

## Called to Take the First Step

### Reflection:

We know that Pope Francisco has a special creativity to give a word meaning. He says that the Gospel invites us to *take the first step*, in imitating Mary, Peter, and John, it is not only to wake up physically in the morning, but *taking the first step* is to strive to be the first to experience the grace of the risen Christ. Be the first to overcome their fears. Be the first to bring the good news. Be the first to put our gifts to service...

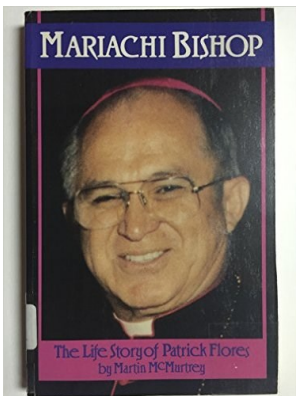
#### Gospel

*John 20:1-9*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead .

We need to understand the enthusiasm of those who laid the seeds and provided us with fruit. A good reporter wants to be the first person to experience an event, a scientist wants to be the first to discover something new; when something new is being advertised, we want to be the first to arrive, before the store doors its doors, we are there. Love also makes us *take the first step*. The young lover wants to be the first to congratulate his girlfriend. Among Hispanics, there are many examples on what is to *take the first step*.

Let's take a look at a few...



**Bishop Patrick Flores** is a consecrated Bishop, who becomes the first priest of Mexican origin to hold a position of that kind within the Catholic Church in the United States.



**César Chávez**, the first Latino who leads to defend human and labor rights and is the first Latino to be recognized with a special day in the American calendar.

He is an inspirational Catholic to start a battle without violence, highlighting the search for peace and justice, his legacy for all Hispanics will continue in the United States.



**Rita Moreno**, of Puerto Rican descent, is the first Latina actress to receive an Oscar. She obtained this Oscar for her work in the film *West Side Story*.

**Juan Felipe Herrera**, son of Mexican farmers in California becomes the first Hispanic poet laureate.



**Jose M. Hernandez**, with parents of Mexican descent, is the first Hispanic astronaut.

The actor **Edward James Olmos**, of Mexican origin, won an Emmy for his work on the *Miami Vice* TV series, and film *Stand and Deliver*



**Shane Aguirre**, of Mexican descent became the first Latino in the Chamber of Commerce of the State of Mississippi.

**And many more....**

- ◆ **Dr. Luis Walter Alvarez**, of the Manhattan project, is the first Hispanic born in the USA to receive a Nobel Prize in physics, in 1968, for his discoveries of certain Atomic particles.
- ◆ Baseball player **Roberto Clemente** of Puerto Rico descent, is the first Hispanic to be included in the Hall of Fame.
- ◆ **Edward Hidalgo** is appointed Secretary of the United States Navy, is the first Hispanic to hold that position.
- ◆ **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**, born in Cuba, becomes the first Latino woman to get to the United States Congress. She represents Miami-Dade County, Florida.

*How much did it cost these individuals to take their first step?*

*What will it cost you to take the first step to this V Encuentro?*