

## 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Under the influence of the first Dominicans and the support of the Counts of Provence The cult of Mary Magdalene grew increasingly popular. Pilgrimages to Saint-Maximin and Sainte-Baume became second only to those to Rome and Santiago de Compostela in popularity in the Catholic West.

The Dominican brothers Eli and Dalmas Moner settled as hermits in caves not far from that of Mary Magdalene.

All the Counts of Provence after Charles II have shown a particular interest in Sainte-Baume and have made pilgrimages there.

The greatest among them, King René, came to meditate there on several occasions. He had a hostelry built at the cave for pilgrims after the fire that had destroyed everything in 1440. The popes also came to venerate the Saint.

The kings of France remained very attached to Sainte-Baume. After 1481, date of Provence's annexation to France, they confirmed the privileges of the Dominicans and renewed all the measures taken by the Counts of Provence to keep the forest intact.

The path that leads to the cave will not be long in being given the name that is now its own: « *the Path of Kings* », as was the custom taken up by the kings of France to come and pay homage to Sainte Baume.

In the second half of the 16th century.

- Numerous disturbances, religious wars, and plague epidemics.

- Pilgrims are still as numerous as ever.

Between 1580 and 1583, the civil authorities of Auriol made a vow to make a pilgrimage to Sainte-Baume every Whit Monday.

1 Roy René, Count of Provence, known as “Good Roy René” Triptych of the Burning Bush, circa 1475, Saint Sauveur Cathedral, Aix-en-Provence

2 Portrait of Louis XI. The future Louis XI before his accession to the throne made two pilgrimages in 1447 and in 1456

3 Francesco Petrarca, an Italian poet, historian, philosopher, humanist and diplomat. He made several pilgrimages to the Sainte Baume and He left several writings on Saint Mary Magdalene.

4 Dome inside the Grotto gifted by Louis XI and created by Godefroy le Batave.

5-6 Francis I visited Sainte Baume three times

- after his victory at Marignan in 1516

- for the marriage of his son Henri to Catherine de Medici in Marseille in 1538

after the liberation of Provence, which had been invaded two years earlier by Charles V in 1538

7 In 1516 at the request of Bishop Jean Verrier, Archbishop of Arles and Aix, seven oratories are built along the Path of Kings retracing the life of Mary-Magdalene.