



**Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States**  
**Monthly Message for the Priests Wives**  
**June 2020**

**Because He Loved Us**

My Dearest Sister in Christ,

In the priesthood of our husbands, we have been called to a different life, a life set apart. It can be hard, and it comes with so many challenges. (Anyone who has tried to enjoy a romantic dinner out under the staring eyes of the other patrons knows what I mean).

Christ called us to this tough journey, a journey with speed bumps and cliffhangers, with flat tires and check engine lights blinking. It is a life with no smooth or predictable path—because humans are unpredictable, and this world can never be smooth for long.

But Christ called us to follow Him, both us wives and our husbands. Despite these challenges, let us remember that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

Sometimes, when we are following our Lord, we forget the circumstances of our call. We throw our hands up and wonder why and how we got ourselves into this in the first place. We forget that we love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

I wonder if you remember the call of the Lord. If you close your eyes, can you put yourself back in that place where you first reached out and took His hand, agreeing to the priesthood for your husband, committing your whole life to service of Christ?

Do you remember how it happened? Do you remember how Christ showed you over and over that He would be there for you and that He would provide for your needs? I know sometimes we forget the signs of His love in the bustle of life and the pains of service.

I have been watching a new show about the life of Christ called *The Chosen*. It has got me thinking deeply about the origins of those who followed Christ, the people in whose footsteps we follow. Because their lives with Christ were so grand and

momentous and because Christ Himself is the focus of the Scriptures, sometimes we forget their calling.

For example, it happens so quickly in Scripture that we sometimes forget that Mary Magdalene who followed Christ all the way to the empty tomb began her journey with the Lord being healed of seven demons (Luke 8:2). Her healing is just a footnote, a postscript. But can you picture with me this woman who must have lived a miserable life, tormented by not one or two but seven demons? How could her healing be a simple footnote? Yet, I am certain she never forgot the works God did for her, and it drove her unabashed loyalty, even to the foot of the Holy Cross.

Or think about Simon and Andrew who fished all night and caught nothing. Fishing was their livelihood. Can you imagine working an eight-hour day and earning nothing? With just a gesture from our Lord, that morning they caught so many they needed help from the sons of Zebedee. Yet that catch was just a footnote in their life. But in the hard times, I'm sure they recalled together the scene on the sea when the Lord pushed all their hesitations aside and called them to become Fishers of Men.

And you. Think back to when Christ called you. Think of the assurances He gave you, the needs He took care of, the pieces that fell so perfectly into place. Take heart and remember.

When God calls us, He always takes care of us first. Let us not forget that when times get hard. Let us not forget all the ways He has blessed us and all the faithful promises He has made and fulfilled (and continues to fulfill).

Let us remember that we love Him because He first loved us.

Your sister in Christ,  
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