

INVOKING THE SPIRIT: CLAIMING THE CALL

Hello friend,

Thank you for praying with us. We have developed this short guide to help you organize your prayer service to follow along with the community gathered at The Ignatian Spiritual Life Center in California.

Materials and Set Up

To participate in this special prayer service as fully as possible you will need a few materials

A computer and access to the internet. The livestream of this prayer service can be viewed at www.facebook.com/catholicwomendeacons. Depending upon the size of the community you have gathered, it may be best to connect your computer to a projector and project the prayer service onto a screen. You might also consider connecting your computer to a set of speakers to better amplify the sound. Be sure to load the page early. You may need to refresh the page if you log on before the live stream has started. The stream will begin shortly before 6pm Pacific, 8pm Central, 9pm Eastern.

Copies of the Worship Aid for each member of your community. To facilitate the full participation of your community, please download and print a copy of the worship aid for each member. The worship aid is quite extensive and contains much of the leader and reader texts as well as the community texts and lyrics for the songs. The worship aid is a total of 5 letter size pages. We recommend printing the worship aid on both front and back and stapling.

Three Candles (our prayer service is divided into three major “movements” – at the beginning of each “movement” there is a brief candle lighting followed by a song. We invite you to light (or have a member of your community) light the candle along with the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center Community. These three candles may be placed toward the middle or front of your space on a table that is adorned with a simple cloth (consider using a red cloth, as this prayer service invokes the Holy Spirit).

(Prayer Cards) if you would like, you may download the prayer cards and distribute them at the end of your prayer service so members of your community may continue to pray for the Women Deacons Commission on their own at home.

Set up be sure to set up your prayer space in such a way that everyone will be able to see and hear the livestream of the prayer service.

Presiding

Much of the presidential duties will fall upon the prayer leader at the Spiritual Life Center. However, there are moments throughout the prayer service that invite the participation of the community that you have gathered. Those moments are highlighted in yellow. It may be helpful if – at those times – you remind the community that has gathered with you to participate in the way they feel comfortable. The end of the quiet moments for your community’s participation will be marked by the ringing of a prayer bell.

Participating Via the Comments Section

If you would like, you may use the “comment” feature on the Facebook to interact with the global community. We invite your community to comment your location at the beginning of the livestream so everyone can see where people are praying from.

During the first movement, “Claiming our Foremothers in Faith” there will be time for your community to offer the names of women from Scripture. If you would like, as they list those names, please add them to the “comments” section.

During the third movement, “Claiming our Call” there is a moment for the members of the community at the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center who feel a call to the diaconate or who are willing to discern a call to the diaconate to rise. You may lift up the names of those women in your community in the “Comments” section by listing their names (please be sure that they are comfortable with you doing so).

Thank you again!

The Ignatian Spiritual Life Center & FutureChurch

Call to Prayer

LEADER: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

ALL: **And kindle in them the fire of your love.**

LEADER: Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

ALL: **And you will renew the face of the earth.**

Prayer Movement 1: Claiming Our Foremothers in Faith

Candle Lighting

A member of the congregation lights the first candle.

LEADER: We invoke the Holy Spirit of Creation, the breath of life.

ALL: **May She enkindle in us and in our church a desire for the wholeness God planned.**

Hymn: *Veni Sancte, Spiritus*

(Text: Taize Community, Music Jacques Berthier © 1979 Les Presses de Taize)

Ostinato Refrain: *Veni Sancte, Spiritus* (repeat)

Reading: The Creation of Humankind Genesis 1:26-31

Litany of Our Foremothers in Faith:

LEADER: In the name of God, in whose image women and men are wonderfully made; in the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh and born of a woman; and in the name of the Holy Spirit, the companion of women throughout time, we raise up our Foremothers in faith. We claim their stories as part of our story and we ask them to pray with us.

We claim the stories of our Foremothers in Scripture:

READER: Eve and Lilith, Mothers of Life, you claimed your own power by reaching for knowledge and found it was good.

