


	<b>Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene</b>	
<b>Presence of God</b>	Considering how God looks at me.	
<b>History</b> John 20, 11-18	<p>11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.</p> <p>13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.</p> <p>15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."</p> <p>16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "<i>Rabboni!</i>" (which means "Teacher").</p> <p>17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"</p> <p>18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.</p>	
<b>Petition</b>	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly in this time of triumph and jubilation!</i>	
<b>Contemplation</b>	<p><b>vv 11 – 15 Magdalene does not understand the signs</b>  <i>Mary Magdalene represents each Christian who loves Jesus. She saw the empty tomb but could not understand what was going on. So she kept waiting for something to happen (although she didn't know what), but at least, she was near the place where Jesus had been. It's like when someone we love dies, and we go to the graveyard because we feel close to him/her.</i>  <i>She was in so much pain that she didn't understand the empty tomb as a sign. She didn't realize either that those "men" there were angels. Jesus himself appeared to her, but she was so convinced that Jesus was dead that she mistook Him for the gardener.</i>  <i>When we are very sad or angry, our understanding is impaired. Imagine Magdalene standing near the tomb. Imagine how deeply she loved Jesus, He meant the world to her; she felt very sad, devastated and did not understand the signs Jesus gave her.</i>  <i>Imagine ... What did she look like? What was she thinking about? Why was she standing near the tomb?</i></p>	<p><b>Magdalene is an icon of the Christian soul that loves and is loved by Jesus. Tears clouded her eyes and did not let her see the reality – that "in God, we live and move and have our being", that God is alive and wants to be our friend, that He is our advocate and has defeated all our enemies: sin, pain and death.</b></p>

**v 16 Magdalene and the Resurrected: the good shepherd**  
*Jesus also loved Magdalene deeply (and each of us). Our sorrow affects him deeply and He always wants to console us, fill us with peace, joy and love.*  
*As Jesus knows us by our name, the way we feel and think, as he always takes a long loving look at us and knows us in our deepest being, (He is the good shepherd who knows his sheep) He called Mary Magdalene by her name. No one calls our names so sweetly as He does. And at that point, she realized that it was him, her great love: Jesus. She threw herself at the feet of her master and held them in her hands.*  
*Imagine Mary Magdalene on the floor, weeping near the tomb and suddenly she feels someone calling her name and she realizes it is Jesus who is ALIVE!!! Imagine ... How did she feel? What did she do?*

**vv 17 – 18 The mission Jesus gives us**  
*Magdalene wanted to stay there with Jesus for ever, but He told her that He was ascending to his Father (His Father and our Father because Jesus turned us into children of God). Magdalene had to stay here on earth to tell everybody that Jesus was alive, that he had risen from the dead and that He would wait for us in Heaven.*  
*Imagine Mary Magdalene's joy... she was so happy that she hurried to tell everybody what had happened to her; that she had received so much love from Jesus who had come to console her and that God the Father was waiting for us all.*

**St. Ignatius invites us to contemplate this aspect of Jesus who consoles those He loves, like true friends do. Jesus consoled his friends who were devastated due to his passion and death. Resurrected Jesus keeps consoling us to give us the strength we need to fulfill our mission.**

**Jesus knows us better than we do, He knows our names, our deepest being, our history, our frailty. And He loves us the way we are and gives us a mission: to share his Word.**

**Colloquy**

*Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.*  
*Imagine you are hugging Jesus who is full of life, light, love, peace, strength, and glory and asks you to go forth and share the Word of God. After a little while, tell him how you feel.*

