

FutureChurch

Charting the roles of women in the Catholic Church

Current breakdown of male/female leadership in Vatican dicasteries



Pope Francis has called for “a more incisive presence for women” in the Catholic Church. At the most recent Consistory of cardinals on February 12 and 13, 2015, Fr. Federico Lombardi reported that the cardinals expressed the hope of “an increasingly active role” for women. Although Pope Francis stated the door is closed on the question of ordination for women to the priesthood, he has been emphatic in his call for a stronger presence of women elsewhere. He recently appointed Sr. Mary Melone, the first women to date, to head a Pontifical University; Sr. Luzia Premoli, the first women to be appointed as a member of the Congregation on Evangelization of Peoples, and has stated that women should take up positions of greater leadership within the Vatican. So how many women are in positions of leadership within the Curia? How many assert real influence? While it is difficult to accurately measure the level of influence women exercise, the chart below has been generated to further that discussion by showing the current roles women play now in Vatican congregations, pontifical councils, and other commissions, committees and offices.

Secretariats, Congregations, and Pontifical Councils

There are two secretariats, nine congregations and twelve pontifical councils. Below is a chart indicating the number of Vatican officials broken out in terms of male/female roles from undersecretary and above. While women have slowly [gained certain leadership roles](#) in the Vatican, you still need just one hand to count those who hold top-level positions in the secretariats, congregations and pontifical councils. Sr. Nicoletta Vittoria Spezzati serves as undersecretary for the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and Dr. Flaminia Giovanelli serves as undersecretary for the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. There are other women of course, but of those in positions of undersecretary and above, about three percent are women.

Vatican Secretariats, Congregations, Pontifical Councils	Males in leadership	No.	Females in leadership	No.
Secretariat of State	Secretary of State: Cardinal Pietro Parolin Secretary: Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher Undersecretary: Msgr. Antoine Camilleri	3		0
Secretariat for Economy	President: Cardinal George Pell Secretary General: Msgr. Alfred Xuereb	2		0
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith	Prefect: Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller Secretary: Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer Adjunct Secretary: Archbishop Joseph	4		0

	<p>Augustine Di Noia Undersecretary: Msgr. Damiano Marzotto Caotorta</p>			
<p>Congregation for Clergy</p>	<p>Prefect: Archbishop Beniamino Stella Secretary: Archbishop Joel Mercier Undersecretary: Mons. Antonio Neri:</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life</p>	<p>Prefect: Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Secretary: Abp. Jose Rodriguez Carballo Undersecretary: Fr. Sebastiano Paciolla</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Sr. Nicoletta Vittoria Spezzati, Undersecretary</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Congregation for Bishops</p>	<p>Prefect: Cardinal Marc Ouellet Secretary: Archbishop Ilson de Jesus Montanari Undersecretary: Monsignor Udo</p>	<p>4</p>		<p>0</p>

	<p>Breitbach Adjunct Undersecretary: Mons. Serge Poitras</p>			
<p>Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples</p>	<p>Prefect: Archbishop Fernando Filoni Secretary: Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai Adjunct Secretary: Archbishop Protase Rugambwa Undersecretary: Father Tadeusz Wojda</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>**Sr. Luzia Premoli was recently appointed a member of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Congregation for Oriental Churches</p>	<p>Prefect: Cardinal Leonardo Sandri Secretary: Archbishop Cyril Vasil' Undersecretary: Rev. Fr. Lorenzo Lorusso</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments</p>	<p>Prefect: Cardinal Robert Sarah Secretary: Archbishop Arthur Roche Undersecretary: Rev.</p>	<p>4</p>		<p>0</p>

	<p>Pr. Corrado Maggioni Undersecretary: Msgr. Juan Miguel Ferrer Grenesche</p>			
<p>Congregation for the Causes of Saints</p>	<p>Prefect: Archbishop Angelo Amato Secretary: Archbishop Marcello Bartolucci Undersecretary: Fr. Boguslaw Turek</p>	3		0
<p>Congregation for Catholic Education</p>	<p>Prefect: Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski Secretary: Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani Undersecretary: Fr. Friedrich Bechina, F.S.O.</p>	3		0
<p>Pontifical Council for the Laity</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Stanisław Ryłko Secretary: Bishop Josef Clemens Undersecretary: Msgr. Miguel Delgado Galindo</p>	3		0

