

MISSION STATEMENT

As women and men rooted in faith, we call for justice, equality, and full partnership in ministry. We are committed to church renewal and to the transformation of a structure which uses gender rather than gifts as its criterion for ministry.

Survivors of Priest Sexual Abuse Meet in Philadelphia

By Sara T. Howard

On May 22 and 23, 25 survivors of sexual abuse by Catholic priests met at the Days Inn near the Philadelphia Airport. The meeting was sponsored by S.N.A.P., Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, a Chicago-based support group. About half were women, half men. Following two emotion-filled days of comparing experiences and subsequent difficult dealings with the Church, the group marched on the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul.

One purpose of S.N.A.P. is to educate survivors on what to expect in making the abuse known to Church authorities. Members describe isolation tactics: "You're made to feel that you're the only one this has happened to. When I called the Chancery, it was as if this was the first time they'd had this problem." There are no procedures for parish-level staff about how to handle such complaints. S.N.A.P. has learned that it is Father William J. Lynn, the Secretary of the Clergy, who receives complaints of sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Advice to those considering making their abuse known to the Church is to tell somebody you trust; don't go to the Church first, and don't go alone. Take a lawyer or a friend. And don't sign anything, even your own statement, as they will ask you to do. This advice was based on the responses they had experienced, which were less than sympathetic.

Dismissive responses sent many to the judicial system to recover the costs of therapy, if nothing else. Those who sue, however, must be prepared for bare-knuckled legal tactics. The defense can contend that some of the abuse was consensual if any of it occurred after age eighteen. Another tactic can be to implicate the parents on the grounds that they were negligent in their supervision, and should have known that their child was being abused. One survivor said he feels deep betrayal by the Church for the way they handled his lawsuit.

A case can be thrown out of court because the statute of limitations has expired. In Pennsylvania, a civil case to recover money damages must be brought any time up to two years after the survivor's eighteenth birthday. Repressed memory—when people realize later that they have been wronged—may present a different statute of limitations issue which is beyond the scope of this article.

There are money settlements, not all generous. Different figures are bandied about, but whatever the amount is, in this instance, "We are the Church"; contributors pay, one way or another. The funds come from somewhere in the Church.

But S.N.A.P. members are anything but lawsuit-happy, perhaps for the wrong reasons. One survivor feels that "Most of us will never be put together enough to file suit." The purpose of the group is not generating

"Maybe they should be put in prison as chaplains, so they can worry about being raped by somebody stronger," is one victim's idea for punishment for priests who abuse.

lawsuits or changing the Church, but to inform, support, and get the best possible treatment for survivors. At monthly S.N.A.P. meetings, members give each other emotional support, but no formal psychotherapy or legal services are provided. "We do maintain a data bank of names of abusers and survivors, and it's horrifying when I tell people that their abuser has exploited others. They always think that they were the only one." They are not so concerned about how the Church deals canonically with the abusers, but one member did have ideas on punishment for those priests: "Maybe they

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ABUSE SURVIVORS MEET

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should be put in prison as chaplains, so they can worry about being raped, about somebody stronger."

Their ordeals with their abusers have had effects on the victims as spiritual beings, spouses, and parents. "For a while, I felt like there was a monster inside me, that I would abuse my own kids." This survivor says he prays with his children, but "I am basically raising my children without formal religion." His own spirituality has been shattered by the abuse he received because so much of it took place in connection with the sacraments, especially confession.

Another survivor didn't believe that there was a support group for this problem. "Maybe for people whose pets had died," she said, "but not for this. It was too weird." For a long time, she could not remember her abuse. When she started psychotherapy, the memories came back.

The thing that has been most difficult for her is the relationships she has lost by making the abuse public. When she told nuns and priests, they suggested that she keep it quiet. They advised her not to sue, and promised her that they'd work together with her so it would never

happen to other kids. But when she decided to take action, they made it clear that the friendships were over.

Many survivors stressed a common theme, that they were extremely devout kids from devout families heavily involved in parish life. One boy was practically a resident of the rectory. He rode his bike to early mass and helped around doing chores. They idealized priests who then exploited the trust and the presumption of goodness that clergy enjoy. The overwhelming assumption was that priests could do no wrong. As children — most abuse began between eight and the early teen years — they were confused. They understood the "no masturbation" message but then when the priest touched them, he said it was all right.

Religious arguments were used to undermine the children's negative reactions. If they were unwilling to participate, they were accused of the sin of pride, or other sins that could send them to hell. One priest promised the abuse would stop, always at some future date, and always the promise was broken and another future time was set. The child didn't want to lose the relationship so went along. He valued the interest of the priest, because he didn't want to jeopardize his parents'

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DIALOGUE BOX

Janine Mariscotti succinctly addresses crucial issues in the pedophilia debate in a letter to The Philadelphia Inquirer on July 21, 1993. A response by James J. Flood of Saint Margaret Church in Narberth on July 29, 1993, suggests that the dangers cited in her last paragraphs could exist within any lifestyle.

PEDOPHILIA AND CELIBACY ARE MISTAKENLY LINKED

I am disturbed by the erroneous connection often made between the celibate lifestyle and the incidence of pedophilia among Roman Catholic priests.

Pedophilia is a serious sexual abuse whose perpetrators exhibit specific characteristics. It is also a criminal activity that demands legal as well as psychological intervention. It is unlikely that given the dynamics of pedophilia, a mature and healthy adult expressing his or her sexuality—homosexuality, heterosexuality, or celibacy—would be attracted to pedophilia.

If there is a higher incidence of pedophilia among priests, it may be that similar to other professions that attract pedophiles (i.e., teaching, coaching), the priesthood is a lifestyle in which children are generally accessible.

The recent outrage against the Catholic Church is not about the relationship between pedophilia and celibacy, but about the leadership's denial and unresponsiveness to the devastating abuse of children.

Celibacy, on the other hand, is a viable choice of expressing one's sexuality for part or all of some people's lives. Celibacy as a requirement for Roman Catholic priesthood, however, while it likely does not increase pedophilia, may create barriers to intimacy in interpersonal relationships.

