“We need as a church to be ‘informed’ and ‘reformed’ by the prayer, experience, and spiritual leadership of women in the church... The voices of those women who advocate for more visible and audible leadership are critical for the future of our church. To hear and see women in leadership roles is not an ‘indulgence’ but a recognition of the God-given gifts of faith and fidelity that are at the heart of discipleship. Thank you Mary of Magdala!”

– Fr. Bob VerEecke, SJ, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in NYC, in his Letter From the Pastor’s Desk, October 29, 2017

WELCOME!

Inspired by the global Women’s Marches one year ago, and aware that religious institutions around the world are in dire need of an infusion of feminist energy and truth, we invite you to join us as we celebrate Feminism & Faith in Union.

On Sunday, January 21, 2018 we invite interfaith feminists and allies – people of all genders who seek to listen and witness – to gather as partners in solidarity and hope, claiming feminism as a deep organizing principle of our religious traditions. Groups across the country and around the globe will gather in public and religious spaces to pray and bless, to act and call for a shift in the current structures that deny our parishes, our communities, and the world of God’s gifts freely given to women.

Join us in Union Square Park, in the heart of New York City, or organize a march or gathering in your own city or town. Our churches and faith communities need your presence, your creativity, and your wisdom!

This packet includes all you need to know to participate fully in Feminism & Faith in Union, and to create dialogue in your own community for increasing women’s leadership in the Church. Scan our Table of Contents to see which sections will be most helpful to you.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

In Union,
The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed) and Ministries of St. Francis Xavier, NYC FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
# Table of Contents

- What is Feminism & Faith in Union? ................................................................. 3
- How to Participate .......................................................................................... 5
- NYC March Logistics on January 21, 2018 ..................................................... 7
- Opportunities for Creating an Inclusive Mass .............................................. 10
- Sample Mass Resource for Sunday, January 21, 2018 .............................. 12
- Worship Service for Celebrations Outside Regular Mass ......................... 20
- Suggestions for Advancing Women in Church Leadership in Your Local Faith Community ........ 29
- Sample Bulletin Insert for Sunday, January 21, 2018 .................................... 31
- Sample Press Release for Your Local Event .................................................. 34
- Printable Hand-held Signs and Buttons for Order! ...................................... 37
WHAT IS FEMINISM & FAITH IN UNION?

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
What is Feminism & Faith in Union?

Feminism & Faith in Union is an initiative of The Women Who Stayed – the women’s ministry of St. Francis Xavier – in partnership with Peace & Justice, Catholic Lesbians, Gay Catholics, and the many other ministries of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City. Sponsoring partners include FutureChurch, Call to Action, and Women’s Ordination Conference.

Feminism & Faith in Union is comprised of events in the US and around the globe on January 21, 2018, as well as ongoing activities and prayer services to help us welcome feminine Wisdom into our faith communities.

We know from Galatians 3.28 that there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus, but you might still be wondering...

Am I a feminist? Just what is feminism? How does it relate to our faith?

Did you know...

• Merriam-Webster declared "feminism" the Word of the Year for 2017. Feminism was the most looked-up word in its online dictionary, with 70% more searches than in 2016. Their definitions: “the theory supporting the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes” and “organized activity on behalf of women’s rights and interests.”

• Feminism isn’t just for females. People of any gender can be feminists. “A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men.” — Gloria Steinem

• Feminism is inclusive and empowering. It is NOT anti-male. Instead, feminists value the gifts and contributions of all people. Think of how much richer our world and our church would be if everyone’s voice was heard and everyone’s gifts were recognized and embraced.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit... To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. (1 Cor 12.4, 7)

The same is true of many of my gifts and graces, virtues and other spiritual gifts, and those things necessary for the body and human life. I have distributed them all in such a way that no one has all of them. Thus have I given you reason - necessity, in fact - to practice mutual charity. For I could well have supplied each of you with all your needs, both spiritual and material. But I wanted to make you dependent on one another so that each of you would be my minister, dispensing the graces and gifts you have received from me. (From the Dialogue of Saint Catherine of Siena)
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Whether you are in New York City on January 21, 2018, or somewhere else around the world, you can join Feminism & Faith in Union! Here are some ways you can bring your Catholic identity to this initiative:

1. Join us in New York! (Resource page 7)
   — RSVP on Facebook (facebook.com/feminismfaith)
   — Attend a sign-making party
   — Pray with us in Union Square Park
   — March along 16th Street with us
   — Attend Mass at St. Francis Xavier at 11:30am on January 21, 2018

