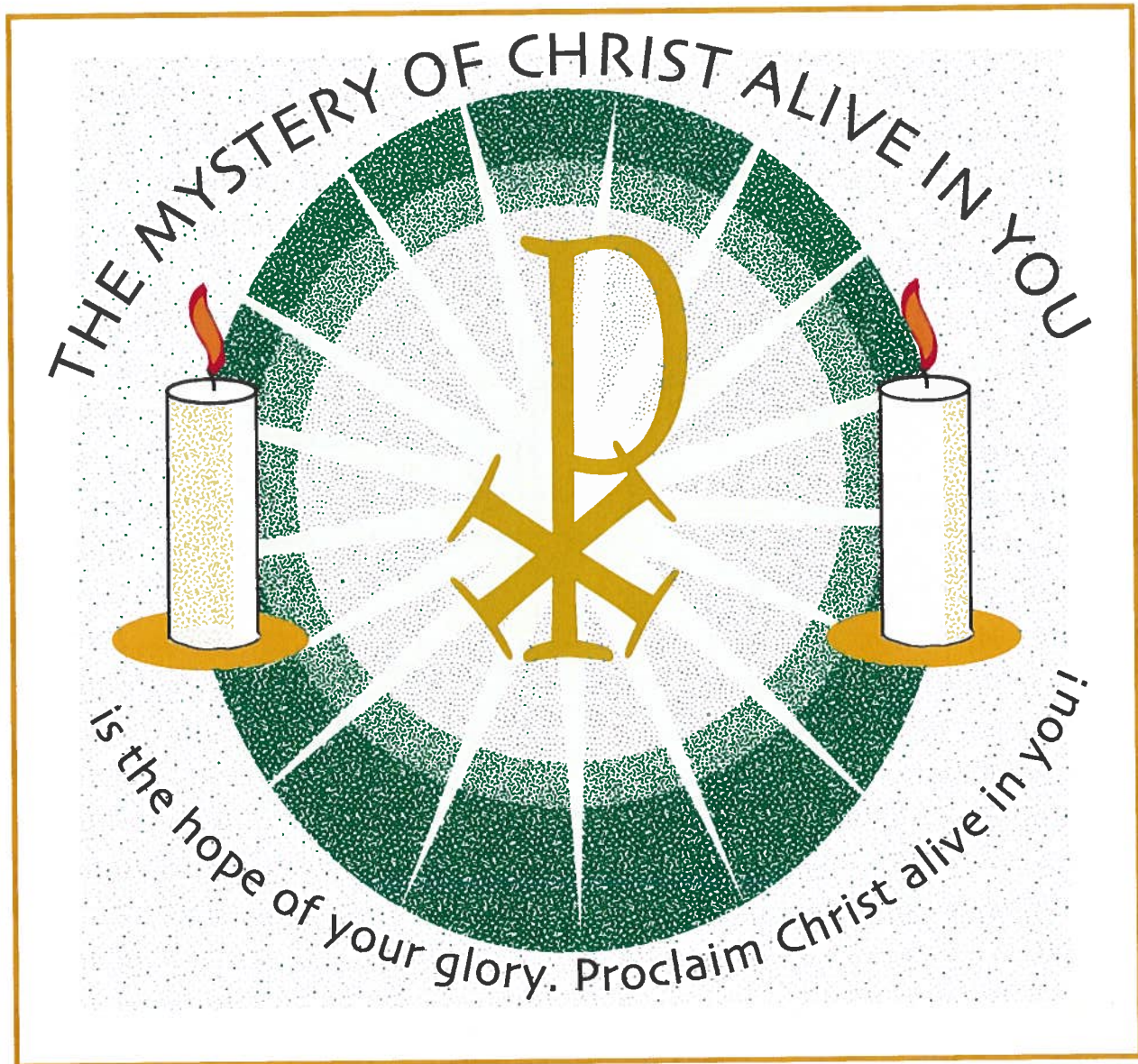


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 19-20, 2025



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "Martha and Mary must join together in order to show hospitality to the Lord and have Him always present."