Sexual activity is one expression of intimacy that the condition of celibacy prohibits, but the lifestyle can thwart efforts at emotional intimacy, as well. In the attempt to avoid sexual urging, the celibate priest might also find it necessary to deny other valuable and complex urgings of the heart.

While celibacy, in theory, may free priests from the restraints and responsibilities of close, interpersonal relationships, it might not allow for the full, human expression of the heart and spirit that God intended.

Janine Mariscotti is a psychotherapist in private practice in Glenside.

relationship to this family friend.

Now everyone in the Church from the Pope down realizes what a disaster trying to hide, ignore, and deny pedophilia and other sexual abuse is. Top-level commissions are working out procedures which have as one of their goals to get abusive priests laicized quickly. Cardinal Bevilacqua has been a leader in this laicization effort. There is also a consciousness of the responsibility of the Church to assist survivors and to help perpetrators, and to more thoroughly assess the mental health of those whose vocations it accepts.

Those wishing to contact S.N.A.P., which deals with sexual abuse by priests and nuns, can call the Chicago headquarters at (312) 483-1059. Chapters are organized in St. Louis, Rhode Island, Chicago, New Mexico, and two in California, as well as in Philadelphia. VOCAL, Victims Of Clergy Abuse Linkup, is another support and advocacy group, based in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Sara T. Howard is a lawyer who lives in Media.

J. Murray Elwood

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— The Forum meets September through May, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., at Gladwyne Montessori School, Gladwyne, PA.

— Liturgies planned by the classes are celebrated once a month. Other liturgies and special events are centered around Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

*Opening liturgy and brunch, Sunday, September 12,
1993, 10:00 am*

**Information: Patty and Peter Greenhalgh
642-7946.**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO AFFIRM
LITTLE GIRLS AS ALTAR SERVERS?**

By Patricia FitzGerald-Frisch

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 18:3-4)."

Most of us have heard this quotation all of our lives, yet never before has the spotlight been turned so powerfully on our little ones. On the one hand, children have been abused by Roman Catholic priests, and on the other hand, little girls are serving on our altars. Soon the Vatican is to affirm the presence of altar girls among us.

As I reflected on what I had studied in theology, I remembered that historically the Vatican's position has been to watch the faithful to find out what is going on. When something becomes an obvious sound practice within the Church, the Vatican affirms what is already in place, such as altar girls.

Many things today will affect the little girls serving on the altar. Serving with a married priest would provide a very different perspective than serving with a celibate priest. Whether or not there are women priests as role models will also affect the ecclesial nature of the little girl's place on the altar.

As the new order slowly begins, there are many signs that the old established order of "men only" is falling apart. Over the last several years, Catholic newspapers have reported clerical sexual abuse of women and children. More recently, the national secular press has kept us up to date on the priests' alleged sexual abuses, as well as court cases and the loss of Catholic diocesan funds to the defense of the priests.

St. Paul would have had little or no problem addressing the problem from the limited understanding of sexuality in his day. When people could not lead celibate lives, they were to marry! "I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own special gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. To the unmarried and the widowed I say that it is well for them to remain single as I do. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion (Cor.7-10)."

The Philadelphia Inquirer for July 18, 1993, reports that the pope says celibacy will continue. However, he states that celibacy "doesn't belong to the essence of priesthood." He stated "that celibacy gradually became the rule in the western Church because of a maturing of an ecclesiastical conscience" based on a awareness that "the

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ALTAR SERVERS

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needs of the priesthood" are better served by celibacy.

My question to the pope is, what if the ecclesiastical conscience continues to mature? (perhaps to ripen?!) Will this include new relationships among adult men, little girls, little boys, adult women ... ? Will we respect, perhaps more deeply, the true nature of celibacy as a dignified option for any human even though it is no longer "essential to the priesthood"? Will we finally stop tormenting it because it stands in the way of a fuller life for all in the Mystical Body of Christ?

A married priesthood is a part of Roman Catholic tradition. And feminist theologians have said for decades that women served in ordained capacities in the early Church and even in recent times. The Vatican is turning; soon it will affirm little girls on the altar.

Where will the little children lead us? We must talk about all the females on the altar in various roles. We must publish the cases of women who baptize and preach, preside at marriages, and lead Eucharist in small communities. In other words, those who act now in ordained capacities.

Let's give the Vatican something to be affirmative about. Let's make it clear we are in place at the altar. Please write and let us know about the women acting in ordained capacities so we can publish their work. For they are like little children, the greatest in the Kingdom.

Patricia FitzGerald-Frisch has a Master of Theological Studies from Spring Hill College and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling from La Salle University. She is a counselor at Help Counseling Center, Inc. in West Chester, Pa.

DID YOU KNOW ...

Compiled by Marguerite Groves

◆ "It is interesting that many women do not recognize themselves as discriminated against; no better proof could be found of the totality of their conditioning."

- Kate Millett, *Sexual Politics*, 1969

◆ THIS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS:

Time magazine's June 21, 1993, issue reports on the alarming boom in prostitution of women and children in the world. As a by-product of prostitution, the AIDS virus is transmitted at a startling rate. But in many places the danger has yet to register. In Berlin, Germany, streetwalkers are complaining about Polish women pouring into the city and turning unprotected tricks. Naively, the Poles — laid off from regular jobs and trying to support families — hope to cash in quickly and return home in a few months. Raised as Catholics, "their AIDS awareness is nil," says a social worker. "They get embarrassed if you mention the word condom."

◆ SHE WHO IS:

St. Joseph Sister Elizabeth Johnson, a theology professor at Fordham University, New York, has been named winner of the \$150,000 Grawemeyer award for her 1992 book, *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological*

TOO MUCH STRESS IN YOUR LIFE? TOO MUCH PAIN OR FEAR OF PAIN?

When you have had enough and are ready to learn how to reduce the effects of stress or fear or pain in your life, when you want to experience a positive change in your life, by things that you can do, contact us.