ALL: **Eve and Lilith, pray with us.**

READER: Ruth and Naomi, your devoted love for one another renewed your faith in the working of the divine,

ALL: **Ruth and Naomi, pray with us.**

READER: Mary of Nazareth, you listened, pondered, and knew that you had been chosen to give birth to Jesus,

ALL: **Mary, pray with us.**

READER: Mary of Magdala, you were the Apostle to the Apostles, chosen by Jesus to be the first to witness and preach the Good News of the Resurrection.

ALL: Mary, pray with us.

LEADER: What other Foremothers from Scripture shall we name?

3 members of the community gathered at the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center will name a woman from Scripture.

ALL respond "pray with us"

LEADER: We pause now in silence, allowing our global community to lift up the names of additional Foremothers from Scripture.

At the end of the pause, the prayer bell is rung 1 time.

*****ORGANIZER NOTE: Gently remind your community that they may now lift up the names of women from Scripture whom they consider to be Foremothers in faith. You may type these names into the comments. The single ring of a bell will signal that the prayer service will move on.**

LEADER: We claim stories of our Deacon Foremothers in Faith:

READER: Phoebe, you were benefactor and sister to Paul in faith, called a deacon to serve and lead the Church at Cenchrea.

ALL: Phoebe, pray with us.

READER: Olympias, widowed at a young age, you resisted patriarchal pressure to remarry and instead responded to the call to the diaconate, became a friend and benefactor to St. John Chrysostom, and lived a simple life in service to the poor.

ALL: Olympias, pray with us.

READER: Macrina, as deacon you devoted your life to spiritual development, established a monastery, and cared for the sick and the poor.

ALL: Macrina, pray with us.

READER: Dionysia, your life was a struggle, still you did not lose hope or faith in God and became a deacon of the church at Militene.

ALL: Dionysia, pray with us.

READER: Radegunda, you were taken as a prisoner and forced to marry a king, yet your passion for the poor would not be silenced and so you liberated yourself, trading in your robes for monastic garb as a deacon serving the poor.

ALL: Radegunda, pray with us.

READER: Anastasia of Antioch; Sophia of Jerusalem; St. Irene of Constantinople; Sabinia of Syria; Anna of Rome; Agathe of Philippi; and all you holy women, known and unknown to us, who served God's people as deacons,

ALL: pray with us.

LEADER: We now pause for a moment of silence that all of us gathered here and around the globe may claim our own foremothers in faith-- women of history and women in our own lives, whose stories are a part of our story.
At the end of the silence, the prayer bell is rung 1 time.

*****ORGANIZER NOTE:** The community at the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center will surface the names of their own foremothers in faith in the silence of their hearts. If you have a larger community, we recommend doing the same as the time will be limited. However, if your community is small enough, you might consider offering participants the opportunity to surface those names out loud. The single toll of the bell will signal that the prayer service is moving on.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for our Foremothers in Faith

LEADER: Let us pray,
we thank you, O God, that throughout history, women have faithfully, generously, and courageously responded to your call in their lives.

ALL: may their witness give us the courage, strength and resolve to claim your call in our lives and in our Church. AMEN.

Hymn: The Summons J. Bell
Prayer bell is rung 3 times.

Prayer Movement 2: Praying for the Commission

Candle Lighting

A member of the congregation lights the second candle.

LEADER: We invoke the Holy Spirit of Pentecost,

ALL: May She guide us, our Church, and those who lead it as we continue on our pilgrim journey

Hymn: *Veni Sancte, Spiritus*
(Text: Taize Community, Music Jacques Berthier © 1979 Les Presses de Taize)
Ostinato Refrain: *Veni Sancte, Spiritus* (repeat)

Reading: The Coming of the Spirit Acts 2:1-4

Leader: In a moment we will call upon the Spirit to once again give new birth to the Church and guide the Study Commission on the Women's Diaconate in their work just as she guided Jesus' followers some 2,000 years ago. Let us now share the story of how this commission came to be and their task.

