

August 25, 2021: Talking points on International Roman Catholic Women Priests
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Case for Women Priests

<https://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com/2018/10/video-case-for-women-priests-with.htm>

1. The Roman Catholic Women Priests Movement began in 2002 with the Ordination of seven women on the Danube.
 2. Our first women bishops were ordained by a male bishop with apostolic succession, therefore our ordinations are valid, but in violation of Canon Law.
 3. There are now close to 300 members in the international Roman Catholic Women Priests Movement.
 4. We reject the penalty of excommunication. We are leading the Church towards the full equality of women, We are not leaving the Church. By our Baptism, we are members of the Church. No Church law or official can cancel our baptism.
 5. We are living prophetic obedience, disobeying an unjust law, so that women can follow their God-given call to receive Holy Orders in order to serve the people of God especially those who are currently excluded such as marginalized, LGBTQI and divorced and remarried Catholics without annulments
6. Women priests are transforming the Church, the People of God into an inclusive, egalitarian Church modeled after the early Christian communities. We are living prophetic obedience to the Spirit as we disobey an unjust man-made Canon law that prohibits women's ordination.
7. Our women priests minister to people in house churches, larger communities, hospitals, retreat centers and prisons. We serve the homeless, migrant workers and those on the margins of church and society. We stand in solidarity with all those who are working for justice in the Church and in the world. All are welcome to receive sacraments in our inclusive communities.
8. Similarities and Differences:
ARCWP and RCWP- USA are both organizations within the international Roman Catholic Women Priests Movement.
They have the same prophetic mission of ordaining women in apostolic succession to create a renewed priestly ministry .
The two major differences are that each organization has a different governing structure and formation program.
The members of both ARCWP and RCWP-USA collaborate and work together in a variety of ways:

Members from both organizations meet monthly for a common prayer meeting, have worked together in international conferences such as the Parliament of World Religions, retreats and other ministerial activities in various locations.

Members of both organizations take courses and participate in Forums on Areas of mutual interest such as theology and ministry sponsored by People's Catholic Seminary online.

Like Pope Francis who says no to an economy of exclusion, women priests say no to a church of exclusion.

Like Pope Francis who promotes an economy of inclusion, women priests promote a church of inclusion.

Like Pope Francis who challenges global economic inequality, women priests challenge the church's gender inequality.

Global economic equality is related to women's empowerment and equality in church and society.

Roman Catholic Women Priests are a renewal, justice movement within the Catholic Church.

We are serving inclusive Catholic communities where all are welcome to receive sacraments.

We are a non-clerical movement that offers the church an egalitarian, partnership with the community of the baptized.

Our mission is to serve especially those whom the Vatican marginalizes. (33 million Catholics have left the church that is quite a "target group" that has been abandoned by institution.)

We reject excommunication. No punishment can separate us from Christ or cancel our baptism. No church authority can separate us from God.

This is our church and we are not leaving it. (no matter what the Vatican says or does.)

(The Vatican's official line is that our excommunicate is the automatic type, by your choice, you have excommunicated yourself)

The Church that treats women as second-class citizens violates God's will.

Genesis 1:27: God created humanity in God's image, in the divine image, God created them, male and female God created them. Galatians 3:27 St. Paul reminds us that by our baptism there is neither male nor female, all are one in Christ.

Roman Catholic Women Priests have valid orders. Our first bishops were ordained by a male bishop in apostolic succession.

Pope Benedict canonized two excommunicated two nuns (Theodore Guerin and Mary McKillop)

We hope that Pope Francis will chart a new path toward human equality in our church by opening all ministries to women. If women were priests, we would see an end to the church's policy on contraception. Primacy of conscience is an important church teaching that all must follow in moral decisions.

The hierarchy must make the connection between discrimination against women in the church and violence , abuse and inequality toward women in the world.

Like these courageous women we are faithful Catholics leading the church to become more just and live Jesus example of Gospel equality.

Jesus called women and men to be disciples. (Luke 8:1-3) Jesus did not ordain anyone.

The Risen Christ called Mary Magdala to be the apostle to the apostles. She was the first to proclaim the central message of Christianity, the Resurrection.

Vatican/ (hierarchy) should follow Jesus' example of Gospel equality and the early church's tradition of women in liturgical leadership as deacons, priests and bishops.

Background For 1200 years women were ordained. (Gary Macy, The Hidden History of Women's Ordination, Dorothy Irvin's archaeological evidence etc.) "In the early centuries of Christianity, ordination was the process and the ceremony by which one moved to any new ministry (ordo) in the community. By this definition, women were in fact ordained into several ministries. A radical change in the definition of ordination during the eleventh and twelfth centuries not only removed women from the

ordained ministry, but also attempted to eradicate any memory of women's ordination in the past. ...However, the triumph of a new definition of ordination as the bestowal of power, particularly the power to confect the Eucharist, so thoroughly dominated western thought and practice by the thirteenth century that the earlier concept of ordination was almost completely erased.. References to the ordination of women exist in papal, episcopal and theological documents of the time, and the rites for these ordinations have survived.” Gary Macy, The Hidden History of Women’s Ordination)

The Vatican and Google have created a virtual tour of catacombs including two frescoes in St. Priscilla’s catacomb that provide evidence of ancient women deacons and priests in first centuries of church’s history. (One fresco depicts a woman deacon in the center vested in a dalmatic, her arms raised in the orans position for public worship. In the same scene there is a bishop being ordained a priest by a bishop seated I a chair. She is vested in an alb, chasuble, and amice, and holding a gospel scroll. The third woman in the painting is wearing the same robe as the bishop on the left and is sitting in the same type of chair.) In another fresco in the Catacombs of Priscilla, women are conducting a Eucharistic banquet. This evidence portrays women in liturgical roles and vestments.

The real issue is that Roman Catholic Women Priests are visible reminders that women are equal images of God. We are healing centuries of misogyny.

The Vatican (hierarchy) cannot continue to discriminate against women and blame God for it.

Roman Catholic Women Priests are a “holy shakeup” which millions of Catholics support.

Roman Catholic Women Priests lead inclusive, enthusiastic, egalitarian communities where all are welcome to receive sacraments.

Our website is www.arcwp.org

There are two RCWP groups in the United States, each has its own administrative structure. They are not administratively connected.

ARCWP’s vision is a renewed priestly ministry within a Roman Catholic Community of equals.

ARCWP is an international group without regional territories. Presently, ARCWP is in the United States, South America, and Canada.

Our common mission with RCWP-USA is a renewed priestly ministry in an inclusive church. Both ARCWP and RCWP-USA collaborate, communicate and share resources on a regular basis.

We have a common chat listserv and national retreats. We collaborate on major reform movement events such as the celebration of liturgy at Call to Action National Conference.

A Renewed Priestly Ministry

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The unique focus of the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests is on justice and equality:

1. We seek equality for women in the church including decisionmaking and ordination.
2. We minister with the poor and marginalized.
3. We live the spiritual and social justice tradition of the church serving inclusive communities of equals.
4. We actively and openly participate in nonviolent movements for peace and justice.

We are not leaving the church, we are leading it!

Want to know more, check us out:

[www.arcwp.org](http://www.arcwp.org)

[bridgetmarys.blogspot.com](http://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com)

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