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Jim Ratigan, Director

(note: The Time Out Center offers only educational services, not clinical, medical or therapeutic.)

Discourse. The award is given annually by the University of Louisville and the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, both in Kentucky, and recognizes ideas that can be applied practically to improve society.
- *National Catholic Reporter*, May 21, 1993

◆ **FAITH AND LIGHT FROM THE PHILADELPHIA ARCHDIOCESE:**

The Philadelphia Archdiocese offers mentally retarded persons long-term care in foster homes and a monthly pastoral care program. Capuchin William Gillum, coordinator of Philadelphia's Faith and Light, extends support services to families for mentally retarded adults and children through Catholic Social Services' Family Life Program. For information, call (215)563-4145.

◇ **WOMEN'S HEALTH:**

Medical treatments, routinely prescribed for women today, have never been clinically tested as being safe or effective for women. Even a study on the role of the female hormone estrogen in preventing heart disease excluded women. Yet heart disease is the number one cause of death in American women. *AARP Bulletin*, June, 1993, tells of the largest clinical study to be conducted ever in the U. S. — at last — by the Women's Health Initiative to probe the causes of disease and death in midlife and older women. The massive study represents the most far-reaching effort undertaken so far to rectify past neglect of women's health research.

◇ **A QUESTION WORTH REPEATING:**

"I'm trying. I guess I just don't get it. I don't understand how, with all the problems facing Philadelphia families - drugs, shootings, segregation, unemployment, child abuse, child neglect, slum housing - the issue that motivates Cardinal Bevilacqua to plead before City Council is the domestic partners bill."

- Steve Lopez, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 30, 1993

◆ **I GUESS HE JUST DOESN'T GET IT:**

"We are all touched by institutional fears. Rome's most striking fear, as it faces change in the West, can be seen in the way it deals with, or rather, denies, women. Ironically it is women who currently hold the institution intact worldwide and it is women who are required to restore much needed health to the church. Pope John Paul, you either get it or you don't."

- Tom Fox, *National Catholic Reporter*, June 24, 1993

◆ "I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a

feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

- Dame Rebecca West, 1913

◆ **PARDON ME, BUT ISN'T THAT YOUR HYPOCRISY SHOWING?**

Executive Director of and minister to the Christian Association of the University of Pennsylvania, Beverly Dale's article about "God and Sexuality" was published in the April issue of *Connections*, the newsletter of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia, and reprinted in the spring issue of *Pennsylvania NOW Times*. "Surely God cries over the way the Church is now determined to make sexuality, that most blessed of gifts, the subject of heated ideological disputes ... Isn't our task to provide opportunities for the grace of God to be made manifest, and where people are respected as created in God's image? We teach that in God there is no male or female and yet refuse positions of leadership to qualified people on the basis of sexuality. I would suggest that our hypocrisy is showing."

◆ **EPISCOPAL CHURCH LANDMARK:**

Mary Adelia McLeod was selected as the first woman diocesan bishop in the U. S. in balloting by the clergy and lay delegates of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont. McLeod sees the election of a woman as important. "But more, I think the Diocese of Vermont, in great prayer and consideration and thought, were led by the Holy Spirit to elect me." Two U. S. women are suffragan, or assistant, bishops, Barbara Harris of Massachusetts and Jane Dixon of Washington D.C. McLeod will be only the second female diocesan bishop worldwide. Penelope Jamieson of New Zealand is the first woman to head a diocese.

- Morris County, New Jersey, *Daily Record*, 6/6/93

◆ **DEPARTMENT OF GREAT MINDS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH:**

There have been reports of a recent interview Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger had with the Italian publication *Il Sabato*. Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, would like to see the altar turned around again, away from the people. He has some objections to the change directed by the Second Vatican Council: the congregation must always be looking at the priest, and he "has become too important" and ... as a result, women want to become priests, too.

(Gee, now I've heard it all!)

Marguerite Groves lives in Lansdale and is a member of the WOC Core Committee.

WHAT CAN I DO IN MY PARISH?

By Gaile Pohlhaus

It can be very frustrating to be an active parish member in a parish that seems committed to inactivity. Let me tell you the story of a member of St. Katharine of Siena parish in Wayne. Nancy Sergovic was president of the Home and School Association when her children attended St. Katharine's elementary school, she was active in their high school parents' guilds and in community organizations. But she still wanted to do something in the parish. There was a Bridge Club and she was active in HOPE (Helping Other People in Emergencies), but she wanted to do more. In the late 1980s she reactivated the long-dormant Women's Guild and almost single-handedly kept it going for five years. She personally persuaded friends to run a coffee after one of the Sunday masses on a once a month basis, she located speakers on many different topics on a twice a year basis, and every year chaired and supervised (and funded) a covered dish supper in April. Each year she would hold an organizational meeting in September and hope to encourage more women to join and to sponsor more things. The pastor did not discourage her, but he remained dubious about the worth of her efforts. That is, until this past September. Two things happened.

The previous June a new pastor had been assigned to St. K's and at the same time more women were looking for some way to be active in the parish. Nancy seized the opportunity and in her own dynamic way organized a steering committee which has facilitated the following: bigger and better Sunday coffees after mass, lessons in self-defense and auto mechanics for women, two very successful lectures as well as the biggest covered dish ever and the beginnings of a parish library to be coordinated and staffed by members of the Women's Guild. A final jewel in this crown is a very successful continuing education program. Between forty and fifty people, ages twenty-five to seventy-five, regularly attended a fifteen-week series held this past spring on Sunday mornings.

Nancy hung in there. As a result when the moment came she was poised and ready to run with the ball — or perhaps a better metaphor is that she was wearing the right garment at the right time. And, oh yes, the Women's Guild now has its own account with a \$500 balance. What it owes Nancy in cash has been squared away; what it owes her in gratitude is beyond repaying.

Gaile Pohlhaus teaches at Villanova University and is a member of Saint Katherine of Siena parish.

UPDATE: CERTIFICATION OF CAMPUS MINISTRY PROGRAMS

By Pat Hayes

Campus ministry programs at local colleges have been securing professional certification. The usual process involves each program submitting a separate application with the required data. The applications need to be signed by the person or persons with final responsibility for the programs.

