

GOSPEL PEARLS

Let us pray to the Holy Spirit with confidence

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Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for

*their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. **1**And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (Mark 16: 9-15)*

Jesus rebukes the apostles because they did not believe the people who had seen Him resurrected. Evidently faith in Jesus passes through the trust we must have in people who have experienced Him directly. So we must not be discouraged if sometimes our hearts are filled with doubt or disbelief. The apostles felt this way as well, but with the help of the Holy Spirit they became courageous witnesses to Jesus, even ready to die for him. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit with confidence so as to bend what is rigid, warm what is cold, and straighten what is crooked within us.