

St Martha, Friend of Jesus. The sister of Mary and Lazarus of Bethany. Honoured for her confession of faith in the Lord in which she beseeched him to restore life to her dead brother (John 11:27) Martha's great glory is her simple and strong statement of faith in Jesus after her brother's death. "Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world'" (John 11:25-27).

Saint John intends that we should see Martha's words to Mary before Lazarus was raised as a summons that every Christian must obey. In her saying "The teacher is here and is asking for you," Jesus is calling every one of us to resurrection—now in baptismal faith, forever in sharing his victory over death. And all of us, as well as these three friends, are in our own unique way called to special friendship with him. The Church teems with Martha's doing good works and the world is richer and more beautiful for it. The Word is still made flesh through such servants every day.

Saint Martha has also left us a strong witness of faith. We see, in her response to Jesus' questions after the death of her brother Lazarus, a total belief, a faith that does not hesitate, does not doubt. Martha has complete confidence in God, even in the face of what seems impossible on a human level: Martha's 'Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.'" It is the essence of Christianity; Martha, in her answer, condenses the whole of the faith into a simple confession of belief, which in turn is the faith of every believer, a simple answer in which every Christian can recognize the meaning of life. Nonetheless, because of her admirable dedication to doing the work necessary to offer a guest a comfortable respite, the Church recognizes Martha as a model of industriousness. Let us pray to have a faith like St. Martha and to work by spreading the Good News.