All the applications for colleges in the Philadelphia area were packaged together and taken to Cardinal Bevilacqua. He signed those for Newman centers (the campus ministry programs on the non-Catholic campuses) and he refused to sign those from campus ministry programs in Catholic colleges.

There was some speculation that his refusal to sign these applications had something to do with his displeasure with LaSalle for hosting the ARCC (Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church) workshop and his displeasure with Villanova over the op-ed piece in favor of women's ordination written by campus minister Ray Jackson, OSA, and published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

However, this was not the reason for the Cardinal's refusal. The Cardinal has direct responsibility for the Newman Center programs. The Catholic college campus ministry programs report to the various presidents of those institutions, who have the responsibility to sign their programs' applications.

It is sad that such erroneous speculation comes out of a concern based on historical experience that institutions which show support for causes which disagree with hierarchial positions are somehow punished or silenced through indirect means. Institutions of higher learning have always provided support for exploring new and alternative ideas, for questioning, searching, studying, and researching. Some staff and faculty in area colleges support organizations like WOC and ARCC. Some of this support has been very visible and the concern exists that those taking visible risks will sustain some censorship through pressure applied to their institutions by the Archdiocese.

We all need to be visible and share the risks with those individuals and institutions who support the search for and study of alternative ideas: different forms to make real democratization and the equality of all people in the church, different expressions of Catholic and Christian spirituality, different ideas about peace and justice. We do not want the visible to stand alone.

Pat Hayes is from Upper Darby and is a member of SEPA WOC and ARCC. She has participated for many years in the spiritually uplifting liturgies at Campus Ministry services at Villanova University.

DIALOGUE BOX

This wonderful letter by Theresa Haggerty was published in the Catholic Standard and Times — yes, you read that right — August 5, 1993. If you send letters to another editor, send a copy to us as well, whether or not they have been published. We also welcome you to write to Equal wRites about what you think of our articles and points of view. We'd like to have at least as much diversity as the Standard.

WOMEN IN POWER

I applaud the Pope's recent remarks ("Pope: Church Must Support Rights of Women," 7/15 issue) to the U.S. bishops regarding the rights of women. The challenge the Church faces, whether it ordains women or not, is to somehow incorporate women into decision-making roles in the Church.

At this time, there is no way for a woman to influ-

ence seriously the direction of the universal Church. How will the Church address this issue in the future? Will qualified women be allowed into positions of authority in the Curia or episcopal conferences?

As the Pope says, the Church "in no way favors the superiority of some over others." If this is so, John Paul II faces a great challenge: to demonstrate this statement through sincere and open-hearted change in the administrative structure of the Church, appointing women in positions in which they will have a meaningful role in the formation of Church policy.

Theresa Haggerty is a part-time student, married with three young children. For years, she has run a group for mothers with young children in her parish, St. Cyril's in Lansdowne, which was featured in the Standard several months ago.

WOC RETURNS TO CATHEDRAL

By Alice J. Foley

Southeastern Pennsylvania Women's Ordination Conference (SEPA WOC) gathered at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul on Saturday, May 15, 1993, for a liturgy of both prayer and protest. Thirty persons participated.

Inside the cathedral, fourteen men of various ages were ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic church. One in his sixties garnered the bulk of "regular" press attention.

James Mallon, an ordained priest, was our presider for the third consecutive year. He has a true gift for homily, and commented on one of our prayers that said, "women say they are called to be priests, but the church does not believe them." He gently and correctly pointed out that our target was the hierarchy, not "the church." We know we are already church. SEPA WOC Core Committee members shared their gifts for liturgy and

music. Judy Heffernan coordinated the prayers and songs and Marie Joachim, SSJ, played the guitar.

Our God gave us beautiful weather for this outside liturgy. And I was very pleased that our press efforts were again successful. One radio and four television and stations covered, but no newspapers. Another radio station, one regional newspaper, and two television shows, who all received two press releases from us in a little more than a month, set up interviews with SEPA WOC representatives. Press effort not only pays off on the day of an event but does continue. As will we!

So next year mark the date of ordination, generally the third Saturday in May, on the calendar and join us. For some of you, it will be a liturgy unlike any Sunday service. Our liturgies and all those who gather, like Jim Mallon, are indeed special. Be part of it!

Alice J. Foley is the member of the Core Committee of SEPA WOC responsible for publicity. She lives in Mount Airy and is active in several small faith communities.

The Voyage Within— A Spiritual Journey Workshop

A Journey Workshop, Tuesday evenings, 7-9 p.m. at Immaculata College starting September 7, 1993.

This program will explore the lives and trace the spiritual paths and byways of men and women such as Thomas Merton, Flannery O'Connor, John Henry Newman, and Therese of Lisieux. Participants will then be guided in remembering and writing the transcendent moments and pivotal passages of their personal religious pilgrimages.

Class members will also be offered the opportunity to share their spiritual quests with others engaged in the same search. The facilitator, J. Murray Elwood, is a lawyer who holds graduate degrees in counseling psychology and religious studies.

Program lasts six weeks, \$80.00, enrollment limited to 12 participants.

For information, registration, call Continuing Education at Immaculata, 647-3414.

BOOK REVIEW

By M. Diane Dugan

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARY: A NEW TESTAMENT FOR WOMEN. Miriam Therese Winter. New York, Crossroad Publishing, 1993. 141 pages. \$10.95

This lovely little book is more than simply a feminist revision of the Jesus story, as its title might suggest. While the primary source material is the four canonical gospels, Winter describes the entire text as "fantasy." So is the Mary of the title, who is a first-century woman whom Winter imagines as the granddaughter of Mary, the mother of John Mark. Thus she was a part of a circle close to Jesus in the earliest days of the Church.

In her introduction, Winter presents as the key assumption underlying this work the concept that "women were active participants in the life and mission of Jesus." This and other ideas basic to feminist theology—empowerment, inclusiveness, solidarity, the importance of storytelling, the primacy of women's experiences—imbue *The Gospel According to Mary* so subtly that the obvious scholarship involved in this particular effort doesn't hit you over the head the way it does in so many other worthy titles in the field.

