

Celebrating Catholic Feminist Ministries: A Women-Church Forum August 17-19, 2007

Individual Commitments

As part of the 4:15 p.m. Plenary Session on Saturday, August 18, 2007, conference participants were asked to write down, and share with their table, an individual commitment they will make as a result of the conference. These were written on "Post-it" notes and compiled here.

- Do something involving the arts once a month
- Commitment to the journey into the Divine Feminine—honoring the discovering of herself
- Investigate inclusive lectionary
- Go to anti-racism training; Cannon 1024 campaign to get people to cross out "man" and write in "woman" in Catechisms (even in library)
- Start a prayer group
- Spend time once a month in leisure, contemplating the earth
- Light a candle in a desert wind
- Courageous irritation
- I will recommit to my feminism and struggle in my faith. I will endeavor to take my knowledge and experience and live as a model, not a follower
- Be more outspoken in leadership circles I'm in about clarifying feminist perspectives (i.e., interfaith power and light community)
- I will continue to meet with GLBT community and the church
- I will host an interfaith discussion group at my school, among peers, to discuss the alienation of Muslim Americans
- Search out Women-Church group in my area
- I will join the study circles in Aurora, sharing with people of color
- I will become very involved in the next presidential campaign
- I will begin to live a new chapter in my life story, titled "How long was I asleep?" with more eco-feminist awareness
- Be more intentionally welcoming and inclusive; listen more actively
- I will continue to incorporate strategies for feminist pedagogies in my classroom. I will make a commitment to educate women and men about feminist theologies
- Share my feminist rituals with individuals via e-mail; sponsor a one day retreat for young women; speak to youth at parish
- I will continue to assist women to be intentional in their commitment to women's issues, especially those connected with integrity of creation
- I will bring back to my parish the essentials of what we learned at this conference
- I will start a women's prayer group
- I will include a dialogue training in my course syllabus; I will ask for a recycle container in parking garage
- I will enroll in a class on eco-feminism
- I will work to create awareness in my parish regarding eco-justice, fair trade coffee, PV panels on the roof, etc.
- To make more public education on eco-feminism

- Make others aware of eco-justice issues—use of plastics, etc.; re-affirm my commitment to serving the poor in face to face situations
- I will work on setting up a course or reading group
- Consider completing the Master of Arts Earth literacy program and change focus and writing to eco-justice
- I will tell the story of peacemaking, of the value of women, and of speaking truth
- I will learn more about using technology, media, blogs, links, etc., to further organizational development and relationship building for Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP)
- I commit to trying to work with those I share and disagree with because I believe Jesus calls us to this and I think we'll reach the goals
- I will continue to articulate and teach feminist theology
- I will see that feminist theology continues to be taught at theological schools with which I am associated
- I will try to connect my suburban church with an inner city shelter for support
- To struggle for justice in hierarchical structures
- To promote the empowerment of women
- Share my experience this weekend with my co-workers—with enthusiasm
- I will focus my working power to empower people who are without power, like workless young people or poor people
- I will get three people to join my efforts to educate others to understand people who immigrate—go to another country through movies
- I will contact a legislator or government official in person in urging system change on a vital issue. I will try to tell the story of the connection of Just Relationships of all beings in the cosmos
- To help create resources for the feminist “education circles” mentioned by Mary Hunt for the constituents of the 8th Day Center for Justice
- I will try to find or form a group of like-minded women to share and act on feminist-prayer issues
- I will continue work with Call to Action and birth a new church through work in local chapter. I will invite circles in which I participate, to converse about Mary Hunt's presentation (intend to get video)
- I will make known to the 8th Day staff and members of my religious community (Srs. of Providence) the public statements put out by Women-Church Convergence (W-CC) and invite participation if and when a specific action is called for
- I will volunteer my gifts and skills 4-6 hours monthly to Planned Parenthood
- I will include feminist ideas/concepts in my adult religious education classes in my parish
- Increase information and use of W-CC Web site
- I will continue to be inclusive in liturgies: languages, symbols, continents
- I will invite a particular woman within my group to consider woman priesthood
- I will work with Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) representing Women-Church to seek out those who are abusers in church and society

