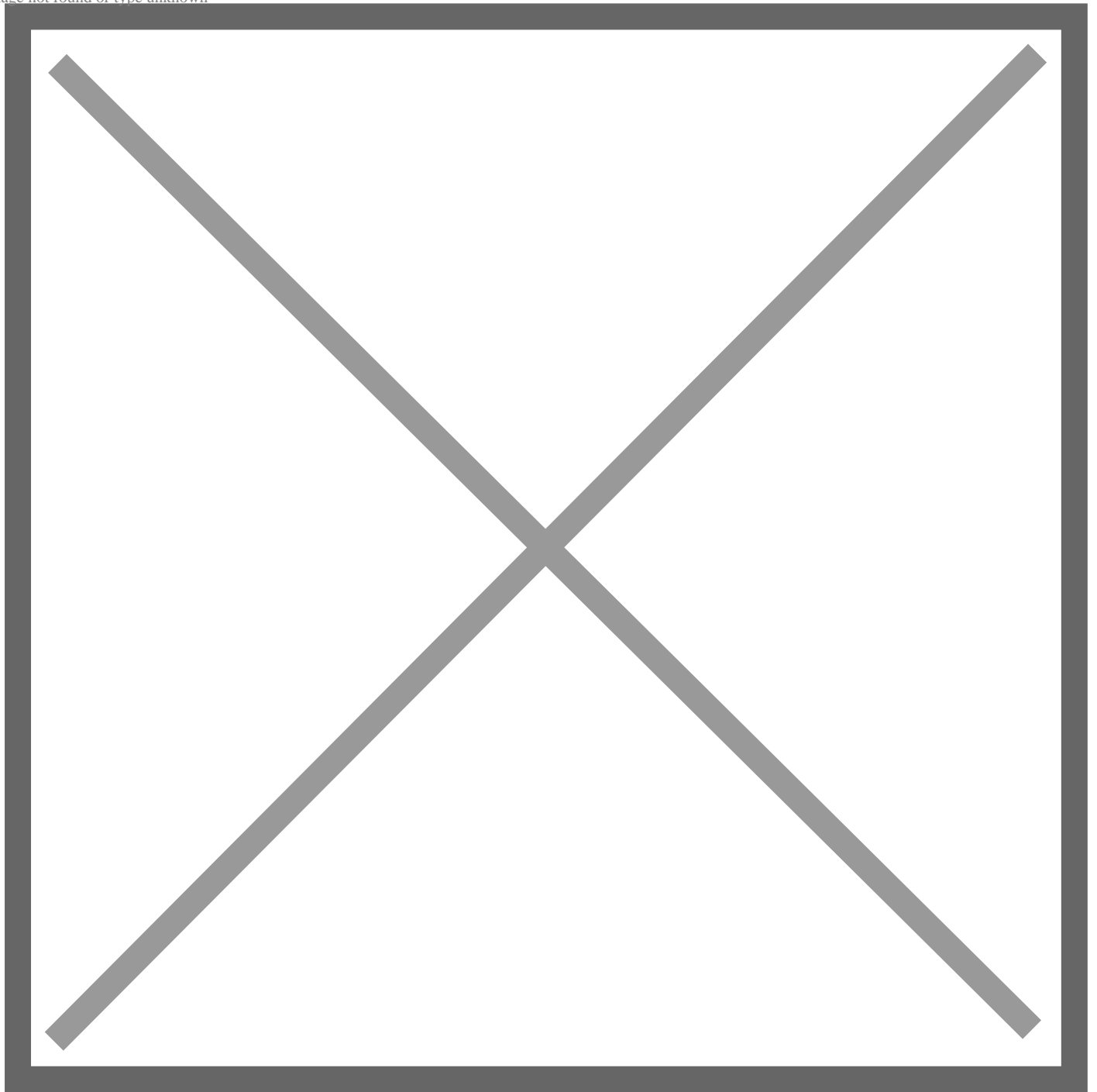


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Divine and worldly standards

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Stefano

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After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. (Luke 8: 1-3)

Jesus surrounded himself with apostles from modest and not powerful families. Among his followers there were also women, some of them with sinful pasts. This served to make it clear that this small initial ecclesial community was founded and led by God, otherwise it would not have held up with such "unsuitable" members. Let us, too, not be dazzled by worldly standards and focus, rather, on what God deems important.