—Saint Teresa of Ávila

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26-27, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, July 26 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, July 27 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, July 27 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, July 27 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Todd Datweiler Roger Jensen Gery Wright	Dennis Pankey Daryl Ferris	Dan Forsythe Arlen Hansen Jeff Martin Vic Carlile	Kim Smicker Galen Fritz Sean Riordan Brent Fulton
Lector	Dave Emling	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Dana Masching
Eucharistic Minister			Jonathan Wood	
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Christine Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Stacie Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, July 21 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Webber (Donna Ruder Family)

Tuesday, July 22 (SH)

8:00 am +Tom Buckley (Mark/Sue Rickie)

Wednesday, July 23 (SJ)

8:00 am +Damien & Jeannette O'Connor (Larry/Janice O'Connor)

Friday, July 25 (SMM)

8:00 am +Marie Anderson (Jackie Eberle)

Saturday, July 26 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Joseph & Mary Heimbürger (MaryAnn Wagner)
+Mary McDonald (Julie Splear)

Sunday, July 27

7:30 am (SH) +Rick, Paul, & Margaret "Joyce" Meli (Rodney/Kathy Meli)

9:00am (SJ) +Rhea Suprenant (M/M Martin Mesewicz)
+Fred Gohlke (Tom Scanlon/ Dawn)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

July 19/20—K of C Auxiliary selling 50/50 tickets

Sunday, July 27—K of C Ladies Auxiliary Ice Cream Social

Friday, August 1—First Friday Adoration at SMM

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office—Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisaillon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarm@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart—Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the Week How am I hospitable to others in need of food or rest, or just some companion-ship? How can I see the Lord in such hospitality?

Collections Weekend of July 12-13

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,675

Sacred Heart—\$2,091

St. James—\$1,272

Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts - "Time Out"

Ann Jillian was filled with terror when she discovered an irregularity in her breast. She immediately imagined the worst. Cancer! As reported in Care Notes, she stopped by her church, numb and alarmed, on her way to her doctor's appointment. She saw these words by St. Francis de Sales inscribed above the entrance:

The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering, or he will give you strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

Those words, which she had never noticed before, helped her tremendously. "Up to that point," she said, "everything was turbulent. Then I released everything into God's hands. Of course God wanted to help me."

How do we as Christians overcome the habit of worrying all the time, shoving our relationship with Jesus at the bottom of the list of things to do? We find the truth in Luke 10:38-42. Martha was worried about so many things, so many important things. Jesus gently reminded her, "Martha, Martha, you are concerned about so many things. Mary has chosen the right path."

By maintaining our focus on God, our worries will fade into the background and disappear.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Ronald Schneider

brother of Dennis (Janice) Schneider

brother of Jerome Schneider

May Ron and all the faithful departed
rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to all his family and friends.

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒ The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will be selling 50/50 Raffle Tickets after all the masses the weekend of July 19th/20th .

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

⇒ Sacre Heart Church needs to fill a few open spots on the church cleaning schedule. April, June and Sept. are all open. If you would like, share the cleaning with a friend, spouse, or relative. A poster with the schedule is on the bulletin board as you enter the church. Please feel free to sign up. Questions—call Terri at 815-514-8171. Thanks again to all those who volunteer their time and support our parish.

⇒ The week of July 20th, the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of Carson Cross on his 90th birthday

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 27, 2025 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Ice Cream Sundaes
Cookies



Bingo
Basket Raffle
50/50 Raffle

Free Will Donation
St. James Church Hall (in Irwin)
4372 Main St. Kankakee, IL

Statues of St. Margaret Mary and St. James the Apostle

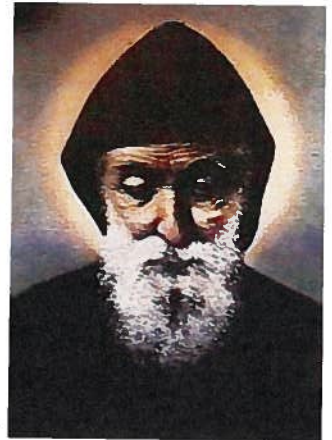
The making of the statues of St. Margaret Mary and St. James has begun. We are looking to raise additional funds to buy pedestals for the statues and other miscellaneous items. If you want to contribute to this project, please put your donation into an envelope and write "statue" on the outside of it. Also, please put a note in the envelope stating "gift of" or "in memory of" so we can make the appropriate notation. Thank you!



