

And how little have I responded to those loving advances ! Grant me, O my Saviour that love of which I have need. I ask it earnestly through Thy Mother and mine. That will be the first condition for my becoming a true child of Mary.

John was a virgin. Mary delights only in the midst of lilies. And I am but sin, my evil passions seethe within me. Give me the love and the practice of this beautiful virtue, O Jesus, that I may become a worthy child of such a Mother !

Grant, O Jesus, that I may cherish Thy Cross as did Thy beloved disciple ! I desire to remain near unto Thee with Mary and John, above all when Thou art outraged. There it is that I shall better understand the beauty and the grandeur of that word addressed to me as well as to Thy disciple of predilection : "*Behold thy Mother !*"

Mary, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, realize in me in all its perfection, the last desire of thy beloved Son ! For the sake of Jesus and of Saint John, the first and the most loving of thy adopted sons, make of me, of mine, of all Christians, thy devoted children, faithful unto death.

### *St. Mary Magdalen.*

(See frontispiece)

Behold Magdalen in her suffering love ! She goes where men dare not go. She mounts even to Calvary, abandons her loved family, follows Jesus Christ suffering even to the end. We see her with Mary at the foot of the Cross. The Gospel names her, and well does she deserve it. What is she doing there ? She is loving, she is compassionating. He who loves, desires to share the condition of his friend. Love fuses two existences, into one. Magdalen is not standing. She remembers that she has been a sinner, and that her place is on her knees. Mary alone is standing, immolating her dear Son, her Isaac.

Magdalen remains there until after the death of Jesus. On the morning of the first day of the week, she returns. She knows very well that Jesus is buried ; but she still wishes to suffer and weep. The Gospel lauds the zeal, the magnificence of the gifts of the other women ; but of Magdalen, it speaks only of her tears. Behold the Christian heroine ! More than all the saints, Magdalen shows forth to us the divine mercy.