

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Will The Church Ever Ordain Women Priests?

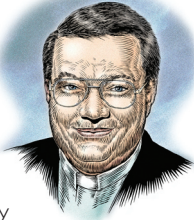
Know This...

The Catholic Church is God's voice on earth. She reflects His wisdom and truth. She lacks the authority to change His teaching. Jesus' example was definitive when He chose men to be His Twelve Apostles. The Twelve adhered to His irrevocable example in choosing men to be their successors, and these men chose other men to be theirs. The sacrament of Holy Orders has always been validly conferred only upon men. Since the Church adheres to Jesus' teaching, she can never ordain women priests.



John: No one has a right to ordination. Each bishop, priest, and deacon is called by God and His Church. Holy Orders is an unmerited gift of God's grace.

James: A bishop is a successor to the Apostles. He bears the fullness of Apostolic authority. He can offer all the sacraments.



John: A priest receives from the bishop authority to exercise his priestly ministry: to celebrate Mass, hear confessions, and to offer all the sacraments except Holy Orders.

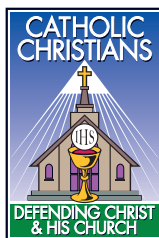
James: A deacon is ordained to assist bishops and their priests and to serve the people of God. He can preach, baptize, witness marriages, and preside at funerals.

John: Priestly celibacy is a special charism, not a Church dogma; therefore, the Pope could authorize the ordination of married men to the priesthood.

James: But the male-only priesthood is part of the Deposit of Faith; so the Pope lacks any authority or power to ordain women.

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"[Jesus] went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve [men whom he named Apostles] that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons: Simon, whom he named Peter; James, son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him." Mk 3:13-19



"Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination. The Lord Jesus chose men to form the college of the twelve apostles, and the apostles did the same when they chose collaborators to succeed them in their ministry. The college of bishops, with whom the priests are united in the priesthood, makes the college of the twelve an ever-present and ever-active reality until Christ's return. The Church recognizes herself to be bound by this choice made by the Lord himself. For this reason the ordination of women is not possible." CCC 1577 "The so-called presbyteresses are not to be ordained in the Church." Council of Laodicea "We have made mention of the deaconesses, who have been enrolled in this position, although, not having been in any way ordained, they are certainly to be numbered among the laity." Council of Nicaea

PAPA SAYS

"[The Church] holds that it is not admissible to ordain women to the priesthood, for very fundamental reasons. These reasons include: the example recorded in the Sacred Scriptures of Christ choosing His Apostles only from among men; the constant practice of the Church, which has imitated Christ in choosing only men; and her living teaching authority which has consistently held that the exclusion of women from the priesthood is in accordance with God's plan for His Church." Pope Paul VI "In order that all doubt may be removed regarding a matter of great importance, a matter which pertains to the Church's divine constitution itself ... I declare that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful." Pope John Paul II, conclusion of his Apostolic Letter, "On reserving priestly ordination to men alone"



Heavenly Father, You made men and women equal in dignity, but complementary in identity. You made them suitable partners in building up Your Kingdom. Your Son, in deliberately calling men to be His Twelve, established a male-only priesthood for His Church. I pray that our world will recognize and accept that You created man and woman with vocations equal in dignity and complementary in identity. Grant this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

