The Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship
for women discerning priestly ordination in the Catholic Church

The Women's Ordination Conference is honored to offer the Lucile Murray Durkin scholarship fund to support women on their academic and spiritual paths toward ordained priesthood.

In its third year, this scholarship is primarily directed to women who wish to be ordained Catholic priests. Secondarily it is open to women who are seeking priestly ordination in other denominations.

To be eligible, the candidate must enroll or participate in at least one class or significant volunteer ministry of comparable scope that she believes would forward the discernment of her call to a life in ordained ministry.

**Timeline:** Completed applications must be received by April 29th, 2020. Awardees will be notified by June 30th, 2020.

**Award Agreement:** $2,000.00

**For more information and to apply:**
www.womensordination.org/scholarship

“It is tremendously important that women, knowing a beckoning to sacramental service, have a pathway of encouragement and hope. We believe that the Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship will signal for young women their right to answer their calls, and become well educated to do so.”

- Sheila Durkin Dierks
Lucile Murray Durkin

Lucile Murray Durkin, wisdom woman and mother of three daughters, was a visionary Catholic who built community: family, parish, neighborhood, civic. Born in 1908, her earliest memory was, as a four-year-old, riding in a pram being pushed by her mother, Winifred Killoran Murray, in a suffrage march in Ironton, Ohio, years before women gained the right to vote. It was a profound memory that would fuel the next nine decades.

She was a founder of the Lay Pastoral Council in Cincinnati, and served the diocese as a member of the school board. She was a founder of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition in 1969, a body that, almost fifty years later, continues to do robust and respectful work on human rights through interfaith dialogue.

Lucile was also a sensitive liturgist, loving The Word and its gracious transmission. She worked in interracial dialogue and acted to see that young women would have advanced educational opportunities.

In the 1950s and beyond, she and my father, Lawrence, began and fostered generations of study clubs in which young Catholic couples read and engaged emerging theologies. They nurtured the spirit of thoughtful educated lay women and men ready to encounter the vision of Vatican II. In this they prefigured non-clerical living room circles of the liberated faith of the post-Vatican II years.

In the 1970s, the blossoming of a push for women’s ordination brought hundreds of enthusiastic and bombastic opinions published in Catholic diocesan newspapers. Lucile’s voice was heard in a March 4, 1977 letter to the editor of the Cincinnati Catholic Telegraph Register which began, “When, in the future, women are serving God and His people in the fullness of priesthood... brave pioneers and their sisters will be blessed for their courage and perseverance.”

Lucile was funny, inventive, quick to welcome. She believed that hospitality is the primary virtue of the church, and living it out in our home as well as in parish and community. - Sheila Durkin Dierks