Saint of the week: St. Charbel Makhlouf (July 24) was the son of a mule driver. He was raised by an uncle who opposed the boy's youthful piety. The boy's favorite book was Thomas Kempis's The Imitation of Christ. At age 23 he snuck away to join the Baladite monastery of Saint Maron at Annaya where he took the name Charbel in memory of a 2nd century martyr. He professed his solemn vows in 1853 and was ordained in 1859, becoming a *hieromonk*.

He lived as a model monk but dreamed of living like the ancient desert fathers. Charbel became a hermit from 1875 until his death 23 years later, living on the bare minimums of everything. He gained a reputation for holiness, and was much sought for counsel and blessing. He had a great personal devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, and was known to levitate during his prayers. Charbel was briefly paralyzed for unknown reasons just before his death.

There were several post-mortem miracles attributed him, including periods in 1927 and 1950 when a bloody "sweat" flowed from his corpse. His tomb has become a place of pilgrimage for Lebanese and non-Lebanese, Christian and non-Christian alike.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Declan of Ardmore (July 24) was a convert. He was baptized by and became a spiritual student of Saint Colman. Declan later decided to become a monk. He trained as an evangelist by Saint Diomma of Kildimo. Declan worked in Ireland before the arrival of Saint Patrick. Declan made a pilgrimage to Rome. He was the first bishop of Ardmore, Waterford, Ireland. He was known as a miracle worker.

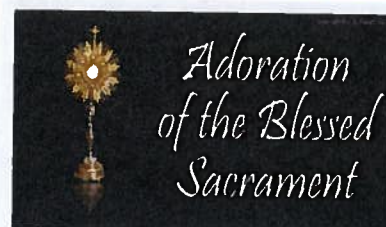
The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand."

The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course and won't be taken from her" (from Luke 10).



Martha, Martha, you are anxious
and upset about many things...
LK.10:41



Adoration

First Friday adoration will be held on Friday, August, 1 at St. Margaret Mary. Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 3:00.

"Every consecrated host is made to burn itself up with love in a human heart."
-St. John Vianney

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

The famous American hero you've never heard of...

Devout Catholic father of seven, Prisoner of War, Navy Commander, naval pilot, U.S. Senator.

July 18th, 1965. South China Sea near North Vietnam. Heat wavering in the air on the flightdeck.

Captain Jeremiah Denton strapped himself into his plane and took off, leading an air strike into Vietnam.

He never returned to that ship.



Denton with his A-6 Intruder

Shot out of the air, Jeremiah crash-landed in the Mã River and was immediately captured by the North Vietnamese. The next eight years, he said, were "hell in session."

Horribly tortured, starved, psychologically manipulated, and subjected to long periods of solitary confinement, Jeremiah astounded and enraged his captors by his strength.

They could not break him. They could not stop his influence on the other POWs.

When they tidied him up and put him on TV for an interview to convince the USA that they were treating POWs well, Denton—at the risk of his life—managed to blink (in Morse code) the word "TORTURE" *at the same*

time he was answering their innocuous questions. And American authorities learned that things were truly bad for their imprisoned men.

The North Vietnamese simply could not control Denton.

Nor could they figure him out. What sustained Jeremiah against all their abusive tactics?

In a 1974 interview, Jeremiah related a profound spiritual experience which occurred during one of his torture sessions, saying: "I was once in a rig which was inducing considerable pain, and I finally just said words to the effect of, 'God, you've got it, I can't take it anymore. I can't handle it. I'm just putting it entirely in Your Hands.' And from the instant I phrased that, I can tell you that I felt absolutely no pain, in fact I felt the greatest sense of comfort, not only physical comfort but psychological warmth and comfort, that I have ever felt in my life before or since."

This was the boundless source of Jeremiah's strength: his faith in Christ.

Through those *eight* interminable years of hellish imprisonment, Jeremiah's faith grew stronger. His belief in God and country were unshakeable. Finally, he returned home in 1973 when the United States left the Vietnam War and negotiated the release of all American POWs. After retirement he spent a term in the Senate, defending the family and national security against the attacks of the culture. He remained active on several college and foundation boards until his death in 2014.

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Current Status for 2025 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,600	\$7,550	\$5,825
St. James	\$9,700	\$6,770	\$6,588
St. MM	\$8,900	\$7,450	\$6,900

THE CATHOLIC CARTOON by Joshua Masterson





The ubiquity of social media muddles an already complex issue by presuming a right to the communication of all truth—which the Catechism teaches is not an unconditional right but must be considered with the precept of fraternal love.

they don't.) We admire those whose word matches their deed. To act against one's word is considered hypocrisy.