Winter's gift makes it seem as if we are hearing the stories for the first time, yet we simultaneously feel this "revisionist" text is really the words we've been hearing all our lives. (In other words, guys, this is how your gospels were meant to sound to a woman!) This is evident not only in the little added touches (for example, the high priest's maid in the Passion narrative, after hearing Peter deny Jesus, "went into the house disillusioned. . . . She had thought his followers would surely be willing to die for such a man. She felt sorry for him.") but also in stories with a traditionally female character or focus, such as giving life back to Jairus' daughter.

The format is not literal, although it follows the familiar pattern of Jesus' life and public ministry, from the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah through to Pentecost. Because Winter has merged the four gospels, many events and characters are not included. Jesus' parables are grouped together, and they are all gender-specific for women. Other sections bring together Jesus' miracles, teachings and other wise sayings.

The Gospel According to Mary is accessible to the average "person in the pew" who might be put off by something more academic or "new age-y." It is well-suited for discussion and prayer groups, private spiritual reading, or liturgy planning.

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR **DIANE DUGAN** is a center-city librarian and a parishioner at Our Lady of Consolation in Chestnut Hill. Books reviewed in *Equal wRites* are available by mail from The Dwelling Place, a feminist and multi-cultural bookstore in Lewisburg. They have many other titles available. To order, send price of each book plus postage and handling (\$1.75 for the first and \$.50 for each additional book) to The Dwelling Place, 200 Market Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837. They accept credit card orders by phone, 717-523-7878.

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CALENDAR

The initial impetus for this newsletter was to gather information about the many events in the Philadelphia area which would be of interest to progressive Catholics. Speakers, seminars, and liturgies can nurture our growth in a special way. All groups interested in reaching our audience are encouraged to submit listings. If you know a retreat center, college, or other group whose offerings you would like to see included, please place the editor on their mailing list. We list information we have by the deadline date. We are not including academic courses or programs longer than a week, but would like to be sure to have "spirituality groups and prayer groups focused on women," as one of our readers requested.

RELATIONSHIPS

TIME: 9/3-6, Friday-Monday PLACE: IAM Counseling and Retreat Center, New Albany DESCRIPTION: Staff, including pastoral psychotherapist and certified expressive therapist, explore relationships in a retreat. INFORMATION: IAM Counseling Center, RR 1, Box 75, New Albany, PA 18833; 717-363-2808

WOMONGATHERING: THE FESTIVAL OF WOMYN'S SPIRITUALITY

TIME: 9/3-7, Friday-Sunday PLACE: South Jersey DESCRIPTION: Features K. Rainbow Adler, Amy Lee, Shekhina Mountainwater, Mary R. Hopkins, Diane Stein, and Donna Wilshire. INFORMATION: RR 5 Box 185, Franklinville, NJ 08322; 609-694-2307

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY WORKSHOP

TIME: 9/7-10/12, Tuesdays, 7-9 pm PLACE: Immaculata College DESCRIPTION: Author J. Murray Elwood will lead a group in exploring turning points and significant moments in personal pilgrimages. A step-by-step program to discern spiritual paths and religious roots, and define the directions of your life. \$80. INFORMATION: Continuing Education, Immaculata College, PA 19345; 647-3414

EXPLORE WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

TIME: 9/8-10/13, Wednesday evenings PLACE: Friends Center, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: Mary Hopkins leads series sponsored by Newtown Square Meeting. \$40 INFORMATION: Hopkins, 565-1011; checks to Newtown Square Meeting, 120 N. Newtown Street Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073

RETREAT-BY-THE-SEA

TIME: 9/10-12, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Ventnor, NJ DESCRIPTION: Seaside retreat under auspices of Eileen Smith and Mary Jo Kearns, both RSM. \$75 INFORMATION: Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer, 1651 US Highway 22, Watchung, NJ 07060; 908-753-2091

FOCUS ON WOMEN SUNDAY

TIME: 9/12, 7 pm; REPEATED 10/10 and 11/14 PLACE: Saint Luke and the Epiphany Episcopal Church, Thirteenth Street between Spruce and Pine, Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: Woman homilist from the Philadelphia women's community at Dignity evening mass. Followed by a social hour with community of Catholic lesbians, gays, and bisexuals, and their friends. INFORMATION: Dignity/Philadelphia, P.O. Box 53348, Philadelphia PA 19105-3348; 546-2903

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CENTERING PRAYER SESSION

TIME: 9/13, Monday, 9:30-10:30 am PLACE: Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, Saint Raphaela Mary Chapel, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote
DESCRIPTION: Join ANCHOR (A Non-denominational Community Harvesting Our Resources) for meditative prayer. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

THE HEALING TRADITIONS OF THE EARTH

TIME: 9/14, 10/12, Tuesday, 7:30 pm PLACE: Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church, Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia
DESCRIPTION: This series, examining various healing traditions, will conclude with two sessions, one "Men and Healing" and the last an open discussion and party. INFORMATION: Marianne Fluehr, the Center for the Celebration of Creation, 8812 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118, 242-9321

THE UNIVERSE STORY STUDY GROUP MEETING

TIME: 9/15, Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 am PLACE: Medical Mission Sisters, 8400 Pine Road, Fox Chase
DESCRIPTION: Join ANCHOR group which has been meeting monthly for a year to study contemporary ecological perspectives with a spiritual dimension. Membership or guest donation. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

ECO-QUEST

TIME: 9/16-19, Thursday-Sunday PLACE: Black Forest Trail, Lycoming County
DESCRIPTION: Modeled on the Native American "vision quest," this experience combines the richness of an extended period out of doors with the depths of spiritual exercise and exploration. Led by Adele Wilcok and Hal Taussig. \$215 INFORMATION: Marianne Fluehr, the Center for the Celebration of Creation, 8812 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118, 242-9321

FROM IMPASSE TO OPPORTUNITY: LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE WHOLE CHURCH

TIME: 9/17-19, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC
DESCRIPTION: Sixth Annual Future of the American Church and Academic Conferences feature Fran Ferder, Toinette Eugene, Mary Frances Reza, Rosemary Ruether, Joann Heaney-Hunter, Lorraine Amendolara, and Letty Russell, among others. INFORMATION: National Center for Pastoral Leadership, 2661 Riva Road, Suite 1042, Annapolis, MD 21401; 410-266-6462.

