

HER JOURNEY

For nine years Magdalene entrusts herself to the spiritual guidance of Don Luigi Libera, a priest from Verona. He gradually leads her to abandon her desire for the cloister, the only established form of Religious Life for women at that time. Instead, he guides her towards an ordered life of prayer and the lifestyle required by her social standing; a human maturity in the management of the Canossa Palace, a deep faith in recognizing the various milestones along the way, and a greater freedom from her scruples and fears in order to be filled with that unconditional charity which only God can impart. Magdalene lives abandoned to God, the good Father, and fearing nothing, she allows God to take the initiative, at the same time becoming a protagonist for the good of people, particularly the poor. It is during the years of Don Libera's guidance that Magdalene becomes the co-founder of the *Hospital Fraternity*, of the *Company of the Three Coins* and other charitable initiatives, both corporal and spiritual. The discernment continues, and not only at the level of prayer, for it embraces the whole person of the young Marchioness. While caring for the sick at the hospice with other young "volunteers" she feels certain that she will always assist them. In teaching catechism to the servants at Canossa Palace she understands that God is calling her first of all, to make Jesus known. As she gains a balance in her life, Magdalene knows she is in love with the Lord. She gradually comes to recognize her gift of creating new ways of loving and serving those most in need.