Martyrs aren't defined as those who die in the name of religion. They're witnesses to the truth who value it even above their own lives. Valuing the truth includes respecting the dignity of other people. The Catechism lists three errors against the truth concerning others. First, rash judgment: assuming the moral fault of a neighbor without sufficient evidence. Secondly, detraction: disclosing someone's faults for no good reason. Calumny is last: harming another's reputation by spreading misinformation. Both detraction and calumny are sins against charity and justice.

While lying is a direct offense against the truth, the Catechism also cautions against flattering, boasting, and malicious caricature. Some of our favorite comedians may be at fault lately with the latter. The ubiquity of social media muddles an already complex issue by presuming a right to the communication of all truth—which the Catechism teaches is not an unconditional right but must be considered with the precept of fraternal love. We must measure whether a divulgence ensures the common good or simply exposes the private lives of others—even if they are public figures. Gratuitous invasion into the privacy of others doesn't serve the cause of truth or charity.

Scripture: Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20; Matthew 5:33-37; John 1:14; 8:12-18, 32, 44; 12:46; 14:6; 18:37-38; Acts 24:16; Romans 3:4; 1 John 1:5-10;

Yes. The very common activity you're describing is known as *calumny*. It's a sin against the eighth commandment, which decries bearing false witness. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has an entire section on our mutual responsibility to uphold the truth (nos. 2464–2513). This is a special duty at a time when credible information is harder for well-meaning folks to discern.

God is the source of all truth. Jesus calls himself "the way, the truth, and the life." Jesus also says "you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Peddling questionable information because it's entertaining, or supports a position we favor, means participating in the shadow trade of falsehood. The Prince of Lies runs that operation and isn't a spirit we want to encamp with.

Our obligation to truth prompts us to speak with candor: that is, with freedom from bias or malice. Traditionally, one's word was one's bond, which is why we still trust people in court to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth simply because they say they will. (And face a serious offense if

*Herscher American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #795
Luncheon & Bunco Party*

Sunday--August 10, 2025
1:00 p.m. \$20.00
Herscher Legion Community Building
102 S. Oak Street, Herscher

Fundraiser for **Wreaths Across America**

Lunch served with lemonade, water and cash bar
Then play bunco

Basket Raffle Door prizes plus awards for the winners! **50/50 Raffle**

Limited number of tickets for purchase
Auxiliary Members have tickets available
Questions, call Thelma Webber @815-953-2908

Contact Debbie Jensen for ticket 815-953-6492. Proceeds for Wreaths Across America Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

A Stewardship Moment

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of July 19/20, 2025

Martha and Mary are the focus of this weekend's Gospel, which abounds with rich themes about hospitality, service, and finding the right balance between action and prayerful attention to the Lord. Christians who are good stewards of their faith life realize that if they are too busy to enjoy peaceful, private time with the Lord, then something is out of balance in their spiritual lives. If we make time for Mass, but then carry on with our busy schedules without prayer, meditation and reflection, we are missing out. If we find ourselves anxious and harried by life's routines, could it be a sign that something in our spiritual life needs some serious attention?

July 20, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:1-10a | Col 1:24-28 | Lk 10:38-42

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Are you a Martha or a Mary? How many times have we been presented with that question when we hear today's Gospel reading? At first ask, similar to many people, I would answer that I'm easily a Martha. I'm a perfectionist in many areas of my life, especially when it comes to my work or when I host dinner for friends and family. In those moments, I put a lot of pressure on myself to be the best I can be, to do the job well, and demonstrate the utmost hospitality. But as with Martha, too much focus on being "perfect" can cause worry and anxiety. But this year, hearing the story again, I realized something: There *are* times when I'm able to put those worries and anxieties aside and sit at the feet of Jesus just like Mary did, and I want to make that happen more often.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Although it has been several weeks since we celebrated the Sacred Triduum and we are back in Ordinary Time, the realization that I can be more like Mary than Martha has stayed with me. During the Triduum, we are asked by the Church to maintain a time of prayer, reverence, and, particularly on Holy Saturday, silence, as we reflect on Christ's death. This has always been the one time a year when I am able to find my "inner Mary" and sit at the feet of Christ. I thought the only way to do that was to completely shut myself off from everything, but that is not how God wants to be present in our lives. He wants to be with us always and seeks us where we are. With that realization, I learned that I can sit at his feet during my times of work or bustling as well. It can be as simple as listening to prayers on an app or praise and worship music while cooking dinner, or saying a prayer before I sit down to complete the next task at work and asking Jesus to be with me. This is a start to being more like Mary even during my busy periods. And by finding my inner "Mary," I find Jesus. So can you.

