New! LISTENING TO WOMEN
Join the Conversation!

Pentecost is a time when we open our hearts and minds to the movement of God’s Spirit.

Today, women in the Church are looking for opportunities to express the fullness of God’s presence in them as human beings created in the image and likeness of God. Through Listening to Women, we a) create safe spaces where women can talk about the celebrations and challenges they experience as women in the Catholic Church; then b) share those reflections with our Bishops to help create opportunities for greater understanding and inclusion in Church life.

Learn more

New! THE 2018 MARY OF MAGDALA CELEBRATION RESOURCE IS READY!

Inspired by the global Women’s Marches and aware that our religious institutions and the world are in dire need of an infusion of feminist energy and

New! URGE U.S. BISHOPS TO REFORM SEMINARY PROGRAMS

Recently the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) sent a letter to Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.SS.R. and the USCCB asking for a major overhaul of
truth, our theme for 2018 is "Celebrating Feminism and Faith in Union." Find everything you will need to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary of Magdala in your community or parish. Download 2018 resource

FutureChurch supports the AUSCP campaign and asks Catholics to contact Cardinal Tobin and the Committee to express their concerns.

Download resource

CATHOLIC WOMEN DEACONS RETREAT
Join us for our third retreat as Catholic women come together to discern and explore the call to the permanent diaconate!

September 7 - 9, 2018
Cleveland, Ohio

Learn more or Sign up

Sign the Open Letter to Pope Francis Urging More Effective Collaboration with Women
Catholic Women Speak and Voices of Faith invite Catholic women to sign an open letter to Pope Francis urging him to collaborate more effectively with women and to use language that expresses the pressing need for full equality for women.

Sign the letter

From the Executive Director
This week the Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal-elect Luis Ladaria, reaffirmed John Paul II's ban on women's ordination to the priesthood.

Why now?
Anthony Ruff, OSB suggests that Ladaria may have been re-affirming the Church's official teaching in the wake of a series of comments made by Austria's Cardinal Schonborn and Voices of Faith speaker Mary McAleese, but he also speculates that Ladaria may be situating the Church for a major change and the accompanying major storm front as the pope agrees to open the permanent diaconate to women.

Some of FutureChurch's constituents rightly felt the pronouncement was redundant and demeaning. I agree. But in an institution where patriarchal rule has been cemented for so long, Ruff could be right. It's all speculation, but the Catholic Church has been on the wrong side of salvation history on this one for some time. If you listen carefully you can hear these patriarchal walls cracking and see them disintegrating in the light of God's radical love for women and men and Her desire to make space for all our gifts for the good of the Gospel.

If you want to make a difference, sign the Voices of Faith and Catholic Women Speak open letter to our Pope urging him to collaborate more effectively with women in our Church.

Deborah Rose-Milavec
Executive Director

From the Associate Director

We are excited to tell you about two new features we've just added to help you get the most out of Catholic Women Preach.

THE CWP PODCAST
Many of our regular viewers have been asking for and suggesting ways to listen to audio-only versions of the reflections on Catholic Women Preach. They want to benefit from the fine preaching, insights, and wisdom these women have to offer whether they're at home or on the go.

And so we're glad to announce that recent and all upcoming preaching will now be offered as a podcast. Best of all, when you subscribe you'll have the audio version waiting for you as soon as it is added.

Listen and subscribe on the most popular platforms:

Apple Podcasts
Overcast
SEARCH CWP
As our archive of preaching grows, many of those who work in religious education, adult formation, RCIA, high schools, campus ministry and other ministries have asked for a way they can search for preaching that touches on a particular theme or topic.

You may have already noticed the new search bar at the top of the page (or in the menu if you're using a mobile device). **All you need to do is type in your search term and press enter to get the most relevant search results.** You can search for a particular preacher, a particular feast day, a topic or issue, or a scripture (using the standard abbreviations).

THANK YOU
We really hope that these two enhancements help you get even more out of the faithfilled reflections of all the women who preach for us. And we thank you for your feedback, continued viewership, and support! In our efforts to continually enhance this ministry, we invite you to consider [taking our survey](#) and [contributing](#) financially.

Of course, be sure to connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and share the gift of Catholic women preaching with your friends and networks!

Russ Petrus
Associate Director

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**Pew Research: While changing, Europeans still over-represented in College of Cardinals**

The pope recently announced that he will appoint 11 new voting cardinals. After this latest group is elevated at a June 29 ceremony in Vatican City, the College of Cardinals will have 125 voting members, 42% of whom are European, down from 52% in 2013.

