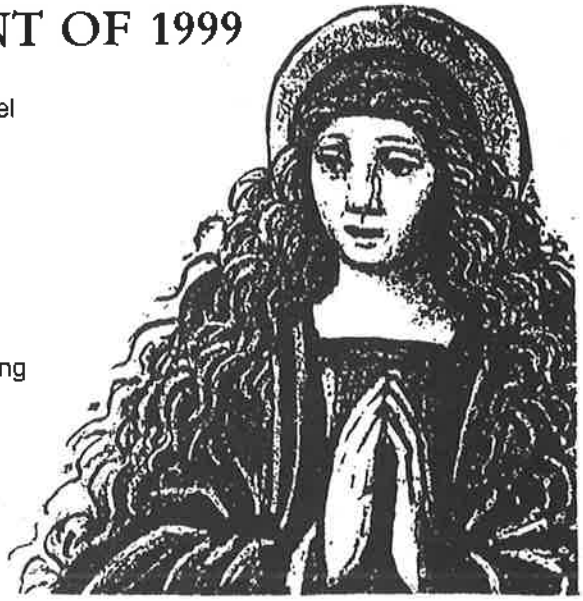
MARY MAGDALENE: WOMEN SAINT OF 1999



As already announced by the Primate, Abp. Khajag Barsamiam, and the Central Council of the Women's Guild, Saturday, March 13 has been designated as Women Saints Day. This year Mary Magdalene is being honored.

Mary Magdalene was the most important of the Galilean women who accompanied Jesus on his mission.

There are different traditions concerning Mary's background. The unsavory reputation of the city of Magdala contributed to the identification of Mary as the unnamed sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50. Luke suggests that she was healed of some serious affliction, but whether this was physical or otherwise we will probably never know. There are other traditions as well about her life prior to Jesus' ministry, but no historical evidence for any of them.

Her compelling place in the story of our faith is derived from the New Testament. Taking all the Gospel accounts together, we see how Mary went with Jesus to Jerusalem, witnessed his crucifixion, observed him laid to rest in the tomb, returned to the tomb with burial spices, found it empty, experienced the startling appearance of two men in dazzling apparel, and finally encountered Jesus himself. In this beautiful Easter morning scene found in the last chapter of the Gospel of John, Mary is commissioned to announce the meaning of the Resurrection to the disciples, making her the first of all the apostles and disciples to see and proclaim Jesus as the risen Christ.

"I have seen the Lord!" she joyfully exclaimed.

In keeping with the Primate's plan, choosing Mary Magdalene as Woman Saint of 1999 honors the power of the Holy Spirit not only in the lives of the saints but in all who sincerely follow the Lord.

Taken from: *WomanWord: Women of the New Testament and The Anchor Bible Dictionary, Volume 4*

To learn more about Mary Magdalene, read the following Scripture references:

Luke 8:1-3; John 19:25; 20:1-8
Mark 15:40-41, 47; 16:1-11
Matthew 27:55-56, 61; 28:1-10
Luke 23:49, 55-56; 24:1-11

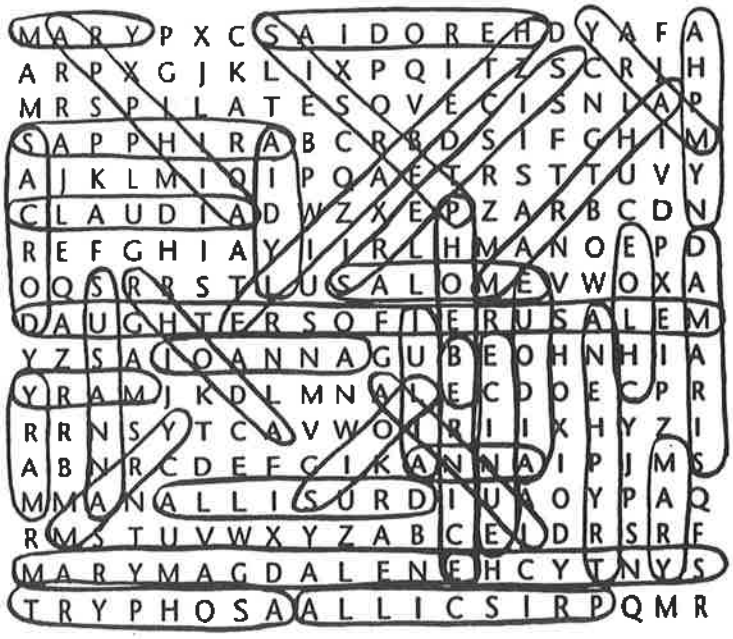
What is an *ANOON?*

Anoon means "name" in Armenian. Did you know there were several Armenian names that have to do with the Easter season? Here are just a few:

Male:

ZADIG	Easter
HAMPARTSOOM or HAMPAR	Resurrection
HAROOT or HAROOTIOON	Ascension

Female:

YOOGHAPER or YOOGHIG	Oil-bearing
OVSANNA	Hosanna

Answer key to "New Testament Women"