



# ACTS





As Christians across the centuries have told the story of the early church, they have accorded the central roles to men. The intellectuals and the writers were men; they are called “church fathers,” and their writings have been called “patristics.” Lists of leaders of communities were always lists of men. The early centuries have been what historian Christine Trevitt has called a “no woman’s land of Christian history.” But this is not how early Christianity appeared to its contemporaries, and the careful work of scholars - especially women scholars - has helped us see the growth of the church with new eyes. As the worldwide Christian movement gained in membership, women played an indispensable part in the story.

Alan Kreider

**WELCOMING WOMEN  
AS DISCIPLES**

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**2. Women are prioritized as first to learn about the kingdom of God.**

**3. Women are often portrayed as being more faithful than the apostles!**

Perhaps it is no wonder that the women were first at the Cradle and last at the Cross. They had never known a man like this Man - there never has been such another. A prophet and teacher who never nagged at them, never flattered or coaxed or patronised; who never made arch jokes about them, never treated them either as "The women, God help us!" or "The ladies, God bless them!"; who rebuked without querulousness and praised without condescension; who took their questions and arguments seriously; who never mapped out their sphere for them, never urged them to be feminine or jeered at them for being female;



who had no axe to grind and no uneasy male dignity to defend; who took them as he found them and was completely unself-conscious. There is no act, no sermon, no parable in the whole Gospel that borrows its pungency from female perversity; nobody could possibly guess from the words and deeds of Jesus that there was anything "funny" about woman's nature.

Dorothy Sayers

**CELEBRATING WOMEN'S  
PRESENCE & GIFTS FOR  
MISSION**

**Women Prophesying (Acts 2; 21)**

**Women Leveraging Homes, Business  
Acumen, and Wealth (Acts 12; 16)**

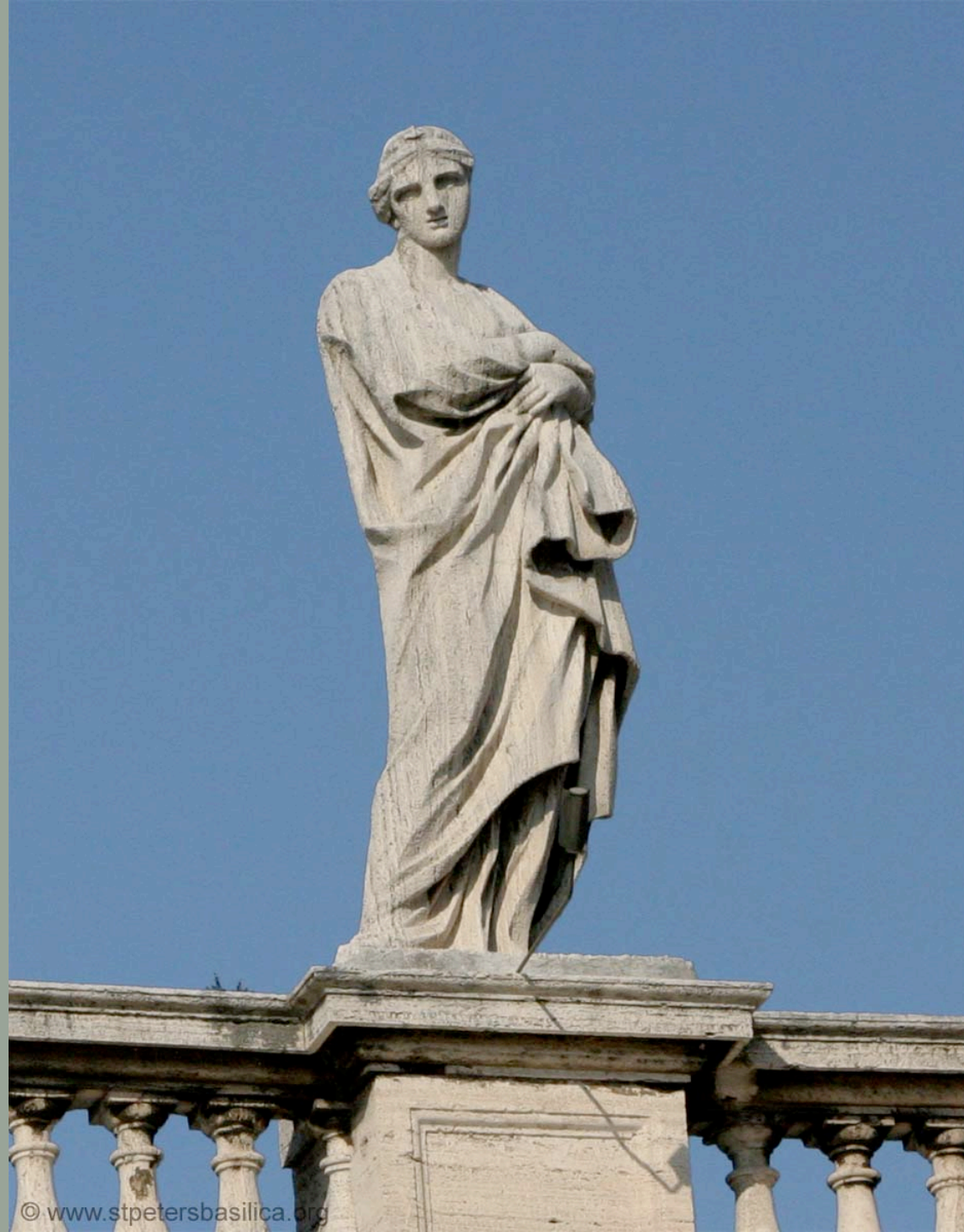
**Women Teaching (Acts 18)**

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae. So you should welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may require your help. For indeed she has been a benefactor of many—and of me also. Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life. Not only do I thank them, but so do all the Gentile churches. Greet also the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epaenetus, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow countrymen and fellow prisoners. They are noteworthy in the eyes of the apostles, and they were also in Christ before me. Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who have worked hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, who has worked very hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother—and mine. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints **Romans 16** with them.



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# INVITATIONS