SEPA WOC CORE COMMITTEE MEETING

TIME: 9/20, Monday, 7:30 pm DESCRIPTION: The Core Committee serves as a Board for the Southeastern Pennsylvania WOC. Please join us if you are interested in working on our activities. Meeting includes liturgy and refreshments. INFORMATION: Call to confirm and for directions: Regina Bannan, 646-5156

SPIRITUALITY OF AGING

TIME: 9/24, Friday, 9:30 am - 12 noon PLACE: Medical Mission Auditorium, 8400 Pine Road, Fox Chase
DESCRIPTION: Presenter JoAnn M. Burke will be followed by dialogue in ANCHOR series. Membership or guest donation. A contribution or two new items of clothing for needy area people will be collected by the Needlework Guild Association. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

DAUGHTERS AND MOTHERS: HEALING THE RELATIONSHIP

TIME: 10/1-3, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge
DESCRIPTION: Julie Firman and Dorothy Firman lead this workshop for both mother/

daughter pairs and individual women. Through sharing, teaching, and participating exercises it will support the process of becoming independent and will nourish the experience of love, acceptance, and forgiveness. \$225 for individuals, \$395 for mother/daughter registrations INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

CENTERING PRAYER DAY

TIME: 10/4, Monday, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm PLACE: Dominican Retreat House, Saint Catherine Hall, 750 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park
DESCRIPTION: Join ANCHOR for meditative prayer. The day will open with regularly-scheduled centering prayer session from 9:30-10:30 am. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN LATER ADULT

LIFE — 60, 70, 80+

TIME: 10/7-10, Thursday-Sunday PLACE: Saint Joseph By the Sea, Mantoloking
DESCRIPTION: Facilitators Janice Brewl and Anne Brennan, both csj, will help those sixty and up to look at personal and spiritual growth through Jungian psychology and Judeo-Christian contemporary spirituality. Fee INFORMATION: Saint Joseph By the Sea, 400 Route 35 North, South Mantoloking, NJ 08738; 201-892-8494; or Mid-Life Directions, 45 Poe Avenue, Vailsburg, NJ 07106; 201-373-6118

LIFE PARTNERS: A WORKSHOP FOR COUPLES

TIME: 10/8-10, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge
DESCRIPTION: Barbara Gilbert, Chandler Gilbert, Cynthia Hirni, and Robert Raines lead this workshop for those in long-time and second marriages in which both partners function reasonably well in the relationship, both have positive feelings about the relationship, and both are able to work together and talk together constructively. Includes presentations and journaling, group discussion and partner dialogue, small groups and gender groups, prayer and worship, free time, quiet, and music. \$395 per couple INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

SAINTS JOHN OF THE CROSS AND TERESA OF AVILA FOR THE 1990S

TIME: 10/10-15 Sunday-Friday PLACE: Carmel Retreat, Mahwah, NJ
DESCRIPTION: Ernest Larkin, OCarm, conducts retreat for laity, religious, and clergy. INFORMATION: Carmel Retreat, 1071 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430; 201-327-7090

A SHARING: MISSION/VISION STATEMENTS

TIME: 10/15, Friday, 9:30 am - 12 noon PLACE: Abington Friends Meeting Library, Meetinghouse Road and Greenwood Avenues, Jenkintown
DESCRIPTION: This gathering will provide an opportunity for ANCHOR members and friend to discuss mission/vision statements of churches and special interest groups with which we are affiliated. Send your mission/vision statement by October 10 to Ann Shott, 822 S. Fairway Road, Glenside, PA 19038, so they can be copied. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

OUR FAMILIES, OUR VALUES

TIME: 10/15-17, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge
DESCRIPTION: Sidney Simon and Suzanne Simon lead workshop on the true meaning of family values. Participants will learn at least ten useful values clarification strategies that can be used with family members of all ages \$225, \$395 for two members of immediate family INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

Community of the Christian Spirit

Committed to peace and social justice, CCS welcomes you to join in our Sunday morning celebrations, liturgies in the Roman Catholic tradition which explore scripture and contemporary readings.

For information, call Roberta Brunner or Margaret McLaughlin, (215) 572-5623, or write P.O. Box 353, Abington, PA 19001.

SEEDS OF HOPE—REAPING THE HARVEST

TIME: 10/16, Saturday, 10 am - 2:30 pm PLACE: Saint Andrew's Church, Gibbsboro, NJ DESCRIPTION: **Edwina Gately** will be the guest speaker at this parish's second annual conference on spirituality, which will include coffee and pastry at 9:15 am and a brown bag lunch with beverages provided. \$7-15, according to ability to pay INFORMATION: Valerie Rans, 120 United States Avenue, Gibbsboro, NJ 08206; 609-346-2731

FORGOTTEN REALITIES

TIME: 10/16, Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm PLACE: Women's Therapy Center, Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: **Joan Biordi and Rosemary Herrick** lead a workshop for women who are child sexual abuse survivors at the edge of knowing. They explore the issue of amnesia, help validate and affirm perception, and move into healing. \$30-50 sliding scale INFORMATION: Women's Therapy Center, 1930 Chestnut Street, Suite 1703, Philadelphia, PA 19103; 567-1111

DEMOCRACY IN THE CHURCH

TIME: 10/17, Sunday, 1-5 pm PLACE: Walk Auditorium, Ritter Hall, Temple University, Montgomery Avenue and North Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: Philadelphia ARCC (Association for the Rights of Catholics in the Church) will begin its second year with a lecture by **Charles Curran**, followed by small groups to focus on participants' concerns in areas about which realistic actions could be taken locally; these will be gathered and prioritized. \$5 INFORMATION: Pam Hayden, 215 Media Line Road, Broomall, PA 19008; 356-7912