Of the 59 newly appointed or currently eligible voting cardinals Francis has named so far during his papacy, 37% were born in Europe, 22% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 19% in the Asia-Pacific region, 14% in sub-Saharan Africa, 7% from North America and 2% from the Middle East-North Africa region.

The newly appointed class of voting cardinals is actually more heavily European than any of the four previous groups selected by...
Francis, a native Argentinian who is the first pope from outside Europe since the eighth century. Six of the 11 new cardinals were born in Europe (three from Italy and one each from Poland, Spain and Portugal), while two were born in the Asia-Pacific region (Japan and India), one is from Latin America and the Caribbean (Peru), one is from sub-Saharan Africa (Madagascar), and one is from the Middle East-North Africa region (Iraq). None are from North America.

More priests in Brazil

According to Arnaud Bevilacqua, the Catholic Church in Brazil is gaining priests.

Bevilacqua asks if the Brazilian Church experiencing a “Pope Francis effect” on priestly vocations? Since it hosted World Youth Day in Brazil in July 2013, it has experienced a marked increase in the number of priests. According to a study for the Brazilian Catholic Bishops' Conference by the Center for Social Inquiries and Religious Studies, there were 27,300 priests in 2017 compared with 24,600 just three years earlier, an increase of 11 percent.

And this rise is not simply the result of growth in the Brazilian population. According to the daily Folha De Sao Paulo, which published the information, there was one priest for every 8,130 inhabitants in 2014 against one for every 7,802 in 2017. France, by comparison, has one priest for every 5,500 inhabitants.

New Prefect of Congregation for Causes of Saints

La Croix reports that Pope Francis has named Cardinal-designate Giovanni Angelo Becciu the new prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, an appointment that has been speculated for several months.

The 70-year-old Sardinian is a career papal diplomat and currently deputy Secretary of State for internal affairs (Sostituto). He will be created a cardinal on June 28. He will succeed Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB who turns 80 next month, after having served ten years as head of the office for saints.
More Scandal in Chile

Robert Mickens asks if Pope Francis is going to be able to fix the crisis of clergy sex abuse in Chile and beyond. New accusations have arisen since the resignation of Chilean bishops en masse. Read more

A torrent of abuse cases in Chile

The Catholic Church is beginning to take financial sin as seriously as sexual sin

Clifford Longley writes that in the 10,910-word Considerations for an Ethical Discernment Regarding Some Aspects of the Present Economic-Financial System (14 of those words) which has been jointly published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (13 more).

It is unprecedented for the CDF to concern itself with economics and finance, certainly at this level of detail, and suggests that the Catholic Church of Pope Francis is at last beginning to take financial sin as seriously as it has always taken sexual sin. Read more

Prefect reaffirms "no" on women's ordination to priesthood

Joshua McElwee reports that the head of the Vatican's doctrinal office has reaffirmed the Catholic Church's ban on the ordination of women as priests, writing in a new article that the teaching has a "definitive character" and "is a truth belonging to the deposit of faith."

In a short essay available online and that will be published in Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano May 30, Archbishop Luis Ladaria also states that expressing doubt about the barring of women from the priesthood "creates serious confusion among the faithful."

Ladaria, who is to be made a cardinal by Pope Francis in June and is the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, says Jesus decided to reserve the sacrament of priestly ordination "to the twelve apostles, all men, who, in turn, communicated it to other men."
"The church has always recognized herself bound by this decision of the Lord, which excludes that the ministerial priesthood can be validly conferred on women," he continues.

Ladaria's article is given the headline "The definitive character of the doctrine of 'Ordinatio sacerdotalis,'" referring to Pope John Paul II's 1994 apostolic letter that outlined the reasoning behind the ban on the priestly ordination of women.

The archbishop, who specifies several times in his essay that he is writing only about priestly ordination, says he decided to write "in response to doubt" about John Paul's teaching.

The prelate opens his two-page essay with a short reflection on the church's understanding of the sacrament of ordination. He then notes the debate that has occurred in recent decades over the character of John Paul's letter, especially the question of whether it is to be considered an infallible papal teaching.

The Pope's Machiavellian plan?

Anthony Ruff, OSB thinks that Damon Linker is one of the most astute commentators there is on church and society. He writes about “Pope Francis’ cunning long game” in The Week:

If Pope Francis were a straightforward reformer, he would seek to change church doctrine regardless of the potentially dire consequences for church unity. But Francis is well aware of the limits of his power and the danger of pushing too far too fast. So he has set out on a different, and distinctive, path. ...

