

It was a merciful dispensation that of the Redeemer of mankind, and under it woman was reinstated in her former dignity. She was enthroned like a queen, and held sway in the Christian home. Her rehabilitation was complete when Mary was chosen spouse of the Holy Ghost and Mother of the God-man. But woman's usefulness, in the new economy, was to extend even beyond the family circle. From the very time when our Lord began to announce the coming of His Kingdom throughout the towns and hamlets of Judea and Gallilee, she was associated with those who accompanied the Master in His journeyings.

“And it came to pass afterwards, that He (Jesus) travelled through the cities and towns, preaching and evangelizing the Kingdom of God, and the twelve with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary who is called Magdalen, out of whom seven devils were gone forth, and Joanna the wife of Chusa, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who ministered unto Him of their substance.” (S. Luke VIII.)

Acting in the same spirit as her Divine Founder, the Church, not satisfied with placing on woman's brow the crown of a motherhood without dishonor or of a virginity full of merit, did not disdain to call her to the sublime ministry of the Christian Apostolate.

Thenceforth the Christian woman, incorporated by a willing oblation into a religious order of her choice, bids farewell to the civilized world, and in some far-off field of the Divine Husbandman ploughs her own furrow as a laborer in the Catholic missions. An impassioned zeal for the glory of God has wrought a change, weakness itself has become strong, and timidity itself intrepid; retiring and humble virgins are transformed into heralds of the Gospel.

There are two things which invariably awaken an echo