

19th – 20th CENTURY

*« Holy places are to the world what trees are to the sky:
a source of light, warmth and life ». H.D. Lacordaire*

RESURRECTION OF THE PILGRIMAGE

After the revolutionary turmoil during which the buildings of the Sainte-Baume were ransacked, life gradually returned to normal with the help of the parish priests and then with the return of the Dominicans.

The Chapel of Saint-Pilon was restored, as was the Grotto, which was cleared, and the paths were repaired.

Subscriptions were opened on the initiative of the administrative authorities to rebuild the destroyed buildings.

By order of February 1821, Louis XVIII elevated the Grotto to the status of a vicarial chapel.

In 1858, Bishop Jordany of Fréjus-Toulon asked for the agreement of the person who had restored the Dominican order in France and gave new life to it as much as possible at Sainte-Baume, which was done the following year. The guesthouse was built on the plateau from a farm that once belonged to the Dominicans and was ceded by the Marquis d'Albertas a few years earlier. A community of friars was assigned to live there. We then witnessed a real revival of pilgrimage. Father Vessière was the guardian of the cave from 1900 to 1932. He was widely involved. We owe him the construction of Nazareth and various improvements to the grotto. There was the privilege of receiving three times the most fervent pilgrim of the time, Charles de Foucault.

Today, there is a new boom in pilgrimages. The Dominicans have completely reoccupied the site since 2008, breathing new life into this long chapter of history written over centuries under the watchful eye of Mary Magdalene.

1. Louis XVIII
2. Reproduction of a subscription text

3. Trappist farm
4. Saint Baume Monastery in the 19th century
5. Nazareth
6. The Calvary
7. the staircase of 150 steps leading to the grotto corresponding to the 150 Hail Marys