Instead of acting as an expositor of these core teachings of the church, the pope selectively diverges from them in his actions and statements without deigning to change the teachings themselves. The implicit message is the same in every case: The pope himself thinks it’s possible to be a member of the church in good standing while failing to abide by all of the institution’s rules. ...

I think the pope’s strategy for a longer game displays greater psychological acuity — and Machiavellian cunning. Francis may be betting that once the church stops preaching those doctrines that conflict most severely with modern moral norms, the number of people who uphold and revere them will decline rapidly (within a generation or two). Once that has happened, officially changing the doctrine will be much easier and much less likely to provoke a schism (or at least a major one) than it is in the present.

That’s the great advantage of pursuing a strategy of stealth
Congregation for Divine Worship Proposes 2019 Plenary on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God

Anthony Ruff, OSB, writes that the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments is holding a plenary session in February 2019 with the proposed topic for this plenary session, The Liturgical Formation of the People of God.

It’s a rich topic with many aspects, and the treatment of it might extend in several possible directions.

The wording of the topic suggests a commitment to the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council, which emphasized that the church is the entire “People of God.” As the Vatican’s International Theological Commission affirmed in 1984, “One can say, indeed, that the expression “people of God” has come to stand for the ecclesiology of the Council.”

As for “liturgical formation,” it is, and no doubt always will be, an urgent imperative. It is a timely topic especially a half century after the Second Vatican Council.

The CDW plenary session is taking place nearly exactly fifty years after the release in 1969 of the rite of Mass reformed according to the wishes of the Second Vatican Council. And while the reformed rites have been implemented everywhere, no one could honestly claim that the rites have been fully appropriated and internalized by the entire Church. We are not yet a ritual people who live for and live from the rites, who see the rites as our own action, as the expression and the cause of our deepest beliefs and convictions. The liturgy is not yet the communal school of prayer it is meant to be. Read more

What Francis is Up Against

Rita Ferrone writes that Francis is up against a deeply rooted problem as he tries to clean up the mess in Chile.

Ferrone writes that the roots of the scandal go deep.

A good example of this can be seen in the case of Fernando Karadima, the charismatic priest who preyed upon young men in Chile and whose actions led to the crisis. Read more
the El Bosque parish for three decades, and who was sentenced by an ecclesiastical court to a life of “prayer and penance” in 2011. He ran what amounted to a religious cult centered on his own personality—one that was wildly successful, producing no less than fifty priests, four of whom became bishops. They called him the “little saint” while he abused them sexually, controlled them psychologically, separated them from their families, and had them spy on one another so that he could control them further. This wasn’t just about sex; it was about power.

Francis gets it. Read more

Pope Francis condemns culture of abuse and cover up

New Zealand Catholic says Pre-Synod was inspiring

NZ Catholic reports that Pope Francis’ openness and willingness to listen to young people at the pre-synod meeting in Rome was deeply valued by all those who participated in the gathering.

New Zealand representative at the pre-synod meeting Isabella McCafferty from Wellington said she was struck by “the uniqueness of the opportunity”.

“For the first time, the Pope had called a meeting of young people from all over the world in Rome to talk about what really matters to us and how the Church can accompany us. Pope Francis also spent three hours with us, listening and answering questions,” she told NZ Catholic.

“No matter where someone had come from or the experience they had, it seemed that all present were greatly impacted by the opportunity to speak and be heard.”

Some 300 young people from different cultural and religious backgrounds gathered in Rome on March 19-24 for the pre-synod meeting. The meeting was a precursor to the October synod of bishops on “Young People, the Faith and the Discernment of Vocation.”

She said the Pope encouraged them to speak with courage and without holding back with any questions and concerns. “[Pope Francis] also told us that our contribution was ‘indispensable’ and a statement like that means a lot. Throughout society, young people are rarely listened to and taken seriously, so it’s a big deal to feel like we are truly valued in the Church,” she said.

Read more
Donate $125 or more and receive a copy of Kaya Oakes book, *The Nones Are Alright: A New Generation of Believers, Seekers, and Those in Between*

Start a conversation about women deacons with DeaconChat!

More women are sharing their stories of being called to the diaconate. Share your story at our 100 Women Deacons campaign!

You won't want to miss these FutureChurch events!

Please support this work as we celebrate the Spirit of Pentecost!

Be inspired! Catholic Women Preach!

Please support this effort!
Over 147,000 views! PLEASE SUPPORT CATHOLIC WOMEN PREACH!

Please take the Catholic Women Preach survey and help us to make this exciting initiative even better!

Honor the Mary of Magdala in your life by having her name added to our list on Catholic Women Preach!

Learn what you can do to save your parish community

New! International priests statistics!

U.S. Priest statistics

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