

Scripture Reflection for Living Faith

Monday, April 12, 2004

Easter Monday

Aileen A. O'Donoghue

Acts 2:14,22-23, Ps. 16:1-2,5,7-11, Mt. 28:8-15

“The women ... did him homage. At this, Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid! Go and carry the news to my brothers ...” Mt. 28:9-10

These words of Jesus are some that I cherish. I carry them in my heart and reach for them at odd times, like a worry-stone in my pocket, to finger and take comfort from the surface smoothed and polished by the rough edges of my life as a woman in the Church.

In these words, Jesus tells all whose experience can be devalued or dismissed by those in power to believe our own experience of him, to not fear the reality of our experience and to carry the news of our experience to those who may or may not believe us. In fact, Jesus commands us to speak of our experience of him and silence in the face of those who would rather we not speak is nothing short of disobedience to Christ.

Granted, it is not every experience Jesus commands us to share, but the experience of his response to our homage, our reverence ... our prayer.

It is in obedience of this statement of Jesus that I speak my experience of life, of the world, and of Christ, to those who find such statements challenging their authority, outside the Church, and within it.