

# Contents



- Introduction 1  
*Lucetta Scaraffia and Gabriella Zarri*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 1 Female Asceticism and Monasticism in Italy  
from the Fourth to the Eighth Centuries 8  
*Franca Ela Consolino*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 2 Mystical Marriage 31  
*E. Ann Matter*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 3 Society and Women's Religiosity, 750–1450 42  
*Giulia Barone*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 4 Women, Faith, and Image in the Late Middle Ages 72  
*Dominique Rigaux*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 5 From Prophecy to Discipline, 1450–1650 83  
*Gabriella Zarri*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 6 Spiritual Letters 113  
*Adriano Prosperi*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 7 The Convent Muses: The Secular Writing  
of Italian Nuns, 1450–1650 129  
*Elissa B. Weaver*

- 8 Little Women, Great Heroines: Simulated and  
Genuine Female Holiness in Early Modern Italy 144  
*Anne Jacobson Schutte*
- 9 Models of Female Sanctity in Renaissance and  
Counter-Reformation Italy 159  
*Sara F. Matthews Grieco*
- 10 From the Late Baroque Mystical Explosion to the  
Social Apostolate, 1650–1850 176  
*Marina Caffiero*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 11 Mystical Writing 205  
*Marilena Modica Vasta*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 12 Female Dynastic Sanctity, 1650–1850 219  
*Sara Cabibbo*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 13 Sacred Imagery and the Religious Lives  
of Women, 1650–1850 231  
*Karen-edis Barzman*
- 14 “Christianity Has Liberated Her and Placed Her  
alongside Man in the Family”: From 1850 to 1988  
(*Mulieris Dignitatem*) 249  
*Lucetta Scaraffia*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 15 A Voyage to the Madonna 281  
*Emma Fattorini*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- 16 Sisters and Saints on the Screen 294  
*Giovanna Grignaffini*  
*Translated by Keith Botsford*
- Notes 303
- Index 367