2. Plan your own event!
   — March
   — Prayer Service / Mass (Resource page 19)
   — Interfaith Service
   — Make signs (Resource page 36)
   — Send a press release (Resource page 33)
   — Advertise in your parish bulletin (Resource page 30)

3. Join us virtually!
   — Watch the Facebook livestream (facebook.com/feminismfaith)
   — Offer a reflection on #Catholictoo
   — Take a selfie with one of our downloadable signs and post to the Feminism & Faith in Union Facebook page

4. Keep the conversation going! (Resource page 28)
   — Start a discussion group in your local faith community
   — Advocate for women’s voices and leadership
   — Join a local interfaith women’s group
   — And more, more, more…
NYC MARCH LOGISTICS
JANUARY 21, 2018

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
NYC MARCH LOGISTICS, JANUARY 21, 2018

Meet us in Union Square Park, in the heart of Manhattan. We will begin gathering before 10am on the north plaza of the park, on 17th Street. At about 10:15, we will raise our voices in interfaith solidarity, offering prayers, blessings, and songs in preparation for our march to St. Francis Xavier Church. At about 10:45am, we will march west along 16th Street and join the Xavier community for a special mass at 11:30am.

Do you have a sign from the 2017 Women’s March? Bring it!
Have a drum? Bang it!
A favorite chant? Share it!

Want to make a new sign for this year? RSVP for our sign-making evenings Wednesday, January 17th and Saturday, January 20th at Xavier, TheWomenWhoStayed@gmail.com. If you are interested in volunteering before or during our march or Mass on January 21, 2018, please contact us at TheWomenWhoStayed@gmail.com.
Help us make Feminism & Faith in Union a huge success:

- Connect with feminists from other Catholic Churches and other houses of worship in your community. Do you want to do something together on January 21?
  - See what’s possible, get the permits as necessary, and invite everyone to join you!
  - Or …. have parishioners gather outside of church early with signs and song and have a joyful (pre-planned) procession up the church steps before Mass.

- Order your Feminism & Faith in Union buttons [here](#)!
- Use our hand-held fill-in templates and create your own signs!
- Take a selfie with your sign, and share at feminism-faith.org!
- Are people in your community marching on Saturday January 20 as part of the Women’s March? Have them bring their signs to your event and to Mass the next day!
Opportunities for Creating An Inclusive Mass

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREATING AN INCLUSIVE MASS __

So many parishioners are hungry for a celebration of the Eucharist that truly embodies the beauty and diversity of God’s people. Following are some ways you can help your pastor and pastoral ministry / liturgical team create a more inclusive Mass. In the next section, you will find our suggestions for music, readings, and prayers to assist you in planning!

- Reach out in hope and faith to your pastor, parish staff, and faith leaders. Ask them to work with you to create a joyful and awareness-raising liturgy. This can truly be an opportunity for a “synodal church” moment, as Pope Francis has called us all to. And you may be surprised at the staff’s eagerness to create something together with lay people.

- Let people know in advance that it’s happening. “Do you have a pink hat from last year? Wear it to church on Sunday, January 21 and keep it on!”

- Create prayers of the faithful that honor women, and invite recognition of the equality and full humanity of women and men in our Church and in our world.

- Ask if the bulletin’s front cover that day can include bright pink as the color scheme. Put your church’s insignia in pink for the day!

- Incorporate music that is welcoming, affirming, and inclusive.

- Invite a sign language interpreter to “translate” the Mass in real time for people with different hearing abilities.

- Have an information sheet to share with parishioners about feminism. There is a lot of misconception in our Church about what feminism is. Let people know: If you believe that all humans are equal in the eyes of God, you are already a feminist.

- Ask if the readings can be proclaimed with inclusive language that day.

- Some priests are choosing to remain in silence during their homily, in solidarity with the silencing of women’s voices on the altar. Perhaps your priest will want to do this, too. Or perhaps they want to speak about their own feelings of solidarity with Catholic women, or their own reasons for praying for a Church beyond sexism (share Fr. Bob VerEecke’s “From the Pastor’s Desk” message on page 1 of this resource).

- Ask if a woman can offer reflections on the day’s readings after Communion.
LITURGICAL RESOURCES / SUGGESTIONS FOR AN INCLUSIVE MASS

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
Liturgical Resources/Suggestions for an Inclusive Mass

These suggestions are based on the USCCB readings for Sunday, January 21, 2018. Translations are taken from The Inclusive Bible. For alternate readings from The Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary (inclusivelectionary.org), a project of the Women’s Ordination Conference, turn to page 16.

