

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart



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This month's Heart to Heart celebrates the feast of Easter and, in particular, three of the disciples we find in the Easter gospels. Thank you to our writers whose reflections on Peter, Mary Magdalen, and Thomas invite each of us into our own ponderings on our Easter discipleship. For further reflection and prayer, we also offer a poem by spiritual writer Joyce Rupp.



Peter Hears the News

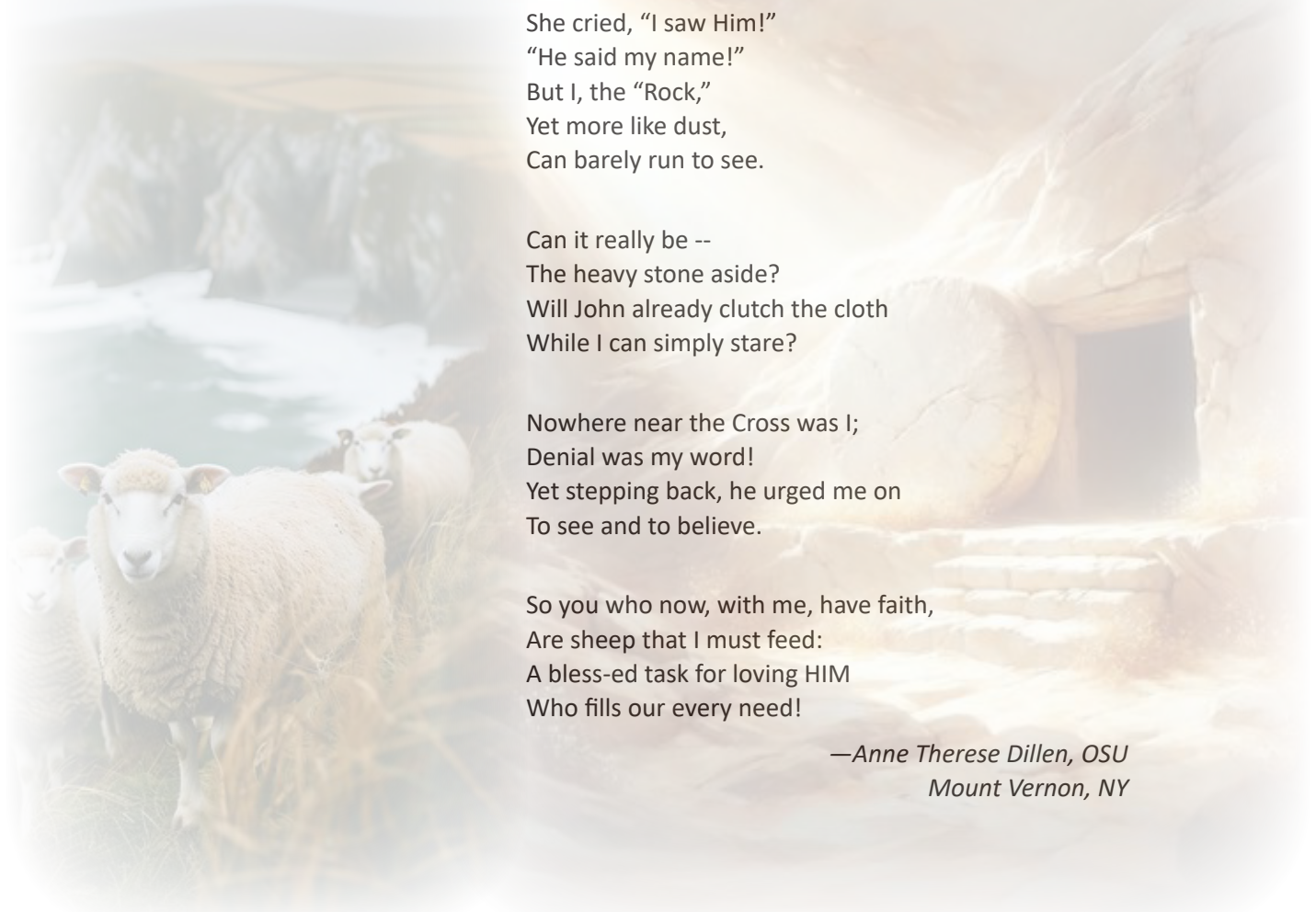
She cried, "I saw Him!"
"He said my name!"
But I, the "Rock,"
Yet more like dust,
Can barely run to see.

