw what the women saw, we would know some of what they were feeling as they approached the tomb, burial spices in hand. It is easy to understand how in their grief and despair they overlooked the obvious: who

will roll back the stone? Finishing the basic funeral rites for someone they loved was difficult enough. How were they going to get into the tomb? That became the least of their worries when they thought the tomb had been broken into. They numbly stood outside deciding whether to go in and find something worse than the death of their friend - the desecration of the tomb – or run and tell the community *more* bad news. Together they overcame their fear and found the unbelievable good news of resurrection.

Concl. Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Salomé awoke that morning with a heavy feeling of dread about the journey to the tomb. Their love for the Lord *compelled* them to complete the Jewish customs no matter their own disappointment. That love led them to recover their *own lives* in the incredible joy of the resurrection. The crucifixion

was not the end of the story. The women were the first to know the rest of that story and tell it!

However, the story didn't end at the tomb that day either for the women or ourselves. There is a lot more to be written. We will continue to experience moments of light and joy as well as pain and darkness. In our *joyous* moments, we must roll the stone back for others. In our *difficult* moments, when our "tombs" are pried open by our friends, we must find the faith and courage to come out into the bright light of resurrection. **There is so much more to our story yet to be told. With faith in God and in each other we can write it.**

Tonight we celebrate our friends who will share in grace of the sacraments. As we accompany them to the font, in the Litany of the Saints we remember the

holy women and men in whose footsteps we now walk.

Fr. Michael Pendergraft

April 21, 2019

