

"God Bless America"

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July 2008

GRACE IN ACTION

LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

celebrate
July

- 11 St. Benedict
- 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 St. Mary Magdalene
- 25 St. James
- 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola

modern disciple

Nonviolence includes simplicity

While many Catholics may be concerned about war and the environment, some Catholics feel called to put their beliefs into practice in dramatic and unique ways. Kathy Kelly has been arrested for participating in nonviolent, anti-war protests, and she has never driven a car because of her concerns about the earth's resources. Co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, she has demonstrated the courage of her pacifist convictions in some of the world's most war-torn places.



Kathy Kelly: American peacemaker

As her earliest role models, Kelly credits the sisters in her Chicago neighborhood's convent. Maryknoll Magazine also provided a childhood influence. And despite her stance against U.S. foreign policy, Kelly is proud to be an American.

"Ours is a short history, but we have a lot to be proud of. So much has been accomplished by small groups of people who knew too much not to act," Kelly said, listing early abolitionists, suffragettes, unionists, civil-rights-movement participants and anti-war protesters as examples of those who took creative, nonviolent actions.

For spiritual succor Kelly turns to saints and Scripture: "I'm drawn by Francis of Assisi and the drama of his choices. Dorothy Day talked a lot about St. Thérèse of Lisieux and the simple way," she said.

"The sustainability of our planet relies upon a distribution of resources," Kelly said. "There's economic violence, so we have to extend our definition of nonviolence to include doing as much as we possibly can to cut back on what we consume and waste, to live more simply, to face hard questions about everyday life."

"In our own personal lives, we must absorb and make changes we want to see writ larger. I think people would be happier if they would drop out of the national religion of shopping," she said. "To help another person in great need, to improve the quality of life for another person — these are great gifts in life."

faith fact Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene and Jesus' mother, Mary, are the only two women to be named in all four Gospels. Based on the 13 references to Mary Magdalene in the canonical Gospels alone, we can learn this much about her:

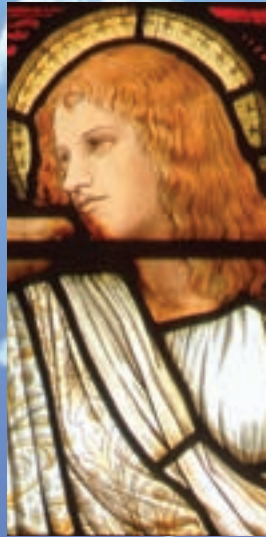
- She was one of several women followers of Jesus.
- She was a witness at His crucifixion.
- She was present at His burial, preparing spices and perfumed oils to anoint His body.
- She, alone or with other women, discovered His empty tomb.
- She encountered angels at the tomb.
- She, alone or among other disciples, first encountered the risen Jesus.
- She was the first to proclaim the news of His resurrection.

Luke 8:2 refers to her as a woman who had been possessed by seven devils, which Jesus had exorcised. She became one of His followers; she is referred to in ancient Greek as an "associate," or "companion," of Jesus. Yet Mary Magdalene remains one of the most mysterious women in human history.

— Excerpted from an article by Dick Bushnell in Mission magazine, courtesy California Province of the Society of Jesus

"Liberty of spirit is a detachment of the Christian heart from all things to follow the known will of God."

— St. Francis de Sales



Crosiers

definingmoment

Stewardship Alphabet

Source: OSV Catholic Dictionary

P **Pacifism:** The belief that all war is immoral and contrary to the example and words of Jesus. Pacifists contend that no war is ever upright because it cannot be waged without an inner hatred. Catholic moral theology seeks to foster peace without counseling pacifism.

P **Paraclete:** The Holy Spirit. St. John employs this title, which is also translated as "Counselor," "Comforter" or "Consoler." The Paraclete continues the saving work of Christ until His second coming.

P **Patience:** The virtue, connected to the cardinal virtue of fortitude, that enables one to endure suffering for love of God and neighbor. Patience allows one to grow in and respond to charity.

P **Pax:** (Latin: peace) The exchange of a sign of peace between those attending Mass. This gesture has ancient origins, going back as far as the second century.

P **Peace:** The condition of the heart and mind, within the very spirit, of one renewed and justified in Christ. This interior peace is the basis of all external peace within families, communities, society and the world. Peace accompanies righteousness, grace, mercy, love, joy and life.

P **Petition:** One of four purposes of prayer, asking God blessings for ourselves and others.

P **Poor and Needy:** Those who are oppressed because of the lack of bodily necessities. The Church continues, as always, to assist the poor in their plight by appealing to the generosity of the faithful.

P **Poor Box:** Sometimes called the alms-box, a slotted box to collect alms for the needy; found in churches from the earliest days of Christianity.

Visit www.graceinaction.org for more "P" words and definitions from letters A-O.

trythis

Recycle; help soldiers phone home



As we celebrate Independence Day state-side, thousands of American soldiers are stationed abroad. You can help our troops call home at the same time you do a good deed for the environment through Cell Phones for Soldiers. This free and convenient recycling program keeps cell phones and other gadgets out of landfills and puts calling cards in the hands of U.S. troops. If you like, you can donate to a specific soldier.

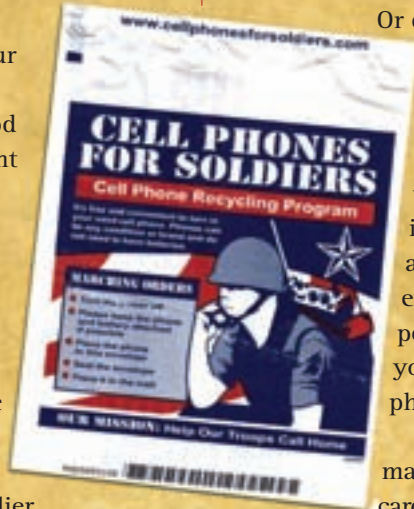
Whatever the brand, age or condition of your phone, pager or Blackberry, it can help make a connection through this organization that sells items to a recycling center, then uses the money

collected to buy and send the calling cards to soldiers in need. Visit the website www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com for specific drop-off locations in your area.

Or download a free shipping label from the website – but if you pay your own postage, more money can go toward the soldiers' calling cards. The website also includes a data eraser to remove all your personal information so you can contribute your phone worry-free.

If you prefer, you can make a donation by credit card, or send a check, money

order or prepaid calling card directly to Cell Phones for Soldiers, South Shore Savings Bank, 400 Washington St., Norwell, MA 02061; or call 800-426-1031 for more information.



kidscorner

Pennies from heaven

Look closely at U.S. coins. Find the words, "In God we trust." On U.S. dollar bills, find the eye of God. Money is one of the many blessings flowing from God. As stewards, we return some of our money to God. You can do this by placing a portion of your allowance or gift money into your parish offertory collection.



Illustration by Quincy Benton

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