Can it really be --
The heavy stone aside?
Will John already clutch the cloth
While I can simply stare?

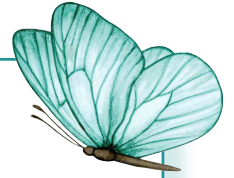
Nowhere near the Cross was I;
Denial was my word!
Yet stepping back, he urged me on
To see and to believe.

So you who now, with me, have faith,
Are sheep that I must feed:
A bless-ed task for loving HIM
Who fills our every need!

—Anne Therese Dillen, OSU
Mount Vernon, NY



Mary Magdalene



According to the Gospel, Mary Magdalene was the first person to return to the tomb where Jesus had been laid. She finds the tomb empty and leaves to share this with others and then returns again. Would you have returned? As she sits and grieves, she is surprised in a most unexpected way when she hears her name. She only responds because it is her name. She stops - to think there is someone who knows her, sees her sorrow, who is moved and calls her by name. Mary's life changed when she heard this. Each of us is a part of that "love story" as Mary was. Jesus looks at us, at all our hurts and sorrows we carry in our hearts as Mary experienced that day sitting at the tomb. She recognized Jesus as he called her name. Let us not miss the moment Jesus calls us by name. Mary was sent to carry the "Good News" to the others. We need to live out our "love story" as Jesus calls our name and we need to proclaim, "I have seen the Lord."

—Michelle Domecus, OSU & Shirley Garibaldi, OSU
Daly City, CA



What about Thomas?

As we reflected together, we wondered about Thomas. On Easter evening at supper time, though the doors to the upper room were bolted, all the Apostles were gathered there, except Thomas, when Jesus, risen from the dead, came to them and showed himself to be alive. Why wasn't Thomas there? They had been grieving and maybe it was too much for him to be in a closed room with all those people whose hope had been destroyed by the death of their Master. Perhaps he sought out his twin for understanding and comfort? Did his family need him for some reason? Then there followed a week where he had to hear his companions telling and retelling over and over about seeing Jesus alive. Was Thomas mad at himself, or was Thomas carrying some kind of baggage that began to fuel uncertainty and doubt in his heart? Was he hurt and disappointed that Jesus came when he wasn't there? He kind of drew a line in the sand. He had specific requirements for believing which involved both seeing and touching. Eight days later, Thomas was present. Suddenly Jesus was standing among them, greeting them. He spoke directly to Thomas' doubt: "Put your finger...Put your hand...Believe!" Thomas let it go, then THOMAS PIVOTED! "My Lord and my God." He was accepted and loved just as he was. Jesus cared about him.

—Theresa Davey, OSU & Brendan Jacoby, OSU
Springfield, IL



The Easter Challenge

Every year it happens:
earth shakes her sleepy head,
still a bit wintered and dull,
and feels new life stirring.

Every year cocoons give up their treasures,
fresh shoots push through brown leaves,
seemingly dead branches shine with green,
and singing birds find their way home.

Every year we hear the stories:

empty tomb, surprised grievers,
runners with news and revelation,
unexpected encounters,
conversations on the road,
tales of nets filling with fish,
and breakfast on a seashore.

And every year
dull and dead in us
meets our Easter challenge:

to be open to the unexpected,
to believe beyond our security,
to welcome God in every form,
and trust in our own greening.

(Taken from *Out of the Ordinary* ©2000, 2010 by Joyce Rupp.
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For Reflection

What in the above reflections most speaks to my heart?

How do the Easter gospels speak to me this year?

Where do I most find myself in them?