Opening Song Suggestions
Christ Be Our Light, ©1993 Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications
All Are Welcome, ©1994 Marty Haugen, GIA Publications, Inc.
We Are Marching, ©1984 South African tune, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation agent

Liturgy of the Word

Reading I — JON 3:1-5, 10

The word of God came a second time to Jonah: “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach to them as I told you to do.”

Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of God. Nineveh was a large city beyond compare; it took three days to cross it. Jonah moved on into the city, making a day’s journey. He proclaimed, “Only forty days more, and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.”

So the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and dressed in sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behavior. And God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them.

Responsorial Psalm — PS 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Teach me Your Ways, O God.
Show me your ways, God!
Teach me your paths!
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.
I wait all the day long for you.

R. Teach me Your Ways, O God.
Remember your mercies, God, your love –
your ancient and unwavering love!
Pardon the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
Remember me because of your love,
because of your goodness, God.

*R. Teach me Your Ways, O God.*
And how good and upright you are, God!
You instruct sinners in the path,
you guide the humble in what is right,
and teach them your way.

*R. Teach me Your Ways, O God.*

**Reading II — 1 COR 7:29-31**
I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, and those who have to deal with the world should live as as if all their dealings meant nothing – for the world as we know it is passing away.

**Gospel Acclamation — MK 1:15**
*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*
“This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand!
Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”
*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**Gospel Reading — MK 1:14-20**
After John’s arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God:

“This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!”

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. Jesus said to them: “Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind.” They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They, too, were in their boat, putting their nets in order. Immediately Jesus called them, and they left
their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

HOMILY
In solidarity with the millions of women, and of all peoples, whose voices have been silenced, the homily will consist of a 5-minute period of silence.

During this time, consider praying for the wisdom to become aware of those women, and others in your life and community, whose voices could be louder. Pray for the courage to make room for the voices that are missing.

During the silence, look around at all the people surrounding you. If they are holding a sign, read the sign. Realize and trust that we are moving forward in the company of Jesus.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray in gratitude for all the women of the Church who have come before us as prophets and teachers. May their legacies inspire us to make known the ways God is speaking to us today through women.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for the women of our parish, that all of our gifts may be welcomed, received, and put to work for God’s greatest good. May our parish be a place of inclusion and affirmation.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for Pope Francis, that he may continue to be guided by the Spirit of Sophia Wisdom and remain increasingly committed to creating a Church that welcomes all women as God’s equally beloved children.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to poverty and homelessness, which disproportionately affect women, children, and oppressed populations around the globe. May we who have resources and influence work to create security and sustainability for our sisters and brothers.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to violence against all human beings, and especially against women. May we who are safe protect those in danger.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for Church dialogue that is inclusive and welcoming. May we who seek justice have the patience to lead with love.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for our priests and bishops, that they might have the courage to work with women as equal partners in teaching and sharing the faith of the Gospel.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for those called to Catholic priesthood and ordained by God, who have been rejected by the institution or denied by us because of gender, sexual orientation, or other unjust disqualifiers. May we become a Church that recognizes the work of the Holy Spirit in all of God’s people and strives to create the pathways that allow the fullness of God’s plan to manifest.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have suffered emotional or physical abuse at the hands of someone they trust or persons of authority. May our hearts overflow with compassion as we accompany the wounded in their journey for healing and call for change.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose voices we do not hear in our parishes, workplaces, and communities. May the Spirit of Discipleship awaken in us the desire to seek the lost and forsaken and return them to the fold of God’s love.
R. God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayer.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AND PREPARATION OF THE TABLE, SUGGESTED SONGS

Blest Are They, ©1985 David Haas, GIA Publications, Inc.
We Are Many Parts, ©1980 Marty Haugen, GIA Publications, Inc.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST, SUGGESTED SONGS

A Place at the Table, ©2001 Lori True and Shirley Erena Murray, GIA Publications, Inc.
One Bread, One Body ©1991 John B, Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music

REFLECTIONS AFTER COMMUNION

Consider inviting a Catholic woman from your parish community to offer reflections on today’s readings.

