## **Obituary:**

## Rev. Sr. Magdalen (Vazhayil Sister) (82) 1939 to 2021



Achamma Abraham (Achammakutty) was born on May 7, 1939 as the 7<sup>th</sup> offspring of T. Abraham and Chachykutty Vazhayil. Achammakutty came to the US in 1973 and joined St. Margaret's Convent in Boston for sisterhood training as a postulant. Rev. Dr. Moore, Head of Sociology Dept. at Bridgewater State University along with V. Rev Dr. Abraham Thomas Cor-Episcopo who was a professor of Sociology was instrumental in bringing her to St. Margaret Convent in Boston

## Achammakutty became Sister. Magdalen Abraham

On 27<sup>th</sup> June 1976, when His Holiness Mor Ignatius Jakub III of Blessed Memory, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East prayed over her and performed the clothing

ceremony (Please see attached picture of Sister Magdalen with His Holiness and the write up of the ceremony) Achammakutty became a Novitiate

Sr. Magdalen was ordained as a full-fledged Sister(Nun) by the late lamented Kuberneethi Hakkimo Abraham Mor Clemis Metropolitan in 1980

Sister Magdalen's life is an inspiring story. When she was growing up in Kerala she had asthma from childhood and .so she was home schooled. She was very intelligent and developed a keen interest in reading and learning and read all the newspapers cover to cover and was very knowledgeable in Indian and World political affairs. She used to test her younger siblings on World leaders and current topics on politics She



Achamma with His Holiness just before the Clothing

St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, was the venue on 27 June 1976 for the grand occasion of the clothing of Achamma Abraham, by His Holiness Mar Ignatius Jakub III, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. Achamma, who is a member of the Knanaya Diocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in India, has for the past three years been a postulant at St. Margaret's Convent in Boston, and is preparing to join the St. Mary Magdalene Convent in Kurichy, Kerala, when she returns to India.

His Holiness the Patriarch, who is the spiritual head of the Orthodox Church in India, was visiting the Syrian Churches in North America. There are two churches in the Boston area: one in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the other at Center Falls, Rhode Island.

His Holiness celebrated the Holy Qurbana (Holy Eucharist) and was assisted by three bishops: Their Graces Mar Athanasius, Archbishop of North America, Mar Timotheus and Mar Miletus. At the end of the Holy Qurbana, the Patriarch blessed the scapular of Sister Magdalene and then Mar Timotheus gave it to her.

Achamma assumed the name Sister Magdalene Margaret, combining the names of the saints who are associated with the convent to which sister plans to go in India and the convent where she had been receiving her training. It is noteworthy that St. Margaret's Convent in Boston is named for St. Margaret of Antioch.

The church had an overflowing congregation because of the visit of the Patriarch; and the occasion was made more joyful by the presence of Reverend Mother Marjorie Raphael, Superior of St. Margaret's Convent. His Holiness the Patriarch specially thanked the Reverend Mother for the help that the convent was rendering to the Church in India by training Sister Magdalene.

After the service, everybody participated in a dinner and reception held in honor of His Holiness the Patriarch. We are most grateful to His Grace Mar Athanasius and to Reverend Shamoun Asmar, parish priest of St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Worcester, for making this occasion possible.

The Reverend Abraham Thomas, Th. D.

also took care of the accounts of the laborers and conducted other household businesses and was a big help to her parents.



After her mother(Chachykutty) died in 1971 she came to the United States where she continued her studies and took her high school diploma and obtained a degree in BA psychology, with a certificate for elementary education. from the University of Massachusetts. After her graduation she taught special needs kids in Boston area for several years.

## St. Mary Magdalen Convent, 130 Brown St, Waltham, MA

April 12, 1994 was a mile stone in Sister Magdalen's life. She bought a 2 Family house at 130 Brown St, Waltham, MA which became St. Mary Magdalen

Convent. Later on she was able to sponsor 2 more nuns from India, Sister Deborah and Sister Susan who are now living in Hartford, CT.

Sister Magdalen was instrumental in starting the North American Knanaya Women's Organization and is the founding Vice-President, a position she has held for many years and is still very active in the Women's Organization.

Sister Magdalen has helped raise substantial amounts of money for many of our Samudaya charities in Kerala such as the Clemis Fund (Widow's Fund) tuition money for MSOT clergy students, Mor Severios Fund and Knanaya Deepam besides helping other needy people.At



age 82 she was still very energetic even though she was suffering from mild dementia May her soul Rest In Peace.