

**April 21, 2020-Tuesday, Second Week of Easter**

***'To be a Catholic doesn't mean to be an imbecile'-Mary McGrory***

### **Mary McGrory**

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1918, Mary McGrory was a columnist for the Washington Star, and later the Washington Post. Her column was syndicated to 187 newspapers, and in 1975, she became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

McGrory was also a devout Catholic. She gave 20 percent of her income to charity, especially to a home for unwed mothers and their children, St. Ann's Infant and Maternity House in Washington, D.C. She volunteered weekly at St. Ann's, paid children's tuition, and wrote checks to cover the orphanage's costs.

She attended Mass daily, and her biographer notes that she kept a copy of Thomas à Kempis' "Imitation of Christ" on her nightstand. She also identified with liberation theology, believing that the Catholic Church didn't measure up to its responsibility to oppressed people. McGrory was a regular contributor to America magazine.

Mary McGrory died on this day in 2004. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Washington, D.C.

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***When Jesus had said this, he showed the disciples his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. (John 20:20-21)***

The 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's Gospel contains four episodes of faith:

- Mary Magdalen discovers the empty tomb and runs to tell the disciples. Peter and the beloved disciple run to the tomb and see and believe. This is the first recorded act of faith in the risen Jesus.
- Mary Magdalen meets Jesus at the tomb. He calls her by name and she believes in him.
- Jesus appears to the disciples in the Upper Room. They see and believe.
- A week later Thomas is with the disciples when Jesus appears and he expresses explicitly: "My Lord and my God."

Why does the author of this Gospel focus so intensely on the theme of faith in the risen Christ?

This "Easter faith" is so important because it gives color and meaning to life and to death, even to suffering. When I have faith in Christ who is risen from the dead, I am no longer dealing with a flat, dull world. Faith is luminous with the presence of God, and holds the promise of a destiny in God's hands. Faith brings life and verve to my existence, even when nothing else seem to make sense.

I should think about that. It could change how I look at the world...and my place in it.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord