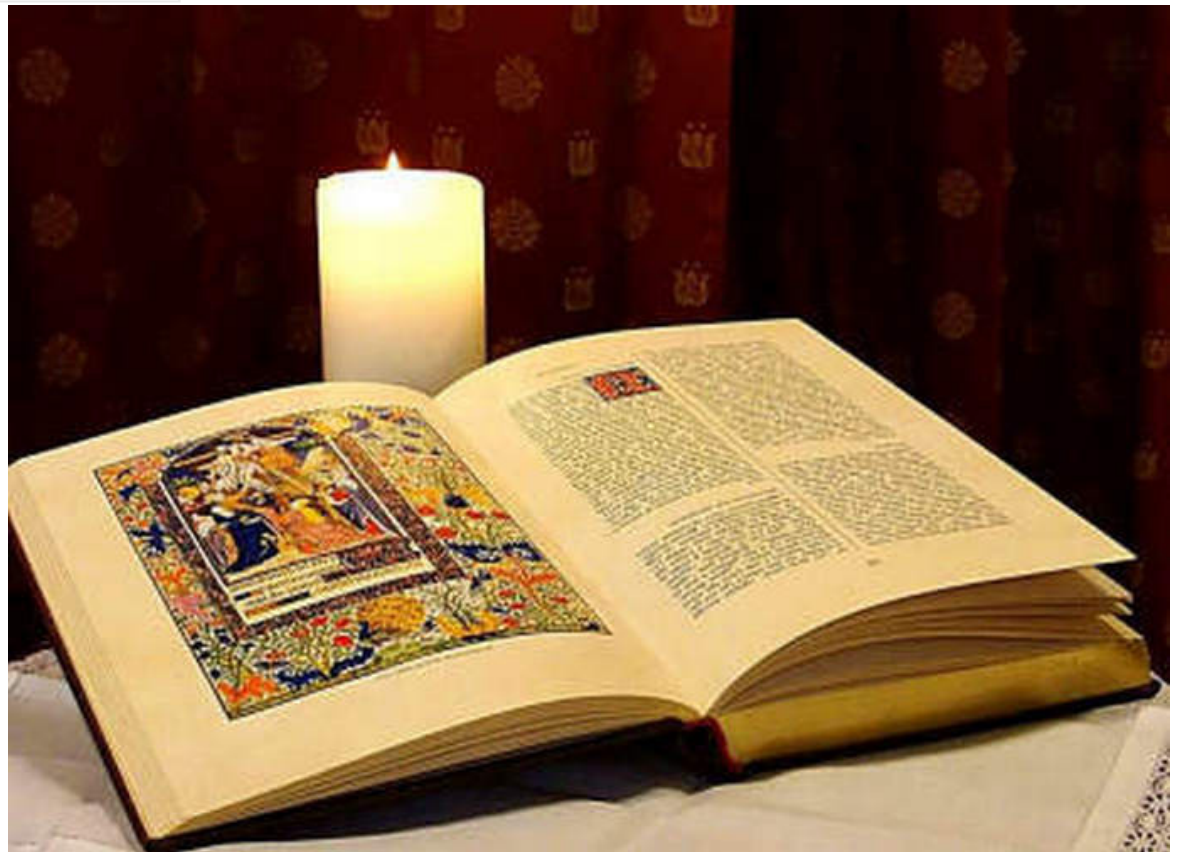


GOSPEL PEARLS

Generously sharing Him

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06_04_2021



But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him,

and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her. (John 20: 11-18)

The men and women Jesus loves are those whose purpose in life is to do His will. When Jesus tells Mary Magdalene not to "cling" to Him so selfishly, He is really telling her to share Him generously with all the other disciples. This is true evangelization: not keeping the things of God (words, actions and will) just for ourselves but always willing to share them with everyone we meet. So how much do we really share our experiences of faith with others?