



VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK ACTION TOOLKIT

NOVEMBER 1-9, 2020

Prepared by
**WOMEN'S
ORDINATION
CONFERENCE**

ABOUT WOMEN'S ORDINATION CONFERENCE

Founded in 1975, the Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) is the oldest and largest organization working to ordain women as priests, deacons, and bishops into an inclusive and accountable Roman Catholic Church. A feminist voice for women in the Roman Catholic Church, WOC is a grassroots-driven movement that promotes activism, dialogue, and prayerful witness to call for women's full equality in the Church.

womensordination.org



facebook.com/ordainwomen



[@OrdainWomen](https://twitter.com/OrdainWomen)



youtube.com/user/OrdainWomen



[@womensordination](https://instagram.com/womensordination)

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

The USCCB has designated November 1-7, 2020 to be National Vocations Awareness Week, a week to "promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education." The Women's Ordination Conference is using this opportunity to agitate and make space for the many people who *are* aware of their vocations—women and non-binary people! Through our alternative schedule of events, we're engaging with this week in our own spirit of inclusion. We've even expanded the "week" by two days!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship

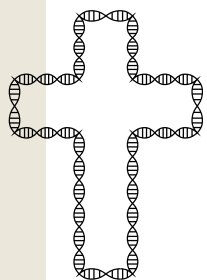
Applications open for the 2021 Lucile Murray Durkin Scholarship, a \$2,200 award for women and non-binary persons discerning ordination to the Catholic priesthood. Visit womensordination.org/scholarship for details.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

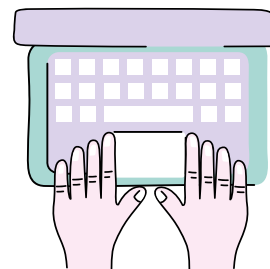
The Cardboard Cardinal

View our groundbreaking, first-ever conversation with a member of the highest echelons of the Church as we bring you a dialogue between Cardinal Cartone and supporters of women's ordination.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Election Day! VOTE!



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

"Don't Discern Without Us" — A Form Swarm!

Join the effort to flood the inboxes of diocesan and order vocations directors with letters from women called to the priesthood and their supporters. You can send letters on your own, or if you're looking for some company as you draft, join our Zoom writing party at 12 PM Eastern. Drop in and out! [Register here.](#)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Form Swarm, Part 2

Our swarm continues! Keep flooding those inboxes. At 7 PM Eastern, we'll gather on Zoom once again for community! Feel free to drop in and out. [Register here.](#)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

What It Means to Be a Woman Priest

At noon ET, join representatives from Roman Catholic Women Priests and the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests to learn about the history of the organizations, hear stories of vocation, ask questions, and find out how to further your own discernment process. [Register here.](#)



TOOLS AND CAMPAIGNS

FORM SWARM

This action is an opportunity to flood the inboxes of diocesan vocations directors (as well as the vocation coordinator for the Jesuits) with messages from women and non-binary people who feel called to ordination, as well as from people who support the ordination of all genders. Your participation is so important – most of these directors and websites get minimal interaction in a week-long period, so even a couple of emails from women or non-binary people and their supporters in a single day will make a big impact. (See below for templates!)

Find your diocesan vocations director here: <https://diocesanpriest.com/map-united-states/>.

And contact the Jesuits here: <https://beajesuit.org/>.

SOCIAL MEDIA TAGS

Take to social media during Vocations Awareness Week and show your support for ordination justice by using the USCCB and other Vocations Awareness hashtags:

#DontDiscernWithoutUs (Jesuits vocational hashtag)

#ThinkingPriesthood (Diocesan hashtag)

#VocationsAwareness

#OrdainWomen



HANDY QUOTES ABOUT VOCATIONS

From Pope Francis:

"No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love." (2014)

"We should not wait to be perfect in order to respond with our generous 'yes,' nor be fearful of our limitations and sins, but instead open our hearts to the voice of the Lord. To listen to that voice, to discern our personal mission in the Church and the world, and at last to live it in the today that God gives us." (2018)

"Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." (2017)

"Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to 'read within' his or her life, and to understand where and to what he or she is being called by the Lord, in order to carry on his mission." (2017)

Jesuit discernment quotes:

"Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening life in me."- St. Ignatius Loyola

"When God our Lord so moves and attracts the will that without doubting or being able to doubt, such a dedicated soul follows what is shown." - St. Ignatius Loyola

"CATHOLIC WOMEN CALLED" VIDEOS

This series asked women called to ordained ministry, "What do you want the world to know about your vocation?" You're invited to share these videos or make your own!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRbNct3xi2g&list=PLoDP9xLWi6Pc0TrLHFbwEgq20NDB4K-IR>



FORM SWARM TEMPLATES

1. IF YOU ARE CALLED TO PRIESTHOOD (WRITING TO A LOCAL DIOCESAN OFFICER)

Dear *[insert your local vocations director]*,

My name is *[name]*. I'm a Catholic from this diocese and I attend Mass at *[insert your parish if you have one, or leave out this part]*.