<p>Pontifical Council for the Family</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia Secretary: Bishop Jean Laffitte Undersecretary: Fr. Carlos Simón Vázquez</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson Secretary: Bishop Mario Toso,</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Undersecretary: Flaminia Giovanelli</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Pontifical Council for Christian Unity</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Kurt Koch Secretary: Bishop Brian Farrell, L.C. Undersecretary: Fr. Andrea Palmieri</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Council for Cor Unum</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Robert Sarah Secretary: Monsignor Giovanni Pietro Dal Toso Undersecretary: Msgr. Segundo Tejado Muñoz</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>

<p>Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Antonio Vegliò Secretary: Bishop Joseph Kalathiparambil Undersecretary: Fr Gabriele Ferdinando Bentoglio</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski Secretary: Msgr. Jean-Marie Mate Musivi Mupendawatu Undersecretary: Msgr. Augusto Chendi</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Francesco Coccopalmerio Vice-President: Archbishop Bruno Bertagna Secretary: Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta Ochoa de Chinchetru</p>	<p>4</p>		<p>0</p>

	<p>Undersecretary: Msgr. José Aparecido Gonçalves de Almeida</p>			
<p>Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran Secretary: Fr. Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot Undersecretary: Fr. Indunil Janakaratne Kodithuwakku Kankanamalage</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Council for Culture</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi Delegate: Bishop Carlos Alberto de Pinho Moreira Azevedo Secretary: Bishop Barthélemy Adoukonou Undersecretary: Monsignor Melchor José Sánchez de Toca</p>	<p>4</p>		<p>0</p>

	y Alameda			
Pontifical Council for Social Communications	President: Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli Secretary: Monsignor Paul Tighe Undersecretary: Doctor Angelo Scelzo Adjunct Secretary: Mons. Giuseppe Antonio Scotti	4		0
Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization	President: Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella Secretary: Archbishop José Octavio Ruiz Arenas Undersecretary: Msgr. Graham Bell	3		0
Total		74		2

Other tribunals, commissions, committees, offices	Males in Leadership		Females in leadership or in positions of influence	
Synod of Bishops	Secretary General: Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri Undersecretary: Bishop Fabio Fabene Relators: Cardinal Peter Erdo Special Secretary: Bishop Bruno Forte	4		0
Tribunal: Apostolic Penitentiary	Major Penitentiary: Cardinal Mauro	2		0

	Piacenza Regent: Bishop Krzysztof Jozef Nykiel			
Tribunal: Signatura Apostolica	Prefect: Archbishop Dominique Mamberti Secretary: Bishop Frans Daneels	2		0
Tribunal: Roman Rota	Dean: Msgr. Pio Vito Pinto	1		0
Apostolic Camera	Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church: Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran Vice-Camerlengo: Archbishop Giampiero Gloder	2		0
Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See	President: Archbishop-Bishop Domenico Calcagno Secretary: Msgr. Luigi Mistò	2		0
Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the	President: Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi	2		0

Holy See	Secretary: Bishop Lucio Ángel Vallejo Balda			
Prefecture of the Papal Household.	Prefect: Archbishop Georg Gänswein Regent: Father Leonardo Sapienza	2		0
Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff	Master of Ceremonies: Mons. Guido Marini	1		0
Press Office of the Holy See	Director: Fr. Federico Lombardi	1	Vice- Director: Doctor Angelo Scelzo	1
Vatican Information Service	Bureau Chief: Doctor Miguel Castellví Villaescusa	1		0
Central Office of Church Statistics	Head: Monsignor Vittorio Formenti	1		0
Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church	President: Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi Vice-President: Dom Michael John Zielinski Secretary: Prof. Francesco Buranelli	4		0

	<p>Undersecretary: Monsignor José Manuel Del Río Carrasco</p>			
<p>Pontifical Commission for Latin America</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Marc Ouellet Secretary: Prof. Guzmán Carriquiry</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi Vice-President: Dom Michael John Zielinski Secretary: Prof. Fabrizio Bisconti</p>	<p>3</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Biblical Commission</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller Secretary: Fr. Pietro Bovati Technical Secretary: Fr. Alessandro Belano Members: Fr Jean-</p>	<p>3</p> <p>17</p>		<p>0</p>

