

Reason 4: Love Opens the Door to Understanding and Knowledge.

Hopefully we all love our own mothers. Jesus, who is the perfect Son, loved his mother even more. Being God He perfectly fulfilled the 4th commandment. Jesus loves everyone, but Mary was most open and therefore she is the most perfect vessel to receive that love. If we would want to console our own mother's sorrow, how much more so would Jesus.

Love reveals what the skeptic is slow to believe.

Reason 5: Historical Tradition

The tradition that Mary was the first to witness our Lord's Resurrection is not overly strong, but it is there. Sedulius 5th Cent., George of Nicomedia 9th, Ignatius of Loyola, Eadmer c. 1126, and Pope Benedict XIV 1758 all claimed it happened this way.

Christus Rex Web site has several pictures of the ruins of a Basilica in Jerusalem that was destroyed by the Moslems in 1009 AD, and it reports how the pilgrim Daniel visited "the chapel dedicated to Jesus' apparition to his mother."

Reason 6: Magisterial Teaching

Now, with the teaching of John Paul II on Wednesday, 21 May 1997 we have that to consider. He did not claim that it was infallibly revealed, but he did say that it was reasonable to conclude that the Blessed Mother was the first to witness Jesus' Resurrection and obviously he believed it as well. Verify at Official Vatican Web Site.

See Link at Web Site below.

So, why do Sacred Scriptures not record this event ?

John 20:30-31 clues us in as to why this event need not be included in Scriptures, but looking further we can see a possible reason why the Holy Spirit would have wanted to leave this visitation out of the Bible. Perhaps He wanted to help us attain something more valuable than just data for our intellect. Our minds were made to wonder and meditate about things.

On the one hand we can speculate about the sordid innuendos and accusations that our fallen world constantly throws our way, or we can speculate about the things of God. Perhaps God wanted us to open our hearts by getting us wonder "Where was Jesus when the tomb was found empty?" What would have motivated His heart? How much love did the perfect Son have for the perfect Mother? Why would Mary be absent from the tomb? Did she already know something the others did not?

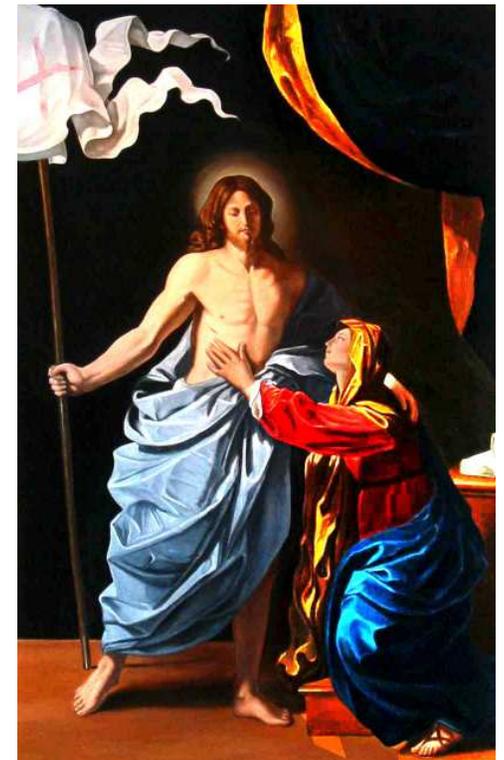
As we contemplate about Jesus we can draw much fruit as we think about how much we each love our own mother. Maybe God intended the answers to some questions to remain hidden until we pondered those questions with love in our hearts because only in the context of love could the real answers be known. Love opens heart as well as the mind to a deeper understanding of the things of God.

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Was Jesus' Mother the first to see our Resurrected Lord ?



**Saint
John Paul II
thought so**