

Tuesday 8 October

Jon 3:1-10, Ps 130:1b-2,3-4ab,7-8, Lk 10:38-42

From Baptised and Sent

The vocations of Martha and Mary are two different and complementary ones, driven by the same intention: to recognise the uniqueness of the One who knocked on the door. These two women, then, do not represent an antithesis, as has too often been suggested. Serving and listening are shown to be reciprocal rather than opposing actions in the mission that Jesus entrusts to the Church. The presence of Jesus calls us to take up the journey to enter the heart of every person by listening to the Word and by service... (p. 108)

From Pope Francis

Tenderness is a sign of the love that God shows to those who suffer and are cast aside. Suffering need not only be physical; one of today's most frequent pathologies is also spiritual. It is a suffering of the heart; it causes sadness for lack of love. When we experience disappointment or betrayal in important relationships, we come to realise how vulnerable and defenceless we are. The temptation to become self-absorbed grows stronger, and we risk losing life's greatest opportunity: *to love in spite of everything!*

The happiness that everyone desires can be expressed in any number of ways and attained only if we are capable of loving. This is the way. It is always a matter of love; there is no other path. The true challenge is that of who loves the most.ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

*Our three old houses are alive; the kitchens still make jam, put tea into tea pots, serve food to visitors. Their rooms are still turned out for annual spring cleaning; their stairs still creak at night. Useful, practical and beautiful things keep a number of people going in these houses through out the year, because charity and love are there, God is there.*ⁱⁱ

ⁱ http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20160612_omelia-giubileo-ammalati-disabili.html

ⁱⁱ *The Wheeling Years*, Three Houses of the Good Samaritans