

faith has saved thee." He does not add : "Sin no more." Jesus said that to the adulteress, more humbled at having offended God. Magdalen had no need of that recommendation. Her love is to Jesus the certitude of her firm resolve. What a beautiful and touching absolution ! Magdalen has, indeed, very perfect contrition.—When you go to confession, unite with Magdalen and let your contrition like hers, spring more from love than from fear.

Magdalen withdraws with the baptism of love. She became more perfect than the Apostles by her humility. Ah ! after this example, despise sinners if you dare ! One instant suffices to make of them great saints.

Among the greatest of them, how many has not Jesus Christ sought in the mire of sin, for instance, Paul, St. Augustine, and many others ! Magdalen opened to them the way. She rose to the Heart of God, because she started from very low down, and knew how to humble herself. Who then, should despair ?

After her conversion, Magdalen entered into active love. Here is a great lesson. Many after conversion remain where they were before. They desire to live in the peace of a good conscience, practicing the Commandments. They dare not follow Jesus ; they end by falling back. Man does not live in tears and regrets. You have shattered the objects to which your heart was so attached ; you must now replace them, and live the life of God. Do you remain at the feet of Jesus ? — He rises. Follow Him and walk with Him. Magdalen is going to follow Jesus. Never again will she be separated from Him. You will find her at His feet, listening to His words, and meditating them in her heart. It is the grace of her life. She has no other word than prayer, prayer and love. She follows Jesus, and practices the virtues of His different states. The conversion that rests in sentiment is not lasting. Mary shares the different states of Jesus.

On His journeys she supplies what is necessary for His own and His Apostles' subsistence. Jesus will often go to the home of His friends in Bethania, and take His meals with them ; in exchange He will give them a nourishment of grace and love. Every time that He does so, Mary takes her place at His feet, and remains there in prayer. Martha will be jealous of her. Thus do they act