- I will gather a woman-church group in my community to feed each other the fruit that is essential to justice work
- I am organizing a huge demonstration for human rights and democracy for Iraq and Iran
- More involved in immigration
- Advocate no buying of bottled water
- I will urge our book club to read women theologians
- I will: find more time for meditation and artistic expression; read one book on Islam; ask someone new to tell me her story
- I will: look into resources for feminist faith sharing with children; start a W-C education reflection group; connect more intentionally with colleagues of color in my area
- Work/volunteer within a feminist ministry I am not as familiar with—one hour a week
- Find or form a women's base spiritual community (small group)
- Host a book club about feminist theology; continue all the other feminist ministry work that I'm currently doing
- I will commit to inform myself and my community about Roman Catholic Womenpriests.org; work on technology, blogs, etc.; subversive exploration, support non-canonical structures
- I will be responsible for "communministry" woman/feminist theology on the grassroots level in my geographical area
- I will participate in "conscions" evolution, in concentrated solitude and listening and study, within myself, the voice of the earth and the community of life. And, hope to be a voice through my creative work (alone) for the world and with others
- Rise alone
- I will continue to pursue peace-making techniques with children, such as "Capacitar" and tai chi for children
- Continue and increase trying to educate the community on the awareness in ourselves of violence in words, thoughts, and deeds—using the *Pace e Bene* book
- I will continue to participate in my own personal transformation and share insights in circles/groups I'm involved in
- I will introduce and use feminine images of God(de) with the children of my congregation
- I will be more intentional about being present for the entire hour of our weekly Peace Vigil
- I will try to bring awareness of eco-feminism into my parish and RCWP community, understanding it as underlying justice issue to all other issues
- Use the *Pace e Bene* Traveling with the Turtle book to raise awareness
- Share book Traveling with the Turtle with local WOC group and Womanshare group
- As part of women-church, I will be an embodied voice for the feminine divine—integrating her into the worship and faith practice of my house community
- I will educate my small faith-based community on women's work and progress in the church

- Anti-racism work at work and on a personal level
- Racism: Try to get our four high schools to invite speakers to do the racism program
- Use the *Pace e Bene* spirituality for peace program in group at home
- I promise to begin more regularly to blog and start my Web site for feminist ministries of healing
- In my ministry as a parish DRE I will redouble my efforts to introduce children and parents to alternative forms of liturgy and ways of being church
- I will endeavour to influence people to stop using bottled water
- I'll be a participant in as many immigration protest demonstrations as possible as a white woman in support of the many undocumented aliens
- Having family members save plastics, etc., for me to bring to Woods to recycle; engage in dialog with students in my classes
- I will share my knowledge and enthusiasm for eco-justice and eco-spirituality with my faith community at home
- I will stop buying bottled water and speak against the Coca-Cola company
- Enter into blog with participants regarding violence in the home, in society, in the world
- As for me I will serve my Godde and Godde's people as a Roman Catholic Priest
- I will continue to raise consciousness with groups of women and men regarding the Roman Catholic Womenpriests' new model of non-hierarchical church and servant priesthood
- I will continue to build and to live a non-hierarchical model of priesthood which includes servant leadership
- I will meet with the Regional Director of Roman Catholic Womenpriests to explore candidacy for ordination. I will attend a conference on transgender issues in October in Detroit
- I will empower women I know to actively pursue Roman Catholic priesthood
- I will continue to dare my unfounded fears by reaching out to three people who scare me
- Continue weekly ministry with the poor; try to attend monthly coalition of the homeless meeting in my area
- Commit to make connections with the women I met in the Peace group to create awareness of the continuing holocausts in Palestine/Israel, Darfur, Iraq, and Afghanistan and the starving children in the world; work for gun-control in the U.S. (where 100,000 people are killed every year by individual guns)
- I will assist in writing a New Feminist Eucharistic Liturgy book
- I plan to keep challenging my community of faith to use inclusive language
- I am initiating a GLBT ministry in my parish approved/sanctioned by the Parish Council
- Help move my Women-Church group to take our prayer into the community in some fashion—explore what form our commitments might take; follow through on book discussion, especially of newer feminist theologians
- I will work for the rights of persons without “papers”—those considered undocumented. I will do this through legislative advocacy and solidarity work

