

5TH -13TH CENTURY

FROM JOHN CASSIAN TO ST LOUIS

It was in the 5th century that Sainte Baume began to be inhabited and frequented by Christians. John Cassian, the patriarch of Western monks, followed in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene, seeking refuge among the peaks for a contemplative life. *P.H Vincent extract from the book : Marie Magedelene and Sainte Baume*

After founding the Abbey of St Victor, Cassian established a priory there and came to retreat. La Sainte Baume naturally touched his heart, so he came there with some of his followers and placed a guard there who, for a thousand years, from the 4th to the 13th century, remained faithful to the memory and relics of Mary Magdalene that Providence had entrusted to him. H.D Lacordaire. Extract from « *Ste Marie Madeleine* »

A pilgrimage gradually developed there. Pilgrims came to Sainte Baume and Saint Maximin to venerate the places where Saint Mary Magdalene had lived. This is attested to by perfectly authenticated texts: in 1117, an Italian nobleman came and built a Carthusian monastery in Montrieux.

In 1248, the Franciscan pilgrim Fra Salimbene left a detailed account of his visit.

In 1254, the King of France, Saint Louis, came to Sainte Baume on his return from his first crusade to the Holy Land. (*Account by Joinville, Seneschal of Champagne, advisor and chronicler to the king*)

1.360-430- St John Cassian, founder of Saint Victor Abbaye. In his left hand he holds the scroll of the Gospel, the Word written down. His raised right hand performs the gesture of the Logos (logos: theology. The Word of God).

2. Saint Louis, on his return from the Crusades. 14th-century miniature National Library

3. Saint Louis, on his return from the Crusades. 14th-century engraving National Library

4. Sainte Baume - Monastic and religious life has always been maintained at Sainte Baume since the 5th century, despite the Saracen invasions and the ravages of Charles Martel's troops. Engraving by Robert de Beauvais, 1617 – excerpt from 'La Magdeleine'