CLOSING SONG SUGGESTIONS

Sing a New Church, ©1991 Delores Dufner, OSB, The Sisters of Saint Benedict, OCP Publications
We Are Called, ©1988 David Haas, GIA Publications, Inc.
ALTERNATE READINGS FROM THE INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC LECTIONARY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

A Reading from the Book of Jonah, A Satire on Prophecy 3:1-10
The Word of God came to Jonah again: “Get up and go into the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the words that I give you.” So, this time, Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of God. Now, Nineveh was an enormously large city. It took three days to walk across it. Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Only forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

And the people of Nineveh believed God. They declared a fast and dressed in sackcloth, everyone from the greatest to the least.

The news reached the ruler of Nineveh who rose from the throne, laid aside the royal robes, dressed in sackcloth and sat in ashes. Then, it was proclaimed throughout the nation of Babylon: “No human being or beast, cattle nor sheep, shall taste anything. They shall neither eat nor drink. Human beings and beasts shall be covered in sackcloth and ashes and call out loudly to God. Everyone shall turn from their evil ways and the violence at hand. Who knows? God may repent and forgive, withholding wrath, so that we will not perish.”

God saw by their actions that they had turned from their evil ways, and God repented from the destruction God had promised to bring upon them. God did not carry it out.

The Word of an Ancient Story Teller.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:4-5; 6-7; 8-9
R: Show me your ways, O God.

Show me how you work, O God.
School me in your ways.
Take me by the hand.
Lead me along the path of truth,
for You are the God who mends my soul.
R: Show me your ways, O God.

Mark the milestones of your mercy and love.
Rebuild ancient landmarks,
but take away the ruins of my offences.
Mark me with your sign of love.
R: Show me your ways, O God.

Integrity and goodness are marks of our God,
who shows us the way to go.
God leads those who are humble,
and is with them step-by-step.

*R: Show me your ways, O God.*

**Alternate Psalm — Jonah 2:1-9**
Prayer/psalm attributed to Jonah from the belly of the “big fish.”

*R: Liberate us, O God. Raise us up.*

In my distress I called out to God, who answered me.
From the belly of the grave; I called for help,
and You listened to my cry.

*R: Liberate us, O God. Raise us up.*

You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me.
Your breakers and billows swept over me.

*R: Liberate us, O God. Raise us up.*

I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight;
yet, I will look again toward your holy temple.’
The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me.
Seaweed was wrapped around my head.
To the roots of the mountains I sank down.
The earth beneath barred me in forever.

*R: Liberate us, O God. Raise us up.*

But You, Holy One, my God,
brought my life up from the ancient Abyss.
When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, O God,
and my prayer rose to You, to Your holy temple.

*R: Liberate us, O God. Raise us up.*

Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God’s love for them.
But I, with shouts of grateful praise, worship you.
What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, “Liberation comes from our God.”

*R: Liberate us, O God. Raise us up.*

**A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, 7:17-20, 36**
The only rule is that everyone, each one of us, should live as we were when God called us, as we were when we came to believe. I give this rule in all the churches. If someone is called after he was circumcised, he should not try to undo his circumcision. If an uncircumcised person is called, he should not be circumcised. Circumcision means nothing! Uncircumcision means nothing! What matters is keeping God's commandments.

Everyone should remain in the state in which we were when we were called.

... However, if anyone has strong passions toward their beloved, marry as you wish. It is no sin. Let lovers marry.

The Word of the Apostle Paul.
Thanks be to God.

**A Reading from the Good News attributed to Mark, 1:14-20; 2:13-17**

Glory to you, O God.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the good news from God saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the reign of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus was walking along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew on the shore casting a net into the sea – for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Going a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who were in their boat mending nets. Immediately, he called them. And leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired workers, they followed Jesus.

... Another day, Jesus saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post and said to Levi, “Follow me.” Levi got up and followed Jesus. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples. There were many who followed him. Some scribes, who were Pharisees, saw Jesus eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus overheard their question and said to them, “Those who are well don’t need a physician, but the sick do. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.

The Gospel of Our God.
Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.
WORSHIP SERVICE OUTSIDE A TRADITIONAL MASS

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
Worship Service Outside A Traditional Mass

Opening Song Suggestions

Christ Be Our Light, ©1993 Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications
All Are Welcome, ©1994 Marty Haugen, GIA Publications, Inc.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of our God who creates all the Universe,
And of Jesus who teaches us how to love one another,
And of the Holy Spirit who blesses us and makes us holy.

All: Amen.

Leader: Our God is with us.

All: And also with you.

Call to Prayer

Leader: God of Wisdom, You breathe into our hearts in every moment, whispering the
sacred power of the feminine.

All: Open our spirits to receive your grace in all the ways You invite women to be
Your holy messengers and ministers.