	<p>Noël Aletti Fr Olivier Artus Dr Juan Miguel Díaz Rodelas Dr Christoph Dohmen Fr Abbot Denis Farkasfalvy Fr Francolino Gonçalves Cardinal Prosper Grech Fr John Chijioke Iwe Dr Thomas Manjaly Fr Fearghus O'Fearghail Dr Pahk Johan Yeong- sik Fr Brasil Pereira Ney Fr Donald Senior Fr Ramón Trevijano Etcheverria Fr Ugo Vanni Dr Henryk Witczyk Fr Carlos Zesati Estrada</p>			
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Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei"	President: Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller Vice-President: Archbishop Joseph Augustine Di Noia Secretary: Monsignor Guido Pozzo	4		0
Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses	President: Archbishop Piero Marini Secretary: Fr Ferdinand Pratzner	4		0
Pontifical Committee of Historical Sciences	President: Fr Bernard Ardura Secretary: Fr Cosimo Semeraro	4		0
Pontifical Commission for Advocates	President: Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda	1		0
Disciplinary Commission of	President: Bishop	1		0

<p>the Roman Curia</p>	<p>Giorgio Corbellini</p>			
<p>Pontifical Commission to study IOR Reform</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Raffaele Farina Coordinator: Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta Ochoa de Chinchetru Secretary: Monsignor Peter Bryan Wells Member: Cardinal Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Member: Professor Mary Ann Glendon</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley Secretary: Msgr. Robert W. Oliver Fr. Humberto Miguel Yáñez Fr. Hans Zollner Prof. Claudio Papale Fr. Luis Manuel Ali Herrera Gabriel Dy-Liacco</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Dr. Catherine Bonnet Prof. Sheila Hollins Prof. Hanna Suchocka Ms. Marie Collins Kathleen McCormack Sr. Kayula Gertrude Lesa Krysten Winter-</p>	<p>8</p>

	<p>Bill Kilgallon Peter Saunders</p>		<p>Green Sr. Hermenegild Mokoro</p>	
<p>International Theological Commission</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller</p> <p>Secretary General: Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer</p> <p>Adjunct Secretary: Monsignor Guido Pozzo</p> <p>Rev. Terwase Henry Akaabiam</p> <p>Msgr. Antonio Luiz Catelan Ferreira</p> <p>Msgr. Piero Coda</p>	<p>3</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Prof. Tracey Rowland</p> <p>Sr Prudence Allen, R.S.M.</p> <p>Sr Alenka Arko</p> <p>Prof. Moira Mary McQueen</p> <p>Prof. Marianne Schlosser</p>	<p>0</p> <p>5 0</p>

	<p>Msgr. Lajos Dolhai Fr. Peter Dubovský Rev. Mario Ángel Flores Ramos. Rev. Carlos María Galli Msgr. Krzysztof Gózdź Rev. Gaby Alfred Hachem Fr. Thomas Kollampampil Rev. Koffi Messan Laurent Kpogo Rev. Oswaldo Martínez Mendoza Rev. Karl-Heinz Menke Rev. John Junyang Park Fr. Bernard Pottier Rev. Javier Prades López Prof. Héctor Gustavo Sánchez Rojas. Rev. Nicholas Segeja M'hela. Rev. Pierangelo</p>			
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	<p>Sequeri Rev. Željko Tanjić Fr. Gerard Francisco P. Timoner III Fr. Gabino Uríbarri Bilbao Rev. Philippe Vallin Fr. Thomas G. Weinandy</p>			
<p>Commission for Religious Relations with Jews</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Kurt Koch Vice-President: Bishop Brian Farrell Secretary: Reverend Norbert Hofmann</p>	3		0
<p>Commission for Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims</p>	<p>President: Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran Vice-President: Fr. Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot Secretary: Monsignor</p>	3		0

	Khaled Akasheh			
International Council for Catechesis	President: Cardinal Mauro Piacenza Vice-President: Archbishop Celso Morgia Iruzubieta	2		0
“Vox Clara” Committee	Chair: Cardinal George Pell Vice-Chairman: Bishop Thomas Olmsted Vice-Chairman: Cardinal Oswald Gracias Treasurer: Cardinal Justin Rigali Bishop Secretary: Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli Members: Cardinal	4 8		0 0

