



# DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

**April 8, 2026**

Diocese of Portland  
Office of Vocations

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## **THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: THE EMPTY TOMB AND THE PRIESTLY HEART**

The Gospels tell us that the first person to the tomb on Easter morning was not one of the Apostles, but Mary Magdalene. She went in the dark, driven by love, and was the first to witness the empty tomb and to see the Risen Lord. The Apostles, hiding in fear, had to be brought the news.

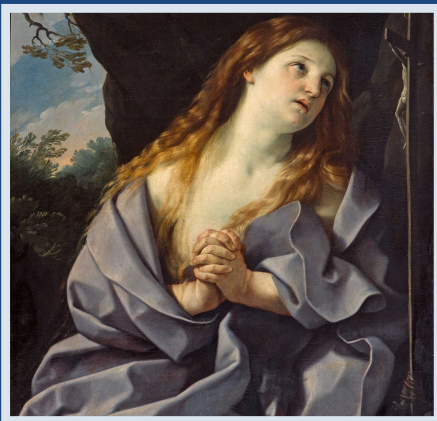
This teaches us something essential about the priestly life. A priest must be a man who is not afraid to seek the Lord in the "darkness"—in the midst of sin, suffering, and confusion. He is called to be the one who runs to the tomb of a person's heart, proclaims the news that "He is not here, for He has risen," and helps others encounter the Risen Christ. The Resurrection is not just a doctrine to be taught, but a life-giving reality to be witnessed.



## **SPIRITUAL FUEL: LIVING THE OCTAVE**

The Church celebrates the Resurrection with such joy that Easter is not just one day, but an "Octave"—eight days celebrated as one continuous feast day. This week, I invite you to live with that same Easter joy.

- **Prayer:** When you pray the Our Father this week, linger on the words, "Thy Kingdom come." Pray for the grace to be a missionary of that Kingdom, a herald of its victory over sin and death.
- **Action:** In your daily life, consciously be a bearer of good news. Share a word of encouragement, offer a genuine smile, perform an act of unexpected generosity. Let the joy of the Resurrection shine through you.
- **Praise:** Make an effort to sing the Alleluia at Mass with full voice. Put on some uplifting Christian music. Let praise be the default language of your heart this week.



## **A SAINT FOR YOUR JOURNEY: ST. MARY MAGDALENE**

Our saint for this Easter season is the "Apostle to the Apostles," St. Mary Magdalene. She is the perfect model for a discerning heart. She loved Jesus deeply, stayed with Him at the Cross, and was rewarded by being the first to see Him on Easter morning. When she recognized Him, she didn't keep the news to herself. She ran immediately to the Apostles and announced, "I have seen the Lord!"

Her story teaches us that a true encounter with the Risen Christ cannot be contained. It compels us to go out and share the Good News. Pray for her intercession, that you might have the same love for Christ that kept her at the foot of the Cross, and the same courage to announce His Resurrection to a world that desperately needs to hear it.

*Yours in Christ,*

Rev. Brad Morin

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## **PRACTICAL DISCERNMENT: THE "NEW CREATION" IN YOU**

St. Paul tells us that if anyone is in Christ, he is a "new creation" (2 Cor 5:17). Baptism made us new, and the Resurrection is the guarantee of that new life. Discernment is about discovering how God wants to bring that "new creation" to its fullness in you.

This week, take some time to reflect on the new life God has already given you.

- Where have you seen growth in your spiritual life over the past year?
- What old sins or bad habits has God helped you to overcome?
- What new spiritual desires has He placed in your heart?

Thank God for this new life. And then ask Him: "Lord, what is the next step? How do you want this new creation in me to grow and serve you?"

## **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

May the joy of the Risen Lord fill your hearts this Easter season and dispel any darkness or doubt you may have. He is victorious, and His victory is our victory.

I wish you a blessed and holy Easter. Know of my prayers for you.