

Your vow is Jesus Christ's vow as the Religious, the Dedicated Man, and is offered as His was "*by the eternal spirit*," and with all the merits of His sacrifice ; this vow then obliges you to bring Christ into all you do or bear.

*Christ's poverty*, not an idle vagabond's poverty, not a sad and hateful poverty of necessity, but the poverty of Jesus Christ and of the Saints with GOD—who rejoice to have nothing but GOD.

*Christ's chastity*, not the chastity of stone or of iron, of a nature without feeling ; never a life without love ; but every faculty of loving lifted up, consecrated, given first to GOD, that it may come back from GOD to you holding you up to Him, and so becoming a joyous force in you of freedom and strength with which to raise your children to Him.

*Christ's obedience*, never the obedience of mechanism, of a system wound up to go of itself, but always the perfectly free, intelligent joyful obedience of Jesus Christ His love ; "Lo, I come to do Thy will, O my GOD ; I delight to do it." Is not this what we who make these vows mean by "true religion?"

And then this "true Religion," which is true because it is Jesus Christ's Religion, springing up and going on in His members, will show its source, its truth, in that it will cultivate poverty, chastity and obedience in a way which shall be perfectly fitted to serve the children to whom Christ sends you. You will find in it a most happy and new adaptability of powers to work ; your Religious dedication will seem to be a power specially given in order to attract, to influence and to help the children of the poor. There will thus be an element of originality in your religion, because it is Jesus Christ's ; the spirit of your rule will not be exactly the spirit of any other Religious Society. It will be a spirit which is a new gift to you from the throne of Christ, the spirit of poor and happy sisters called to give their life to our Lord in the service of the children of His poor people. It must be the spirit of Christ's purpose and call to *you*, not to someone else ; it is to be the light which Christ has made to shine for you ; what you saw glimpses of years ago, and He has made to grow clearer to you in later years.

And you my sisters as the beginners of this Society have a special responsibility of learning as exactly and fully as possible the spirit of the order to which Christ calls you, of setting it forth in your life, of creating the true tradition of it, which we hope spiritual children of yours will follow in after time.

And this creating the true type of your order and service, you know how only it can be done, it must be by character. No