Mary Magdalen was one of the few persons who were present at the foot of the Cross, by the side of the Virgin Mary.

Two women. Two extremes: The Immaculate and a sinner. Both women received Christ’s redemption. But in different ways: Mary, beforehand, by her Immaculate conception. Magdalen, representing the sinful humanity, needed to be washed by the blood of the Redeemer!¹

¹ (El Santo del Día - Don Servilio Conti, I.M.C. - Ed. Vozes - Petrópolis - Rio de Janeiro - Brasil - 3ª. ed. - pág. 316)
Mary Magdalen was so called being from Magdala or Tiberias, for having lived closed to Tiberias in the occidental coast of Galilee.

She was one of the women who accompanied and followed Christ (Luke 8:2-3), and from whom seven demons were cast out (Mark 16:9). She is the second person named at the foot of the cross (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:56; John 19:25; Luke 23:49). She saw Christ laid in his tomb and was the first recorded witness of the Resurrection.

The Greek Church maintains that the saint retired to Ephesus with the Blessed Virgin and there died that her relics were transferred to Constantinople in 886 and there preserved. Gregory of Tours (De miraculis, I, XXX) supports the statement that she went to Ephesus.

However, according to a French tradition (see Saint Lazarus of Bethany), Mary, Lazarus, and some companions came to Marseilles and converted the whole province. Magdalen is said to have retired to a nearby hill, La Sainte-Baume, where she devoted her life to penance during thirty years.

When the time of her death arrived, she was carried by angels to Aix and into the oratory of St. Maximus, where she received the viaticum; her body was then laid in an oratory constructed by St. Maximus at Villa Lata, afterwards called St. Maximin.

History is silent about these relics till 745, when according to the chronicler Sigebert, they were removed to Vézelay through fear of the Saracens. No record is preserved of their return, but in 1279, when Charles II, King of Naples, erected a convent at La Sainte-Baume for the Dominicans, the shrine was found intact, with an inscription stating why they were hidden.

In 1600 the relics were placed in a sarcophagus sent by Clement VIII, the head being placed in a separate vessel. In 1814 the church of La Sainte-Baume, wrecked during the Revolution was restores, and in 1822 the grotto was consecrated afresh. The head of the saint now lies there, where it has lain so long, and where it has been the centre of so many pilgrimages.²

² [https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09761a.htm](https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09761a.htm)
Mary Magdalene, according to Geoffroi de Vêndome, was only totally redeemed, after having thrown herself completely on the path of conversion, which she arrived at with the severest penance. Reinterpreting the Hermitic Life, he places it, after the Ascension, in the midst of self-inflicted ascetic pains. [https://www.pem.historia.ufrj.br/arquivo/smm.pdf]

The historical data that reached us, as shown before, undoubtedly indicate that Saint Mary Magdalene, after knowing Jesus Christ, until the last moment of her life, lived a life of penance and reparation.

Let us remember what history says:

"It is said that Magdalen retired to a nearby hill, La Sainte-Baume, where she gave herself up to a life of penance for thirty years."

"She was only totally redeemed, after having thrown himself completely on the path of conversion, which he arrived at with the severest penance."

As can be seen, Saint Magdalene sought to live the advice of the Divine Holy Mother Mary, given in the Call of Love that follows:

March 25, 2018 – CALL TO LOVE AND CONVERSION FROM THE SORROWFUL AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Dear children of my heart, when I was on pilgrimage on earth, the Father, through his spirit, made me understand the value of penance.

Dear children, penance is the cross, it is pain, it is trials and temptations, and it is the normal sufferings of life that cannot be avoided and must be endured with patience.

On earth I did not complain about the defects of my brothers, they made me suffer but I never complained about any human being, I offered them to my Father. (…)

JULY 22 – FEAST OF SAINT MARY MAGDALEN – PATRON OF THE APOSTOLATE
Suffer all. Suffering is not bad; suffering purifies, strengthens and cleans your soul, and makes you identical with Jesus.

I exhort you, dear children, that the life of all my apostles of my Heart be a life of penance.

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**Supplication to Saint Mary Magdalen:**

Saint Mary Magdalen, pray for the Apostles of the Sacred Hearts, and intercede with the Tender and Merciful Father, so that, *through his Spirit, he may make us understand the value of penance*, and we may have the strength and patience to endure all the sufferings that are destined for us, by the Divine Will. Amen.