

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

Feast



“I have seen the Lord!”

(Jn 20, 18)

UNIT OF EUDIST SPIRITUALITY

Since 2016, the memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene got the quality of “feast”, the same as the Apostles.

THE FIRST WITNESS OF THE LORD’S RESURRECTION

“She has the honour to be the first witness of the Lord’s resurrection (“prima testis” - *Hymnus, Ad Laudes matutinas*), the first who saw the empty tomb and the first to hear the truth about his resurrection.”

(Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.
Apostle of the Apostles, 03 June 2016)

THE FEAST OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

“Precisely because she was an eyewitness to the risen Christ, she was also the first one to bear witness to him before the Apostles. She fulfils the command of the Risen Lord: “Go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples ‘I have seen the Lord’ and she told them that he had said these things to her” (Jn 20:17-18).

Thus, as already indicated she becomes an evangelist, that is a messenger who announces the Good News of the Lord’s resurrection or, as Rabanus Maurus and Saint Thomas Aquinas say, she becomes the “*apostolorum apostola*” because she announces to the apostles what in turn they will announce to the whole world (Rabanus Maurus, *De vita beatae Mariae Magdalенаe*, XXVII; Saint Thomas Aquinas, *In Ioannem Evangelistam Expositio*, c. XX, L. III, 6).



It was with good reason that the Angelic Doctor applied this term to Mary of Magdala, for **she is the witness to the risen Christ and announces the message of the Lord’s resurrection just like the rest of the Apostles.**

For this reason it is right that the liturgical celebration of this woman should have **the same rank of Feast as that given to the celebration of the Apostles** in the General Roman Calendar and that the special mission of this woman should be underlined, she who is an example and model for all women in

the Church.

(Arthur Roche , Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments)

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE AND SAINT JOHN EUDES

Saint John Eudes regards saint Mary Magdalene like a saint of Jesus and Mary. With regard to this date, July 22th, the french priest qualifies this celebration as “feast”, this is a fact that Pope Francis established in 2016.

This Normand priest asks that in the celebration of this feast must consider the “Commemoratio Sanctorum Jesu et Maria” (Cf. O.C. XI, 613), regarding her like a saint who deserves special devotion (Cf. O.C. XI, 5, 82).

SOME QUOTATIONS OF SAINT JOHN EUDES ABOUT MARY MAGDALENE

Saint John Eudes, in his book *The life and kingdom of Jesus*, asks to the believer, to have the same penance of Mary Magdalene, **one of the penitent saints:**

“Who will give me all the anguish of St. Peter or St. Mary Magdalene and all the penitent saints, that I may weep for the offenses.” (O.C. I, 122).

Also he points out that this holy woman is an **intercessor to reach mercy and grace:**

“O blessed St. Joseph, O my Guardian Angel, O blessed St. John and blessed St. Mary Magdalene, intercede for me that I may obtain mercy and grace to be more faithful to God.” (O.C. I, 123).

So, Saint Mary Magdalene becomes **one of the saints of the Passion, of the Cross and of the Death of the Lord:**

“The angels and saints of the mystery of His Passion, Cross and death are especially St. Gabriel, St. John the Evangelist, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Martha, Salome, the other holy women gathered at the foot of His Cross, all the holy martyrs, all the saints who, have had remarkable devotion to this mystery and another order of angels unknown to us.” (O.C. I, 328)

Also, to saint John Eudes, the women of Magdala assists us at **the hour of death:**

You should pray specially to St. John the Evangelist, St. Mary Magdalene and the good thief who died with Jesus, and all the other saints who were present at the death of the Son of God, that through the merits of their privilege in being near Him in death, they may give you special assistance at the hour of your own death.” (O.C. I, 544).

Let’s pray

O God, whose Only Begotten Son entrusted Mary Magdalene before all others with announcing the great joy of the Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim the living Christ and come to see him reigning in your glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Bibliography:

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. *Apostle of the Apostles*. 03 june 2016. http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/articolo-roche-maddalena_en.pdf

St. John Eudes. *The Life and Kingdom of Jesus* (O.C. I).

St. John Eudes. O.C. XI.



“When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene.”

(Mc 16: 9)

*Director:
P. Álvaro Duarte Torres CJM
Design and compiler:
Hermes Flórez Pérez*