



Noli me tangere – Easter 2020

Never before did these associations come to me reading the Easter story of Mary of Magdala: no contact – 6 feet distance – Don't touch me!

As in this year, the restrictions due to the Corona pandemic don't allow close contact to people, this story of the Gospel is very close to me. Mary recognizes in Jesus her beloved friend whom she searched in the tomb, she understands that he is alive – yet may not hold him close to herself. Naturally, the Gospel is not about infection, but has another focus: Nobody – even with the deepest love – can keep God for herself or himself. As Peter was not allowed to build a hut at Tabor mountain when he experienced the transfiguration of Jesus, so Mary is not allowed to keep this encounter with Jesus for herself. Faith is nothing we possess, but again and again a letting go and giving free. However, this year's associations show how up-to-date a well known passage of the Gospel can become in a changed situation.

With these thoughts, I wish that we all may find strength during this unusual celebration of Easter, the strength to continually search Jesus the Living and share our experiences with Him with others. This is what Mary Magdalena did when she told the disciples – and for sure also others – what she experienced at the tomb. Thus, her personal encounter became a proclamation of faith. Our world needs this sharing of our faith, especially as we cannot hold on to the traditions we always practiced. How do I encounter the Risen One today?

Blessed Easter,

Sr. M. Dominica Michalke