	<p>Francis George Cardinal John Tong Hon Archbishop Alfred Hughes Archbishop Michael Neary Archbishop Terrence Prendergast Bishop David McGough Executive Secretary: Monsignor James P. Moroney</p>			
<p>Supreme Committee of the Pontifical Mission Societies</p>	<p>President: Archbishop Fernando Filoni Vice-President: Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai Vice-President: Archbishop Protase Rugambwa</p>	3		0
<p>Financial Security</p>	<p>President: Peter Brian</p>	2		0

<p>Committee</p>	<p>Wells Secretary: Mr. René Brülhart Member: Msgr. Antoine Camilleri Msgr. Antoine Camilleri Msgr. Lucio Ángel Vallejo Balda Msgr. Lucio Ángel Vallejo Balda Dr. Domenico Giani Prof. Nicola Picardi</p>	<p>6</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Committee for the reform for the Vatican Media</p>	<p>Mr. Christopher Patten of Barnes Msgr. Carlo Maria Polvani Msgr. Lucio Adrián Ruiz Msgr. Paul Tighe Fr. Giacomo Ghisani Fr. Eric Salobir Prof. Giovanni Maria Vian</p>	<p>2 7</p>	<p>Ms. Daniela Frank Ms. Leticia Soberon</p>	<p>0 2</p>

	<p>Mr. Gregory Erlandson Mr. George Yeo</p>			
<p>Special Commission for the Study of the Reform of the Matrimonial Processes in Canon Law</p>	<p>Chair: Msgr. Pio Vito Pinto Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer Bishop Dimitri Salachas Msgr. Maurice Monier Msgr. Leo Xavier Michael Arokiaraj Msgr. Alejandro W. Bunge Fr. Nikolaus Schöch Fr. Konštanc Miroslav Adam Fr. Jorge Horta Espinoza Prof. Paolo Moneta</p>	<p>1 10</p>		<p>0 0</p>
<p>Council for the Economy</p>	<p>Coordinator: Reinhard Card. Marx Vice-Coordinator:</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>0</p>

	<p>Joseph F.X. Zahra, Malta</p> <p>Juan Luis Card. Cipriani Thorne</p> <p>Daniel N. Card. DiNardo</p> <p>Wilfrid Fox Card. Napier</p> <p>Jean-Pierre Card. Ricard</p> <p>Norberto Card. Rivera Carrera</p> <p>John Card. Tong Hon</p> <p>Agostino Card. Vallini</p> <p>Jean-Baptiste de Franssu</p> <p>John Kyle</p> <p>Enrique Llano Cueto</p> <p>Jochen Messemer</p> <p>Francesco Vermiglio</p> <p>George Yeo</p>	<p>13</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>Pontifical Academy of Science</p>	<p>President: Professor Werner Arber Chancellor</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>0</p>

	<p>Director: Bishop Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo</p>			
<p>Pontifical Academy of Social Science</p>	<p>Chancery Director: Bishop Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>President: Professor Margaret Archer</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Pontifical Academy for Life</p>	<p>President: Bishop Ignacio Carrasco de Paula Vice-President: Bishop Jean Laffitte</p>	<p>2</p>		<p>0</p>
<p>L'Osservatore Romano</p>	<p>Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Giovanni Maria Vian Assistant Editor-in-Chief: Mr Carlo di Cicco Editor of French-language weekly: Dr Jean-Michel Coulet Editor of Spanish-language weekly: Fr Arturo Gutiérrez Gómez Editor of Portuguese-</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Editor of English-language weekly: Mrs Anna Morghen Mrs Kate Marcelin-Rice Ms Mary Nolan Ms Elizabeth Simari Editor of German-language weekly: Mrs. Astrid Haas</p>	<p>5</p>

	<p>language weekly: (vacant Editor of Polish- language monthly: Fr Władysław Gryzło, S.J.</p>			
Vatican Press	<p>Director-General: Fr. Sergio Pellini</p>	1		0
Vatican Television Centre	<p>Director-General: Fr Federico Lombardi</p>	1		0
Vatican Radio	<p>Director-General: Fr Federico Lombardi</p>	1		0
Research by: Deborah Rose-Milavec, FutureChurch				