

St. Mary Magdalene relic tour coming to the State of Illinois February 20 to March 22, 2013

The State of Illinois is the chosen location for the *2013 U.S. Tour of the Relic of Saint Mary Magdalene*. A request was made by Debbie Pryor, co-founder of *Our Sorrowful Mother's Ministry*—a holy place in Vandalia, Illinois where monthly retreats are held to bring others closer to their Catholic faith. Debbie had heard of the *2011 California Tour of the Relic of Saint Mary Magdalene* and wondered if the Dominicans in France would bring the relic of Saint Mary Magdalene to Vandalia. Debbie's prayers were answered.

Bishop Dominique Rey of the diocese of Fréjus-Toulon in the South of France (where the relic resides) has given his permission for the relic to leave the Cave of Saint Mary Magdalene (where she spent the last thirty years of her life) and for it to be accompanied by, Fr. Henri-Dominique de Spéville, OP, a Dominican priest of *La Sainte-Baume* for the one-month tour of the State of Illinois.

With Cardinal George's blessing the tour will open on Wednesday, February 20th at **St. Vincent Ferrer Church** in River Forest, Illinois. Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP, Prior Provincial of the Central Dominican Province of Saint Albert the Great in Chicago, has extended an invitation to host the relic while it is in the Archdiocese of Chicago. **St. Dominic Priory** in St. Louis, Missouri—the Dominican School and Priory, will host the relic on the final day of the tour, March 22nd. In 1295 Pope Boniface VIII published a pontifical bull for the establishment of the Dominicans at Sainte-Baume and St. Maximin. The Dominicans then chose Saint Mary Magdalene as their co-patroness and have been guarding her relic ever since.

Candlelight processions are planned while carrying the holy relic into the churches and up to the altar accompanied by a beautiful processional hymn entitled "*Early Christian Saints of God*," written especially for this tour by Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt. Special Masses are planned in honor of this holy saint who was so very dear to the Heart of Jesus.

Deacon James Devine, a Missionary of the Most Holy Eucharist, an order co-founded by Bishop Rey and Fr. Florian Racine—pastor of the *Basilique Sainte-Marie-Madeleine* in Saint-Maximin (Provence), will also attend the one-month tour. Each day of the tour Deacon James will give a beautiful spiritual talk on "*Mary Magdalene and the Most Holy Eucharist*."

The tour will continue around the State visiting churches in the Diocese of Joliet, Peoria and Springfield, with a one-day trip to the Diocese of Gary, Indiana and end the last two days in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri. The tour itinerary and directions to each of the churches can be accessed on-line at: www.MagdalenePublishing.org



Saint Mary Magdalene
Apostles to the Apostles



"You will always have the poor with you. But you will not always have me. This woman poured perfume on my body. She did this to prepare me for burial after I die. The Good News will be told to people all over the world. And I can assure you that everywhere the Good News is told, the story of what this woman did will also be told, and people will remember her."

Matther 26: 11-13



Saint Mary Magdalene
piece of her tibia