Leader: God of Creativity, You show us who You are in our mothers Sarah and
Rebekah, Mary and Elizabeth, Phoebe and Prisca, and so many other women
who came before us.

All: Open our eyes to see You in every woman, each of whom You created in Your
exquisite image.

Leader: God of Infinite Love, You bless us with the gift of diversity, showing Your face
to us in every act of love and compassion.

All: Open our hearts to receive the wounded and the wounders, committing to love
all as You have taught us to love.

Leader: Gracious and loving God, we pray that you will bless our time with You. Help
us to listen to Your Word with curiosity and a generosity of Spirit. Help us to
remember that You are God and we are not. Help us to trust that You are in
charge and to have the courage to turn our lives over to You. In faith and
gratitude, for all this we pray in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Reading 1—Mark 5:25-34
The Woman with the Hemorrhage
Now there was a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years; after long and painful treatment from various doctors, she has spent all she had without getting better – in fact, she was getting worse. She had heard about Jesus, and she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. “If I can even touch the hem,” she had told herself, “I will be well again.” Immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Immediately aware that healing power had gone out of him, Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

The disciples said, “You see how the crowd is pressing you and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

But Jesus continued to look around to see who had done it. Then the woman came forward, frightened and trembling because she knew what had happened to her, and she fell at Jesus’ feet and told him the whole truth.

“My daughter,” Jesus said, “your faith has saved you; go in peace and be free of your affliction.”

Reader: The Word of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Reading 2 — Litany of the Anonymous Women by Karen Flotte

Alternate sides, and after each phrase, ALL will say, “Pray for us!”

SIDE A
- The midwife who put a baby in a rushbasket...
- A teenaged girl who said yes to God...
- Bereaved women who went out to anoint a common criminal buried in a borrowed tomb...
- Women who welcomed the faithful, the widow, the orphan to the clandestine house church...
- Women who teach their daughters and granddaughters even when it is unpopular or illegal to do so...

SIDE B
- Women who share their arts as healers, midwives, and ministers at the time of death...
- Women who refuse to work in unjust workplace and unionize against all odds...
- Women who have transmit their traditional cultural heritage despite pressure to conform to the dominant society...
- Women who organize campesinos to work for land reform...
• Women who led the Underground Railroad and those who managed stations along the way to freedom...

SIDE A
• Women who refuse to lose generations of daughters to the sex trade...
• Women who walked to work for nearly a year during the Alabama Bus Boycott...
• Women who preach despite being told not they cannot...
• Women who learned to feed their families from the scraps and passed on their knowledge...
• Women who taught themselves to read, studied “men’s” fields, and interjected a woman’s perspective into academia...

SIDE B
• Women who cook, clean and raise children so their husbands could work to change the world...
• Women who liberate themselves from oppression and then work to liberate others...
• Women who ask questions over and over again until they change the status quo to include their voices...
• Women who dare to confront abusive spouses in court to change the law at risk of their lives...
• Women who realize the strength of numbers and band together for social change...

SIDE A
• Women who refuse to be silenced even when it makes them unpopular with their own families...
• Women refugees who travel across borders while pregnant or nursing to assure a better life for their children...
• Women who plant flowers to beautify the world...
• Women who fight for a clean environment...

SIDE B
• Women who sacrifice so their children can be fed, clothed and educated...
• Women who place their babies for adoption so they grow up in a stable home...
• Women who refuse to dress themselves and their daughters in demeaning ways to follow fashion fads...
• Women who are unafraid to claim the truth of their experience and proclaim it with love...

ALL
• All holy women who say YES! to God...

Gospel — Based on Luke 15:11-32 (The Inclusive Bible, modified)
The Parable of the Lost Daughter
Jesus said: “A woman had two daughters. The younger of them said to their mother, ‘Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.’ So the mother divided up the property between them. Some days later, the younger daughter gathered up her belongings and went off to a distant land. Here she squandered all her money on loose living.

“After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the daughter was in great need. So she went to a landowner, who sent her to a farm to take care of the pigs. The daughter was so hungry that she could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give her anything. Coming to her senses at last, she said, ‘How many hired hands at my mother’s house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! I’ll quit and go back home and say, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.’ With that, the younger daughter set off for home.

“While still a long way off, the mother caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The mother ran out to meet her, threw her arms around her and kissed her. The daughter said to her, ‘I’ve sinned against God and against you. I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.’ But her mother said to one of the workers, ‘Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on her; put a ring on her finger and shoes on her feet. Take the calf we’ve been fattening and put it on her; let’s eat and celebrate! This daughter of mine was dead and has come back to life. She was lost and now she’s found!’ And the celebration began.

