



2013 U.S. TOUR OF THE RELIC OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

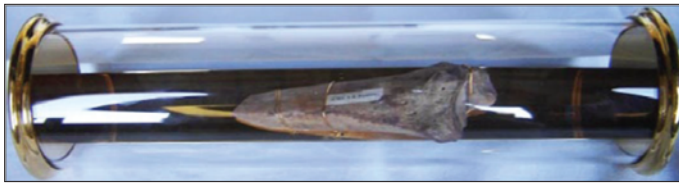
February 20 — March 22, 2013

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Community of St. John in Princeville Will Host the Relic of Saint Mary Magdalene on Saturday and Sunday, March 16th & 17th

PRINCEVILLE—Bishop Daniel Jenky and other Illinois bishops have corresponded with Bishop Dominique Rey, of Fréjus-Toulon in France, regarding the relic of Saint Mary Magdalene. They have encouraged Bishop Rey to allow the relic to travel to Illinois for a one-month tour.



A portion of the tibia of Saint Mary Magdalene is enclosed in a glass tube and then placed in the reliquary

Fr. Henri-Dominique de Spéville, OP, a French Dominican, will carry the relic in a reliquary to Chicago for its debut on February 20th at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in River Forest. For twenty-three days the relic will visit churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet. Fr. Thomas Michelet, OP will fly from France to Peoria to take over the guardianship of the relic and visit churches in the Diocese of Peoria, Springfield and the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri, where the final day of the tour will take place at St. Dominic Priory in St. Louis.

The purpose of the tour, which continues through March 22nd, is to share the holiness of the relic and to tell the story of the saint who is recorded as the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. She is often referred to as *Apostle to the Apostles*. Tradition has it that some years after the Crucifixion, Mary Magdalene was imprisoned. On release she and other close followers of Jesus were cast out to sea on the shores of Palestine in a boat without sails or oars or supplies. The boat miraculously came to shore on the coast of Gaul (France) in a town near Marseille. After preaching with her companions and converting the whole of Provence, Mary Magdalene retired to a mountain cave, known as *La Sainte-Baume* (which means holy cave), and spent the last thirty years of her life in solitude.

A letter of authenticity from Bishop Dominique Rey reports that the relics were hidden at the time of the Saracen invasions and rediscovered in 1279, and have been venerated without interruption ever since.

For centuries the relics were missing—disappearing from about 710 A.D. when the Saracens pillaged the South of France and the Church hid sacred objects to safeguard them. Then in 1279, they were discovered by Charles II of Anjou, the Count of Provence. In a crypt of a chapel in the town of *St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume* was found a sarcophagus. Upon opening, the air was filled with an aromatic fragrance. The sarcophagus contained a piece of old parchment wrapped in wax dated 710 A.D. and a wooden tablet with the words, “*Here lies*

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Friday, March 15th

All night adoration at the Brother's Chapel with relic.

Saturday, March 16th

6:15 am—Silent Prayer (Brother's Chapel),
7 am—Lauds, 8 am—Stations of the Cross lead by Fr. Thomas,
9 - 10 am—Spiritual Talk (Brothers' Chapel), "*Saint Mary Magdalene and the Most Holy Eucharist*" given by Deacon James Devine, a Missionary of the Most Holy Eucharist who is from the Basilique Sainte-Marie-Madeleine in St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume,
10 am—Procession to the Apostolic Sisters praying the Chaplet to Saint Mary Magdalene, 10:30—Confessions,
11 am—Procession to the Contemplative Sisters praying the Litany to Saint Mary Magdalene,
11:45 am Holy Mass (Contemplative Sisters),
2 pm—relic departs... and then returns,
9 pm—Vigils for Sunday at the Sisters' Chapel with the relics. Sisters' Chapel will remain open all night for Veneration of the relic.

Sunday, March 17, 2013

6 am—Silent Prayer (Sisters' Chapel), 7 am—Lauds, Procession to the Brothers' Chapel after Lauds, praying the Litany to Saint Mary Magdalene,
9 - 10 am—Spiritual Talk (Brothers' Chapel), "*Saint Mary Magdalene and the Most Holy Eucharist*" given by Deacon James Devine,
11 am—Sext, 11:15 am Holy Mass followed by the Chaplet to Saint Mary Magdalene,
2 pm—Relic departs.

the body of Mary Magdalene.”

Shortly after this discovery Pope Boniface VIII published the pontifical bull for the establishment of the Dominicans at *La Sainte-Baume* (the cave) and St. Maximin, (town of the Basilica of Saint Mary Magdalene—20 miles from the cave). The Dominicans have remained guards of the relic ever since. The home of Father Henri-Dominique de Spéville is *La Sainte-Baume*, where hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, including many kings and popes and saints, have continued to journey to pray and to give thanks for the intercession of Saint Mary Magdalene.