

# activism and contemplation

THOUGHTS FROM SAINT AUGUSTINE

Two persons were in the house at Bethany, both blameless, both praiseworthy; two ways of life — and with them the source of life; Martha, an image of the present life; and Mary, signifying the future life. Both were friends of the Lord, both lovable, both His disciples. What Martha did, we are. What Mary did, we are in hope of. Let us do one well, so that we obtain the fulness of the other..

Righteous, unselfish, peaceful and calm work in temporal things makes us worthy of eternal things. Only we should not let ourselves be held by it, we should not cleave and cling to it. Toil should not engulf us while it grows, should not ensnare us as it unravels itself. We should attain a certain freedom from perishable things and strive after the unchanging, eternal, certain values, superior to the merely earthly things. Our doing should be such as to attain a calm peacefulness instead of degenerating into a restless hurry. Mild and calm according to the image of Christ be the labor of the soul which desires rest to accomplish her task — not lazy, not careless, but as it is written: "In meekness perfect good works."