



Office of Worship
Diocese of Honolulu

Memorandum

TO: All Clergy, Religious, Catholic Schools, and Lay Organizations

FROM: Deacon Modesto Cordero, Director, Office of Worship

DATE: June 22, 2016

RE: Feast of St. Mary Magdalene - "Apostle of the Apostles"

On June 3, 2016 the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has published a new decree by which Pope Francis elevated the July 22nd obligatory memorial of St. Mary Magdalene to a feast day on the church's liturgical calendar, putting her on par with the apostles. Vatican's decree and article titled "Apostolorum Apostola" ("Apostle of the Apostles") recognizes St. Mary Magdalene's role as the first to witness Christ's resurrection and as a "true and authentic evangelizer."

Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary of the Congregation, wrote that in celebrating "an evangelist who proclaims the central joyous message of Easter," St. Mary Magdalene's feast day is a call for all Christians to "reflect more deeply on the dignity of women, the new evangelization and the greatness of the mystery of divine mercy." "Pope Francis has taken this decision precisely in the context of the Jubilee of Mercy to highlight the relevance of this woman who showed great love for Christ and was much loved by Christ," Archbishop Roche wrote.

In the Mass and in the Divine Office to be celebrated on that date from now on, the usual texts in the Roman Missal and the Liturgy of the Hours will be used, but the Mass will also include a specific Preface entitled "*de apostolorum apostola*" ("Apostle of the apostles") which is yet to be formally translated into English. The Office of Worship will send another notification as soon as it becomes available.

The *Gloria*, but not the Creed, is added on Feasts. The Mass readings are from the lectionary # 603: Sg 3: 1-4b or 2 Cor 5: 14-17 and Jn 20: 1-2, 11-18. The *Te Deum* is added to the Office of Readings on Feasts.

Please feel free to contact me at the Office of Worship, 808-585-3342 or email at mcordero@rcchawaii.org should you have any questions.

Blessings!