

Closing Prayer

Tonight we joined as one church honoring Mary Magdalene. As we close, let us pray from the Vatican decree that elevated Mary Magdalene's Memorial, making her Feast day "equal to that of the male disciples".

Our response is: **Mary Magdalene, pray for us!**

From the Decree: The Church, both in the East and in the West has always regarded Saint Mary Magdalene the first witness of the Lord's resurrection and the first evangelist, and with the greatest reverence has always honoured her although in diverse ways.

We reverence, we honor Mary Magdalene today, as the first witness.

And so, we pray: **Mary Magdalene, pray for us!**

From the Decree: Given that in our time the Church is called to reflect in a more profound way on the dignity of Woman, ... it (is) right that the example of Saint Mary Magdalene might also fittingly be proposed to the faithful.

With the church and all people, we work to restore dignity to Mary Magdalene and all women.

And so, we pray: **Mary Magdalene, pray for us!**

From the Decree: In fact this woman, known as the one who loved Christ and who was greatly loved by Christ, and was called an "apostle of the apostles"...can now rightly be taken by the faithful as a model of women's role in the Church.

May all artists be inspired by Mary Magdalene's love of Christ;

and may we look to Mary Magdalene's love and leadership as a model for women in the church.

We pray: **Mary Magdalene, pray for us!**

And so, we put forward Mary Magdalene as Apostle of the Apostles, and pray that she be depicted truthfully, beautifully, with honor and respect., and that these new images will replace old images.

Inspired by the great qualities of Mary Magdalene let us go forward to love and to be disciples of Jesus.

Amen!

Prepared by **Lucy Rieger**