On May 12, 2016, during an audience with 900 women religious of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), Pope Francis was asked: "In the church there is the office of the permanent diaconate, but it is open only to married and non-married men. What impedes the church from including women among permanent deacons, just as it happened in the early church? and, Why not construct an official commission that might study the question?"

Pope Francis responded, saying that the history was "obscure" and that it was not clear what role women deacons played in the early Church or whether or not they had been ordained. But he added that, "It would do good for the church to clarify this point.... It seems useful to me to have a commission".

The Study Commission on the Women's Diaconate was created on August 2, 2016 and tasked by Pope Francis with considering the historical questions and the possibility of ordaining women deacons.

He named Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria SJ, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as its President and twelve members, six women and six men:

- Núria Calduch Benages, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission
- Francesca Cocchini, faculty member at La Sapienza University (Rome) and the Patristic Institute Augustinianum
- Piero Coda, president of Sophia University Institute (Rome), member of the International Theological Commission
- Robert Dodaro OSA, president of the Patristic Institute Augustinianum
- Santiago Madrigal SJ, ecclesialogist at the Pontifical University Comillas (Madrid)
- Mary Melone SFA, president of the Pontifical University Antonianum (Rome)
- Karl-Heinz Menke, emeritus professor of dogmatic theology at the University of Bonn, member of the International Theological Commission
- Aimable Musoni SDB, ecclesialogist at Salesian Pontifical University (Rome)
- Bernard Pottier SJ, faculty member at Institute D'etudes Théologiques (Brussels), member of the International Theological Commission
- Marianne Schlosser, theologian at the University of Vienna, member of the International Theological Commission
- Michelina Tenace, theologian at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome)
- Phyllis Zagano, senior research associate-in-residence at Hofstra University in New York

LEADER: Together we now pray for these women and men who comprise this commission as they undertake this work on our behalf and on behalf of the Church:

ALL:

Holy Spirit,

We call upon you to guide The Commission for Women Deacons,

Open their minds to see the women deacons in our history and the need for a renewal of this ministry.

Open their eyes to see the women of the world called to the diaconate.

Open their hearts to say yes to the women who cry out in love for the church, ready to say yes, ready to be deacons.

We ask for the intercession of all women past and present who have been the hands and feet of Christ on this earth. AMEN.

Blessing our ears, we invoke the Spirit of Understanding that we might hear her as She speaks to us as individuals and as a Church.

Blessing our lips, we invoke the Spirit of Knowledge that we might always speak the truth about our experience; and name our foremothers in faith, ourselves, and our God.

Blessing our hands, we invoke the Spirit of Courage that we might work for a new humanity liberated from fear, ignorance, and oppression.

Blessing our feet, we invoke the Spirit of Reverence, that we might humbly walk with God and with each other as we forge new paths.

In blessing each other, we invoke the Spirit of Wonder and Awe that we rely on the presence of God that dwells in each of us. We choose to extend the power of this presence in service to a church and world in need.

And may God, who is Mother and Father, Son, and Spirit bless us all,

ALL: AMEN

Closing Hymn: All Are Welcome J. Bell
The prayer bell is rung 3 times.

Announcements:

Group Book Discussion and Prayer Resources

Over the next three months, women and men will gather at the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center to read from Phyllis Zagano's Book, "Women Deacons Past, Present, and Future" You are invited to join with us. Resources for discussion and prayer will be made available on the Ignatian Spiritual Life Center's website.

Women Deacons Retreat in September

FutureChurch will be hosting a retreat for women who are discerning a call to the diaconate the weekend of September 8th -10th. The retreat will take place in San Francisco, CA. Please visit www.futurechurch.org for more information.

100 Women Deacons Campaign

FutureChurch has launched a campaign to surface the names and stories of 100 women throughout the world who are called or are discerning a call to the diaconate. You can view these profiles or submit your own at www.catholicwomendeacons.org/100.

*****ORGANIZER NOTE: You may wish to repeat these announcements and give members of your community time to write down URLs and information.**