

July 29, 2021

Good Morning All,

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/072921.cfm>

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: In February of this year, Pope Francis expanded today's memorial of St. Martha to include her siblings, Mary and Lazarus. Martha is usually remembered for her agitation while her sister sat at the feet of Jesus. But all three loved and were loved by Jesus who spent time in their company. What was Christ teaching them--and us?

"Human love, the love we experience on earth when it is really genuine, helps us to savor divine love." *St. Josemaria Escriva*

3. Quote of the Day: The Raising of Lazarus can be found in John Chapter 11.

[11:1–44] The raising of Lazarus, the longest continuous narrative in John outside of the passion account, is the climax of the signs. It leads directly to the decision of the Sanhedrin to kill Jesus. The theme of life predominates. Lazarus is a token of the real life that Jesus dead and raised will give to all who believe in him. Johannine irony is found in the fact that Jesus' gift of life leads to his own death. Source: usccb.org

~ "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus." John 11:5

***Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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MARCH 29, 2017, BY ST. JOSEMARIA INSTITUTE

Lazarus, Martha, and Mary

A sermon by St. Bernard, Abbot

Let us consider, brothers, how in this our home the hierarchy of love has distributed three offices: government to Martha, contemplation to Mary, repentance to Lazarus. Any soul that is perfect has all three at once. Particular things, however, seem to belong more to particular persons, so that some keep themselves free for holy contemplation, some are given to fraternal government, some recall their own years in bitterness of soul, like wounded men sleeping among graves. So it is necessary that Mary think reverently and loftily about her God, Martha kindly and mercifully about her neighbor, Lazarus wretchedly and humbly about himself. Let each be concerned with his own degree. If there is found in this city, a Noah, a Daniel, a Job; they themselves will be delivered in their righteousness, says the Lord, but they will not save daughter or son (Ezekiel 14:14-16).

We flatter no one—and, oh, that none of you would delude yourselves! For those to whom no stewardship, no government has been committed should either come to rest completely at the feet of Jesus with Mary, or with Lazarus in the walls of his grave. Why should not Martha be upset over many things, when her concern is for many persons? But for you who are not burdened with this necessity, only one of two things is needful: Either be thoroughly untroubled and delight in the Lord, or, if you cannot do so yet, then do not be upset over many things but, as the prophet says, over yourself (Psalm 51:7).

Parish Office Communication

I say it again, lest anyone plead the excuse of ignorance. You, brother—who have no call to build or steer a Noah's Ark among the flood waves—should either be a man of desires as Daniel was or, with blessed Job, a man of sorrow and acquainted with infirmity. Or else I fear that He may spew you out—lukewarm and nauseating—from His mouth, when He wants to find you either white-hot with the thought of Him and blazing with the flame of love, or with that one thought of Him ice-cold and plunging the fiery darts of the devil in the water of remorse.

But it is necessary that Martha herself also be warned: a special audit is applied to stewards, to discover which ones are found faithful. He will be faithful, if he neither seek his own gain but that of Jesus Christ—that his intention may be pure—nor do his own will but the Lord's, that his actions may be well-ordered. For there are some whose eye is not single, and they receive their reward. There are those who are borne about on the motions of their own hearts, and all things that they offer are contaminated, yes, since their will is found out within them.

Now come with me to the wedding song of Solomon, and consider how the Bridegroom, when He calls his bride, has left out none of these three, nor added anything to them. Rise, He says, hasten, my love, my lovely one, my dove—and come. Is not His love she who, intent on the riches of her Lord, faithfully offers her very soul to Him as well? Whenever she leaves her spiritual study for the least of these, so often she spiritually offers her soul to Him. And is she not His lovely one, who, gazing on the glory of the Lord with face unveiled, is transformed from radiance to radiance into His very image, as though by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18)? And is not His dove she who mourns and moans in the clefts of the rock, in the hollow places of the wall (Song of Songs 2:14), as though buried under a stone?

Liturgies.net, Office of Readings for memorial of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus