



# Daily Reflections

**April 7, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Mark 16: 9-15**

When Jesus had risen, early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told his companions who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After this he appeared in another form to two of them walking along on their way to the country. They returned and told the others; but they did not believe them either. But later, as the Eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."

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## Our Scripture Reflection

In today's Easter Gospel the Risen Lord takes the disciples to task for their "unbelief and hardness of heart." What the Gospel text does not tell us is the "rest of the story". After Pentecost almost all of them would end up laying

down their lives in glorious martyrdom as they witnessed to the Lord. What an incredible turnaround story!

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## **Food for your Journey**

'The first 25 years of my life were rotten," Fritz Seipelt says, his thick English echoing a distant time and place - namely Silesia, during the madness of war. "But the Lord has made up for it during the last 25."

Such are words from a man who is summing up his life. And it's time for summing up.

Sometime this year Seipelt, a member of Prince of Peace Church, Merrillville, Indiana, will die from the liver cancer that has eaten more than 50 pounds from his square frame. Initially misdiagnosed, the cancer was discovered after it was too late to treat it.

Morphine staves off pain as he cleans out decades of records from his basement office so Rosie, his wife, won't have to deal with them after he's gone. On his desk sit carefully wrapped packages - mementos from travels - that he is giving to friends.

As he cleans and wraps, it's easier to find gratitude than bitterness in Seipelt. Last February his sister-in-law from Germany phoned and asked, "All the good you did for our Lord Jesus Christ - why can't he do good for you?"

He has, Fritz counters: "I've seen more and been able to do more than 90 percent of the people in the world ever do...."

"Fritz is 'Mr. Hunger Appeal' in our diocese," says Bishop Ralph Kempinski. "He has gone at his own expense to Third World countries to learn about hunger. He's a regular presence at diocesan assemblies and a member of the diocesan council - always handing out information.

"If anyone is called by God to lift up this concern, it's Fritz. He is a kindhearted gentleman who shows what God can do with an ordinary human being. Fritz isn't a sophisticated guy. He simply cares and gets things done."

Under Seipelt's leadership the diocese has given more than \$3 million to world hunger and at one time was averaging about \$250,000 a year.

## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Precious Lord,

the resurrection of Your Son

has given us new life and renewed hope.

Help us to live as new people

in pursuit of the Christian ideal.

Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,

the will to want to do it,

the courage to undertake it,

the perseverance to continue to do it,

and the strength to complete it. Amen