PRAY

Read through the Gospel again. Don't assume you have to stay stuck in the rhythm of being "Martha" when you know you long for a closer relationship with Jesus. Life is full of busyness and seemingly endless tasks, but being perfect will not bring calm. But inviting Jesus into those busy moments will. And when you do, Jesus will calm any anxieties you may have because you have "chosen the better part and it will not be taken from [you]."



By Johannes Vermeer, Christ in the House of Martha and Mary - Google Arts & Culture - felEzain/WDC/IA, Public Domain.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Luke 8:15

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who have kept the
word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through
perseverance.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:38-42; L108C

Jesus entered a village
where a woman whose name
was Martha welcomed
him.

She had a sister named Mary
who sat beside the Lord at
his feet listening to him
speak.

Martha, burdened with much
serving, came to him and
said,

"Lord, do you not care
that my sister has left me by myself
to do the serving?"

Tell her to help me."

The Lord said to her in reply,

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious
and worried about many things.

There is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better part
and it will not be taken from her."

Reflecting on the Gospel

Martha always gets a bad rap. In traditional interpretations of her story, she is said to be too preoccupied or anxious about the details of hospitality to attend well to her guest. Her sister, by contrast, sits in rapt attention at Jesus's feet, drinking in his every word. When Jesus declares that it is Mary who has "chosen the better part," the message we are supposed to take away, according to many

commentators, is that contemplation rather than active service is the harder but better choice and that no one can minister without first sitting and learning at Jesus's feet.

Recently New Testament scholars have proposed that Luke's concern in telling this story may be different from that. They have noticed that what concerns Martha is much *diakonia*, and her distress is over her sister leaving her to carry it out alone. Both the noun *diakonia* and the verb *diakonein* occur in verse 40.

Elsewhere in the New Testament, these terms refer primarily to ministerial service, as in Jesus's declaration of his mission "to serve," not to "be served" (Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27). In New Testament times, *diakonia* covered a wide range of ministries.

In the case of Mary Magdalene, Joanna,

Susanna, and the other Galilean women who "provided for" Jesus and the itinerant preachers "out of their resources," *diakonein* refers to financial ministry (the Greek word *hyparchonton* connotes monetary resources; Luke 8:3). This is the same nuance *diakonia* has in Acts 11:29 and 12:25 regarding Paul's collection for Jerusalem. In Acts 6:2 *diakonein* refers to table ministry, while in Acts 6:4 *diakonia* connotes ministry of the word. In Acts 1:25 *diakonia* is apostolic ministry. One individual in the New Testament is named a *diakonos*, Phoebe, "deacon of the church at Cenchreae" (Rom 16:1, NRSV).

Scholars are now thinking that the incident in today's gospel is not about preparing a meal; instead, Martha voices how burdened her heart is over the conflicts surrounding women's exercise of their ministries in the early church. Some people were greatly in favor of women evangelizers and teachers like Prisca (Acts 18:26), Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:3); women prophets like Philip's four daughters (Acts 21:9); and women heads of house churches, like Nympha (Col 4:15), Mary (Acts 12:12), Lydia (Acts 16:40), and Prisca (Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19). Others, however, argued that a woman's place was in the home and that speaking and ministering in the public sphere belonged to the men (e.g., 1 Cor 14:34-35; 1 Tim 2:11-12). Luke takes the latter position, giving it validity by placing approval of the silent Mary on Jesus's lips.

There was never any question in the early church about women becoming disciples. Both Martha and Mary welcomed Jesus and the word he spoke (vv. 38-39). The controversy swirled around what women would do with what they learned while sitting at Jesus's feet. The answer Luke gave was quite understandable for his time. Today's gospel invites us to reflect on what answer Jesus might give today to the question of a woman's place in the ministries of the church as they have now evolved.