I'm writing to you during the USCCB's National Vocation Awareness Week. Pope Francis once said, "Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." I am a woman/non-binary person who is called to priesthood, a vocation that has been born in my faithful prayer life and affirmed by *[my family and friends/spiritual director/pastor/campus minister/etc]*.

- *Mention any formation that you have received; degrees, certificates, training, and volunteer experience that has informed your discernment to ordained ministry.*
- *Mention your gifts that you would like to share with the Church but have no or limited opportunity to do so.*

While it is a difficult path, I know God is calling me to ordained ministry.

As a man of Christ, how can you deny my faithfully and prayerfully discerned call?

I would ask for the opportunity to have a conversation with you and tell you my story of discernment and calling. I know that I share a story similar to many other women called to priesthood.

Your sibling in Christ,

INSERT YOUR NAME

2. IF YOU ARE CALLED TO PRIESTHOOD WITHIN AN ORDER (JESUITS, ETC.)

Dear *[insert order vocational director]*,

My name is *[name]*. I'm a Catholic from *[insert diocese]* and I attend Mass at *[insert your parish if you have one, or leave out this part]*. *OPTIONAL: Include Jesuit connections - education, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, etc.*

The Be a Jesuit website has a wonderful tagline: "Don't discern without us." So here I am, a woman/non-binary person who is called to priesthood, a vocation that has been discerned faithfully and affirmed by *[my family and friends/spiritual director/pastor/campus minister/etc]*. I believe my call to priesthood invites me deeper into whom God sees me as and desires me to be.

- *Mention any formation that you have received; degrees, certificates, training, and volunteer experience that has informed your discernment to ordained ministry.*
- *Mention your gifts that you would like to share with the Church but have no or limited opportunity to do so.*
- *Mention your call to Ignatian spirituality, why this charism speaks to you.*

While it is a difficult path, I know God is calling me to ordained ministry.

As a man of Christ, who knows and lives a life of discernment, how do you respond to my discerning a call God has placed in my heart, one that fills me with great consolation and joy?

I would ask for the opportunity to have a conversation with you and tell you my story of discernment and calling. I know that I share a story similar to many other women called to priesthood.

As it says on the Be A Jesuit website, "Imagine what we can do together."

Your sibling in Christ,

INSERT YOUR NAME

3. YOU SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN ORDAINED MINISTRY (LOCAL)

Dear *[insert your local vocations director]*,

My name is *[name]*. I'm a Catholic from this diocese and I attend Mass at *[insert your parish if you have one, or leave out this part]*.

I'm writing to you during the USCCB's National Vocation Awareness Week. I believe, as Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*, that the church needs broader opportunities for an incisive female presence in the church. Ordaining women to the priesthood is a vital first step. With such a drastic priest shortage, and a modern understanding of the equality among genders, how can the Church continue its discrimination against women?

- *Mention the women you know who are called, or who have left because of the exclusion of women from ministry, or a time when you longed for a woman priest.*

I understand the risks involved with speaking up about an issue that the Church has said is not up for debate. But the risks of ignoring the gifts of so many people in the church, simply because of their gender, are far greater.

It is time to break the silence on women's ordination and begin a national discussion, starting here in our own diocese.

Your sibling in Christ,

INSERT YOUR NAME

4. YOU SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN ORDAINED MINISTRY (ORDER, I.E. JESUITS, ETC.)

Dear *[insert order vocational director]*,

My name is *[name]*. I'm a Catholic from *[insert diocese]* and I attend Mass at *[insert your parish if you have one, or leave out this part]*. *OPTIONAL: Include Jesuit connections - education, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, etc.*

I'm writing to you during the USCCB's National Vocation Awareness Week. I believe, as Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*, that the church needs broader opportunities for an incisive female presence in the church. Ordaining women to the priesthood is a vital first step.

With such a drastic priest shortage, and a modern understanding of the equality among genders, how can the Church continue its discrimination against women?

- *Mention the women you know who are called, or who have left because of the exclusion of women from ministry, or a time when you longed for a woman priest.*

I understand the risks involved with speaking up about an issue that the Church has said is not up for debate. But the risks of ignoring the gifts of so many people in the church, simply because of their gender, are far greater. The Jesuits have long been called to the "frontiers" of society -- I encourage you to boldly approach the frontiers of the Church where women, and people of all genders, are called to priesthood and ready to serve. Please put your power and platform to good use and speak with *parrhesia* for the need to ordain all who are called to the priesthood, regardless of gender.

Your sibling in Christ,

INSERT YOUR NAME