- Eco-theology: I will commit to finishing my syntheses project so I can defend it in December and then be able to implement the resulting interfaith retreat on ecology/theology for college students in the spring
- Get a group of feminists together once a month for a Sunday liturgy that is inclusive, sacramental, and ecumenical
- To continue to invite women to transformation of consciousness through deepened contemplation
- I will continue to speak my truth in the classroom and remain committed to the pedagogical work of WIT group
- Explain my choices to the younger women I interact with—why I am in a womenchurch group, what my use of inclusive language means or is all about, that I am a feminist, what reproductive justice is, look for more effective ways to advocate within my religious community for the non-cooperation of the oppression of women in the Roman Catholic Church environment
- Enter into dialogue with 8-10 people with whom I'm living about conserving electricity, also using fair trade coffee
- I will bring up in a group I'm in or women in church and society the idea of beginning a small educational planning circle
- Lift up my ministry of mothering in the everyday work I do as a mother
- Formulate a group of women to meet monthly for Women's Spirituality and Peacemaking for study, discussion, and action
- Begin women's group for worship and study of feminist theology in my home. Continue to add to my current list of women
- I will initiate dialog with my "set" regarding feminist celebration on our jubilee
- Prepare our center's 2008 programming with renewed energy and passion to tell the story of our common origin
- I will learn more about justice for undocumented immigrants
- Follow up on "JustFaith" women authors—to see if they have included women's views and scholarship in the study books
- Tell people about making the trip to Chicago and why it was important for women to create their own spirituality free of masculine imagery to realize how language limits us
- To carry on in my commitments to be a compassionate priest and presence to the people of a renewed and reconciled church
- I will include all peoples in my Eucharistic liturgies
- I will log on to WCC Web site to become more aware of WCC actions and statements. I will participate in weekly anti-war protests
- When I preach, I will have listened actively to many voices whether face to face or through media knowledge and I will address real life issues of justice and inclusion when breaking open the word
- Read the bible, a little bit each day. Read one book on Catholic feminist theology
- Get on e-mail list for SNAP—follow up with at least one of the actions they request
- I plan to engender HOPE in my heart and the hearts of others, especially in regard to ecology

- I will engage in a monthly peace activity
- For the last four upcoming months of 2007, speak to my pastor or write a letter to ICEL regarding inclusive language in the liturgy (take one action/month)
- I will participate in and not avoid conversations about reproductive rights when they come up
- I will stand as a sign of peace at Washington Park with the peace group on Monday afternoon, 4-5 p.m.
- With others, I will explore options to further enable cyber connections and actions
- I will tell more people about Women-Church and encourage their participation
- The education of Roman Catholic Womenpriests in feminist, womanist, and *mujerista* theologies
- Commitment: Continue to create structures to support mission and visions of RCWP model of priestly ministry
- To let go of my nostalgic longing for church and to continue to co-create the “ekklesia of women” as an activist, teacher, and student
- In my two women’s spirituality groups, we’ll use eco-feminism materials as basis of our prayer, discussion and reflection this year and then celebrate this with our entire women’s community this fall
- I will continue to collaborate in mailing calendars to the bishops and cardinals. I will continue to rent an apartment to a tenant at risk. I will continue to compost and recycle
- Write feminist prayers; work at Karen House; spiritual direction for myself
- I will continue to act as deacon (even though they don’t officially recognize me) with St. Clare’s parish and hold communion services for the elderly at Markham House and Oswego Springs and the women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
- Be more intentional about bringing women’s issues to leadership tables where I gather with women religious Leaders of Congregation of Women Religious
- Write an article concerning my personal experience as a grown woman in the Catholic church—concerning kyriarchy/my fear-filled immaturity in the face of it/not speaking up
- I will convert our food pantry to using all reusable bags by Earth Day 2008 (using the example of bags here)
- To work at making Women-Church Cincinnati more active on a regular basis
- Introduce Latinas to learn about/join Women Church
- How to explore the power of the arts and their role in a new creation
- I commit myself to grow and revitalize St. Louis Women Church
- I will work on how to pressure locally elected politicians to be true to their election promises
- I will commit to calling our mayor and city leaders to claiming an anti-racist identity for our city and the work required to embody it
- I will contact my state legislators and congressional representatives regarding women and children’s benefits
- To be committed in the upcoming national election to support candidates who will lead issues around justice and peace issues, women’s issues, health care, and peace

- I will read works of Islamic women
- I will read feminist theologians
- To bring to archdiocesan planning process: how is what we plan responding to the critical issues of today—poverty (local, national, and international); environmental degradation; increasing violence; racism; repressive structures in church and society
- To incorporate creativity more fully in my life and ministry
- I will “catch up” on current (selected) women’s theology from feminist perspective—and “share it”
- I will teach as well as I can a course in Feminist Theologies starting October 25 at Trent University, Ontario
- I commit to continue dialogue regarding racism and multicultural living in community
- Create opportunity for discussion about the death of Denise Denton
- I will take a Spanish class
- I will continue to educate my colleagues about women’s/feminist issues, and to help them find ways to apply this on a practical level with patients and families
- I will actively introduce and educate my African American parish on issues of immigration; encouraging them to become active in this fight
- Create education-reflection group for women to share and grow together
- I will share rituals/liturgies that I have created with the greater Women-Church community via Web sites