This article discusses the timing and character of women’s philanthropy in Carniola, now part of Slovenia, in the period from 1848 to 1914. Based on primary research, it explores the beginnings of women’s work for the poor; the impact of religion, especially Catholicism, on women’s involvement in charity; and finally the rise of women’s secular social care. I argue that in Carniola, Catholic women’s organizations largely filled the space that opened up for women’s philanthropic initiatives. By the late nineteenth century, a re-Catholicization of modern industrial society took place, which particularly focused on women, as seen in the phenomenon of the feminization of the Catholic religion. Catholic women’s associations started to proliferate; some of these associations were charity associations that introduced new principles to charity work.