



Her Cause

Marie Madeleine—the cause for her canonisation

Marie Madeleine is a **companion** to us today, praying with and for us, and ready to assist us. So ask her to pray with you for what you need.

Venerable Marie Madeleine d’Houët

was born in France in 1781, and in her teenage years experienced the social unrest that followed the Revolution. She married Joseph de Bonnault d’Houët in 1804 but after just ten months was widowed. Her baby was born a month after Joseph’s death. As a young, single mother she lived a committed Christian life. She doted on her child, showed herself a responsible daughter and a loving sister and showed a strong social conscience. Marie Madeleine enjoyed a social life too, and seriously considered remarrying. But deep in her heart she sensed she was called to something else and step by step followed this call. Mary Magdalene and the women of the Gospel were an inspiration to her.

The words **I thirst** spoken by Jesus on the Cross touched Marie Madeleine’s heart deeply. This ardent young woman known for her generous spirit, zest for life and firm will became what she was called to be, a **faithful companion of Jesus**. God himself led her in 1820 to form a Society of apostolic women who would live out the **Ignatian** ideal, and be faithful companions of Jesus.

A saintly woman

Within a short time of Marie Madeleine’s death in 1858 people were speaking of her as a **saintly woman**. In 1878, her Cause, (the process leading up to a canonization) was strongly recommended to Pope Leo XII. In 1916, Pope Benedict XV signed the Process that introduced the Cause of Marie Madeleine and she was pronounced **Venerable**. In November 1970, Pope Paul VI promulgated the Decree testifying to the heroicity of her virtues. This Decree is the Church’s official declaration that **Marie Madeleine lived a truly saintly life**.

The final step before her **canonisation** is her **beatification**. Before this can happen, proof is needed that through the intercession of Marie Madeleine something surprising and wonderful has taken place, something inexplicable by natural or scientific laws. In other words proof is needed that through her intercession a miracle has occurred. Whilst this seems an enormous task, one way to begin is by asking favours of her in every day life.

Marie Madeleine is a **companion** to us today, praying with and for us, and ready to assist us. So ask her to pray with you for what you need.

Our response today

We, Faithful Companions of Jesus today, our Companions in Mission, and several of our colleagues and friends long for the day when Marie Madeleine will be officially recognised as a saint. We believe that this recognition would make her more widely known and her special gift to the Church more readily available.

For this reason, in the last few years, we have been joyfully pursuing this end. We have introduced a **Marie Madeleine newsletter** and published other [resources](#) which tell her story as a woman for our time.

As well, we have a new *Postulator* (a friend in Rome who must see that everything is prepared for the cause to move forward). He is D. Riccardo Petroni and he has undertaken to promote the cause of Marie Madeleine in Rome. As well, a member of our central leadership is coordinating efforts Society-wide to make Marie Madeleine known and to encourage prayer asking for her help in our daily lives. Coordinators in each Province of the Society are assisting her.



Prayer for healing

God, our Creator
Jesus, our Companion
Holy Spirit, Source of Wisdom,

Marie Madeleine
believed in your power,
hoped in your promises
and lived for your
glory and service.

We ask her to pray with us for ...

Through her prayer
may your healing presence
be shown and your name glorified.

We make our prayer
In the name of
Jesus the Christ.

If you have particular requests for which you would like FCJ Sisters to join with you in prayer, please contact us using our [Contact page](#).

Of course, if you have an experience of Marie Madeleine's help, we would be delighted to share your joy. Please do let us know through our [Contact page](#) or mail to: *Sr Mary Claire Sykes fcJ, FCJ Generalate, Gumley House Convent, Twickenham Road, Isleworth, Middlesex ENGLAND TW7 6DN.*

Check our [resource page](#) for more on Marie Madeleine and her cause.



“ The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the empty spaces caused by evil. ”

Pope Francis

Faithful Companions of Jesus

© Copyright Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus 1999. All Rights Reserved.
