



## I Can't Believe It!

**T**his sentence can mean two very contradictory things. It might express skepticism, similar to: "You've got to be kidding!" It means that what we are asked to accept as fact is just too far-fetched. Or we might marvel at something we think is magnificent, far beyond our expectations. Here it means: "I'm speechless!"

Let's think that the empty tomb alone is proof of Jesus' resurrection, today's Gospel shows us that even his closest friends had initial problems with the idea. When Mary of Magdala found the tomb empty, she did not immediately conclude Jesus had risen. By itself, an empty tomb proves nothing. She thought his body had been taken. In the first reading, Peter describes how later several of Jesus' followers experienced him alive. This experience certainly changed their thinking. Like Peter, they then went out and proclaimed the truth of the resurrection. However, only those who had the experience were sure.

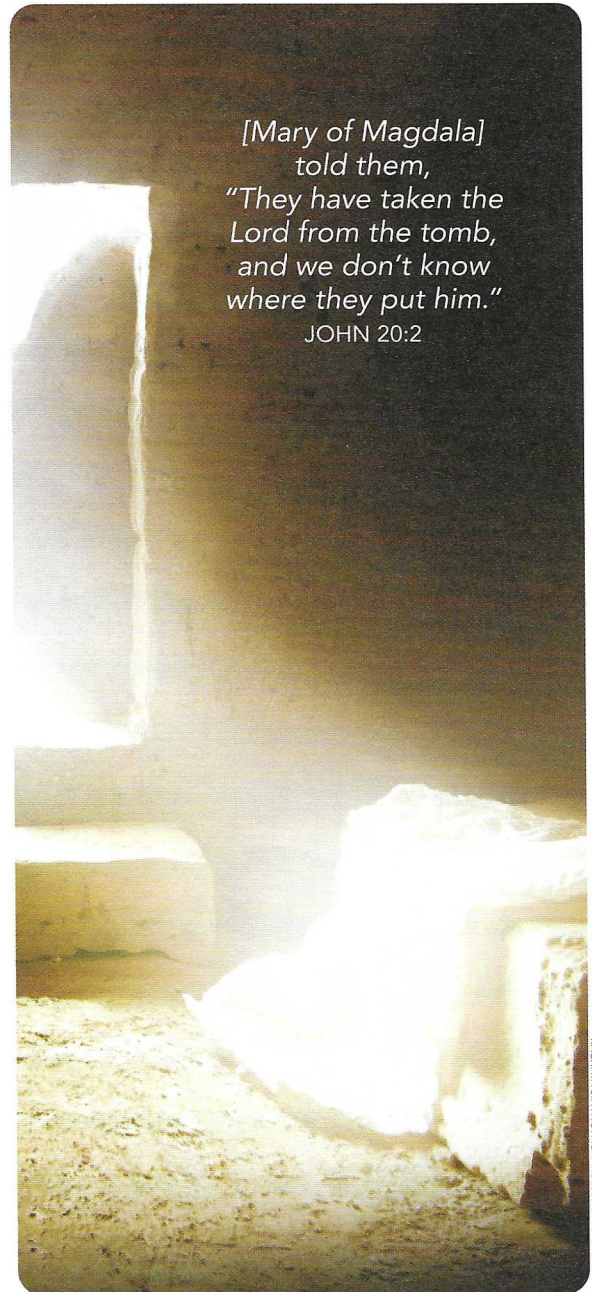
Neither empty tomb nor someone else's personal experience are by themselves certain evidence of the resurrection. Then what is? We find the beginning of an answer in the even-later writing of Paul. Speaking to the Colossians he says: "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (3:3). In other words, the real proof of the resurrection is the faith of centuries of Christians whose lives have been changed by that faith. In other words, the way you and I live proclaims whether Jesus is alive and well in us.

I can hardly believe it.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *We may have to wait for our own resurrection to get insight into the resurrection of Jesus. Pray for a deepened faith.*
- ✦ *What might you do to make your own life a stronger witness of Jesus' resurrection?*



*[Mary of Magdala  
told them,  
"They have taken the  
Lord from the tomb,  
and we don't know  
where they put him."*

JOHN 20:2