PASTORAL CARE AND IMAGES OF GOD

TIME: 10/27-29, Tuesday-Friday PLACE: Princeton Theological Seminary DESCRIPTION: **Kathleen D. Billman and Daniel L. Migliore** lead study of various images of God, and especially of God's power, redefined as empowerment. \$225 (commuters \$115) INFORMATION: Seminar Registrations, Center of Continuing Education, 12 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540; 609-497-7990; outside New Jersey, 1-800-622-6767, EXT 7990

WEAVING THREADS OF WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

TIME: 10/29, Friday, 9:30 am - 12 noon PLACE: Chestnut Hill College, Saint Joseph Hall, East Parlor, Germantown and North-western Avenues, Chestnut Hill DESCRIPTION: Presenter **Virginia Ratican** will be followed by dialogue in ANCHOR series. Membership or guest donation. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

HALLOWEEN: LAUGHING AT YOUR DEMONS

TIME: 10/29-31, Friday-Sunday PLACE: IAM Counseling and Retreat Center, New Albany DESCRIPTION: Staff, including pastoral psychotherapist and certified expressive therapist, explore Halloween. INFORMATION: IAM Counseling Center, RR 1, Box 75, New Albany, PA 18833; 717-363-2808

WE ARE THE CHURCH: WHAT IF WE MEANT WHAT WE SAID?

TIME: 10/29-31, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Hyatt O'Hare, Chicago, IL DESCRIPTION: The Call to Action National Conference has become the gathering place for all progressive Catholic groups. Presenters will be **Ruth Fitzpatrick, Paula Gonzalez, Mary Hunt, Liz McAllister, Amata Miller, Rosemary Ruether, and Nancy Sylvester**, among others. Pre-conference workshops will be a retreat by **Edwina Gately** and a small-faith community program led by **Dick Westley and Dorothy Monikowski**. Child care and a children's workshop. \$100 full registration, or pay what you can; some additional charges possible. Rooms \$58 single, \$62 double, alternative housing available. INFORMATION: Call to Action, 4419 N. Kedzie, Chicago, IL 60625; 312-604-0400

CREATING LITURGIES

TIME: 11/1, Monday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm PLACE: Princeton Theological Seminary DESCRIPTION: **Ruth C. Duck** helps participants explore the creative process in designing worship and preparing sermons. \$30 INFORMATION: Seminar Registrations, Center of Continuing Education, 12 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540; 609-497-7990; outside New Jersey, 1-800-622-6767, EXT 7990

CENTERING PRAYER SESSION

TIME: 11/1, Monday, 9:30-10:30 am PLACE: Holy Redeemer Provincialate, 521 Moreton Road, Huntington Valley DESCRIPTION: Join ANCHOR for meditative prayer. INFORMATION: AN

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CHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

TAKING BACK THE POWER

TIME: 11/5-7, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge DESCRIPTION: Anne Alblez, Elaine Emeth, Kathleen Roney-Wilson lead workshop for women survivors of childhood/adolescent sexual abuse who are already involved in therapy. Methods include stories, presentations, small-group sharing, meditation, music, and inclusive worship/ritual. \$225 INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

OPENING THE GLOBAL HEART

TIME: 11/5-7, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge DESCRIPTION: Joanna Macy leads workshop exploring the spiritual adventure of being alive in this time of global crisis. Methods include personal sharing, meditation, spontaneous writing, interactive inquiry. \$245 INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

WOMEN, CULTURE, AND THE BIBLE

TIME: 11/9, Tuesday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm PLACE: Princeton Theological Seminary DESCRIPTION: Based on her visits to six Asian countries, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld looks at how differing cultural, political, and economic contexts inform and affect women's readings of Ruth and about the women in Judges. \$30 INFORMATION: Seminar Registrations, Center of Continuing Education, 12 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540; 609-497-7990; outside New Jersey, 1-800-622-6767, EXT 7990

LET THE SPIRIT RING

TIME: 11/11-14, Thursday-Sunday PLACE: Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: National Catholic Youth Conference features Molly Kelly and A Taste of Home, among others, and a follow-up on World Youth Day '93. INFORMATION: Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults, 105 Argyle Road, Ardmore, PA 19003-3201; 649-9476; or NFCYM, Inc., 3700-A Oakview Terrace, NE, Washington, DC 20017-2591; 202-636-3825

BRIGHT MYSTERY, OPEN SECRET: JESUS' PARABLES OF THE REIGN OF GOD

TIME: 11/12-14, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge DESCRIPTION: Walter Wink and June Keener-Wink explore the parables in conjunction with Sufi tales and Zen koans using a questioning approach and our whole beings. \$265 INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

CALL TO LOVE

TIME: 11/12-14, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Villa Maria, PA DESCRIPTION: James Dolan, SJ conducts deMello prayer week retreat, using group discussion and personal reflection to discover the spell under which we have been raised, and to wake up and dispel all the fears, illusions, and false beliefs. INFORMATION: Dolan, Jesuit Community, 1800 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618; 716-244-2851

ANGER

TIME: 11/13, Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm PLACE: Women's Therapy Center, Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: Rosemary Herrick and Lori

Schreiber lead a workshop for women who are adult children of dysfunctional families who want to become more aware of their own anger, identify their most characteristic responses, and discover and practice new alternatives for reacting to their anger. \$30-50 sliding scale INFORMATION: Women's Therapy Center, 1930 Chestnut Street, Suite 1703, Philadelphia, PA 19103; 567-1111

WOMAN: ICON, REBEL, SAINT

TIME: 11/13, Saturday, following 7 pm vespers PLACE: Daylesford Abbey, Paoli DESCRIPTION: Joan Chittister, OSB, will deliver the Centennial Founders' Day Lecture on the hundredth anniversary of the Norbertine order in America and the thirtieth anniversary of Daylesford. INFORMATION: Institute for Religion and Culture, 220 S. Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301-1999; 647-2530.

FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

TIME: 11/15-17, Monday-Wednesday PLACE: Kirkridge DESCRIPTION: Friends of Kirkridge lead this workshop for those who have recently been fired or laid off and offers sharing, nourishment, and breathing space. No fee INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

AN OVERVIEW OF THE TWELVE-STEP PROGRAM

TIME: 11/19, Friday, 9:30 am - 12 noon PLACE: Trinitarian Mother Boniface Center, Saint Bernard Room, 3501 Solly Avenue, Philadelphia DESCRIPTION: Presenter Marie Ashton will be followed by dialogue in ANCHOR series. Membership or guest donation. Christmas gifts for families of inmates from Holmesburg Prison will be collected. INFORMATION: ANCHOR, Fiat Connect, 2025 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095; 233-4929 or 884-0850

DANCE OF THE WOMAN'S SPIRIT

TIME: 11/19-21, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge DESCRIPTION: Carla DeSola leads workshop for women only to experience dancing as a healing prayer. Previous dance experience not required. \$225 INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

SISTERLY CONVERSATIONS: CURRENT CONCERNS AMONG LESBIANS OF FAITH

TIME: 11/19-21, Friday-Sunday PLACE: Kirkridge DESCRIPTION: After ten-minute "conversation starters" by Virginia Ramey-Mollenkott, whole group conversations will address such issues as learning to resolve conflict without damaging the relationship, fostering and deepening prayer, and sexual intimacy. \$195 INFORMATION: Kirkridge Retreat Center, RR3, Box 3402, Bangor, PA 18103-9359, 588-1793

CLAIMING THE LIBERATING POSSIBILITIES

TIME: 12/4, Saturday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm PLACE: Princeton Theological Seminary DESCRIPTION: Katie G. Cannon leads workshop to enable participants to investigate the pressing social issues of gender, race, and class present in the African-American church community, to gain a sense of the constructive, liberating wisdom found in the African-American women's literary tradition, and to analyze the ways in which oppressed people of faith wrestle moral legitimacy from dominant religious traditions. \$30 INFORMATION: Seminar Registrations, Center of Continuing Education, 12 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540; 609-497-7990; outside New Jersey, 1-800-622-6767, EXT 7990

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SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS:

October 24, 1993, Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time:

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7; Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15: 21-28

By Judith A. Heffernan, M. Div.

This has not been a pain-free few months for me as a Catholic feminist. So as I read through the Sunday Scriptures for the remainder of the church year, those for October 24 reached out to me.

Isaiah: do what is right, work for justice. We will be joyful in God's house of prayer. Paul: Reconciliation from rejection, life from the dead ... God's gift and call are irrevocable. Matthew: The woman cried out to Jesus, "My daughter is terribly troubled." The disciples entreated him, "Get rid of her, she keeps calling after us." Jesus said to the woman, "You have great faith. Your wish will come to pass."

Before our ordination day witness for women's ordination across from the cathedral, we saw a priest speaking to the police officer standing near us. You could almost feel him entreating, "Get rid of them, they keep calling after us." We work for justice. We cry out to Jesus, "Your daughters are terribly troubled!"

Then, at an Ascension Thursday vigil mass, I witnessed an installation of altar boys. At the homily, the call of Jesus to

the boys was emphasized over and over. I tried to be happy for them, yet my heart ached for the girls who would be more than happy to be called to service in their parishes. After a few minutes, I had to get some air. Your daughter is terribly troubled.

Then, on July third I opened *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and read, "Pope Warns of Radical Feminism." The pope says that the dangers of radical feminism go far beyond the push for ordination of women. I wondered why Catholic church leaders repeatedly denigrate feminism, the interconnectedness of creation, and the ordination of women. Still we know that God's call is irrevocable and that we must work for justice.

And again the pope calls for sincere dialogue about women's expectations. I struggle with the feeling that, for me, reconciliation is getting more difficult across the increasing chasm of rejection. We agree that dialogue is essential. However, we must no longer be defined negatively. We are daughters of God.

Jesus, may our rejection somehow bring reconciliation, life from the dead. We have great faith that you will make us joyful in your house of prayer. Our wish will come to pass.

Judith A. Heffernan has a Master of Divinity degree from a Catholic seminary. Not bearing a natural resemblance to Jesus, she is not presently employed by the Roman Catholic Church as a priest. She is a member of the Community of the Christian Spirit and the

FINE POINTS

SUBSCRIPTION: To continue receiving *Equal wRites*, send a contribution with the coupon on the reverse to our Treasurer, Annette Bowers, 101 Mill Top Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348. We deliberately did not set a specific fee because we wanted people to feel free to contribute what they felt they could afford: \$5, \$10, \$15, or more. If that's really impossible for you, just mail back the coupon and we will continue your subscription. When you join WOC as a national member, you do not automatically join us, so if you want to support us both, you need to contribute to us both. If there is a red check mark next to your name below, it means it's time for you to renew your annual contribution to continue receiving *Equal wRites*. If we are wrong, let us know, please! But if we are right, please send the enclosed form or the coupon to Annette Bowers right away. And thanks so much to all who contributed during our first year.

MANUSCRIPTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: If you would like to contribute an article, calendar item, letter, or anything else to *Equal wRites*, please send it double-spaced, with your name, phone number, and a short biographical note, well before the deadline below to the Editor: Regina Bannan, 1391 Walton Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422, 215-646-5156

Maïguerite Groves, Darlene Ketterer, and Annette Bowers coordinated this issue's mailing.

ADVERTISING: Advertising helps us support *Equal wRites* and helps you find people who support us. Our ad rates are \$25 for a quarter-page (\$75 for four issues) and \$15 for a business-card-size (\$45 for four issues). Additional rates on request. If you know businesses, professionals, schools, groups, or faith communities which might be interested, please contact the editor.

PUBLICATION

The next issue will be:

| ISSUE | CALENDAR THROUGH | DEADLINE |
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| December 1993 | March 1994 | October 31, 1993 |

AFFILIATION

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