

JULY 29, 2021
Memorial of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
John 11: 17-27

“FAITHFUL AND BEST OF FRIENDS OF JESUS”

Today we are celebrating the memorial not only of St. Martha, which was always celebrated only for her, but now with her other siblings, Sts. Mary and Lazarus. Let take some background of this feast day of this three disciples and friends of Jesus. “Pope Francis added the memorial of Sts. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus to the General Roman Calendar, giving the siblings the combined feast day of July 29. A decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship said on Feb. 2 that Pope Francis had included the three saints in the General Roman Calendar ‘considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, in believing that he is the resurrection and the life.’ Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus were three siblings living in the town of Bethany outside of Jerusalem during the time of Christ. The pope’s decree said that ‘in the household of Bethany the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, and for this reason, the Gospel of John states that he loved them.’ Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death.”¹ The three of them followed the Lord all their lives, witnessed God’s abundant mercy and love through their friendship with Jesus. Because of their closeness, they became embodiment of sharing, camaraderie and willingness to be of service to one another. They treasured their relationship and elevated their friendship with Jesus by showing love and serve those people around them. They demonstrated their respect and loyalty to Jesus through giving and sharing their lives to others. They became great example that Jesus wanted them to be. They were holy siblings, a brother and sisters dedicated to the Lord all their lives.

¹ www.catholicnewsagency.com

The death of Lazarus gives us the profound statement who Jesus is and hope for those who believe in Him: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”² Even if death occurs, for those who have faith in Him will live forever because in Christ there is life everlasting. Jesus ‘postponed’ His visit to the siblings not because He did not love them but wanted the occasion, grief, sadness be turn into joy, hope, and for us to look forward that death has nothing compare to the power and love of God.

So, my sisters and brothers, like Martha, let us also say “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”³ Let us have a strong faith in God and believe that we will never be abandoned by Jesus in our sadness, grief and challenges in life. He will come to visit us and comfort us in our sorrow like what He did when He visited Martha and Mary, and raised Lazarus from the tomb. Like Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, let us be closer to Jesus, loyal and faithful disciples and followers of Him throughout our lives. We will be in Christ’s Kingdom as we are close to Jesus here on earth and enjoy His company and at the end, we will rise again as we are faithful and best of friends of Jesus.

² John 11: 25-26 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

³ John 11: 27 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society