“Meanwhile the elder daughter had been out in the field. As she neared the house, she heard the sound of music and dancing. She called one of the workers and asked what was happening. The worker answered, ‘Your sister is home and the fatted calf has been killed because your mother has her back safe and sound.’

“The daughter got angry at this and refused to go in to the party, but her mother came out and pleaded with her. The older daughter replied, ‘For years now I’ve done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. But then this daughter of yours comes home after going through your money and you kill the fatted calf for her!’

“‘But my child!’ the mother said. You’re with me always, and everything I have is yours. But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This sister of yours was dead and has come back to life. She was lost and now she’s found.’”

Reader: The Gospel according to Christ.
All: Glory and praise to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

REFLECTIONS
LEADER will offer reflections on the readings and on feminism and faith; opening up the space for others who wish to contribute to the dialogue.
Idea starters:

- What was it like to hear this Gospel reading from the feminine perspective? Did it change anything for you? Do you have any new insights about what Jesus wants us to know in the telling of this story?

- In the first reading, we witness Jesus “digging in his heels” with the male apostles. He is not ready to move. He is waiting to hear the woman who touched him speak. He awaits women’s voices! How does this land for you? How does it feel to know that Jesus is waiting to hear women’s voices? Your voice? What is God waiting to hear you say?

PROFESSION OF FAITH
by Joan Chittister, OSB (edited)

ALL: We believe in God who made us all
and whose divinity infuses life with the sacred.
We believe in the multiple revelations of God,
alive in every human heart, expressed in every culture, found in all the wisdoms of the world.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ,
who leads us to the fullness of humanity,
to what we are meant to become.
Through Christ, we become new people,
called beyond the consequences of our brokenness, lifted to the fullness of life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the breath of God on earth,
who keeps the Christ vision present to souls yet in darkness,
gives life to hearts now blind, infuses energy into spirits yet weary, isolated, searching and confused. We believe in God who is life.

Amen to courage, to hope, to spirit of truth, to nature, to happiness, to wholeness,
to the partnership of women and men in God’s plan, to the Christ who calls us beyond the boundaries of ourselves, to forgiveness, and to everything that stretches our hearts
to the dimensions of God.
In all of this, we can surely believe, as God does.

Amen.
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST
If your community will share Holy Communion, be sure to use Mass settings and acclamations that are inclusive.

Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Table, Suggested Songs
*Blest Are They*, ©1985 David Haas, GIA Publications, Inc.
*We Are Many Parts*, ©1980 Marty Haugen, GIA Publications, Inc.

Liturgy of the Eucharist, Suggested Songs
*A Place at the Table*, ©2001 music by Lori True, words by Shirley Erena Murray, GIA Publications, Inc.
*One Bread, One Body* ©1991 John B, Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music

THE PRAYER OF JESUS
LEADER: Together we pray as Jesus taught us:
ALL: Our Mother, Our Father on earth and in heaven blessed be your compassionate presence, Your images and names. Fill us with your Spirit, Show us the wisdom of Your ways. Forgive us. Teach us to forgive. Shield us from temptation and protect us from all harm. Prevent us from hurting the ones we love, from injuring other in word or in deed, from desecrating our planet. Be with us and within us now and always. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
LEADER: Jesus prayed and so we now also pray, offering our petitions, our gratitude, and our longings to the God who whispers unceasingly into our hearts.
ALL: *R. God of love and light, receive our prayers* (after people share their prayers).

We pray in gratitude for all the women of the Church who have come before us as prophets and teachers. May their legacies inspire us to make known the ways God is speaking to us today through women. *R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for the women of our parish, that all of our gifts may be welcomed, received, and put to work for God’s greatest good. May our parish be a place of inclusion and affirmation. *R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*
We pray for Pope Francis, that he may continue to be guided by the Spirit of Sophia Wisdom and remain increasingly committed to creating a Church that welcomes all women as God’s equally beloved children.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for an end to poverty and homelessness, which disproportionately affect women, children, and oppressed populations around the globe. May we who have resources and influence work to create security and sustainability for our sisters and brothers.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for an end to violence against all human beings, and especially against women. May we who are safe protect those in danger.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for Church dialogue that is inclusive and welcoming. May we who seek justice have the patience to lead with love.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for our priests and bishops, that they might have the courage to work with women as equal partners in teaching and sharing the faith of the Gospel.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for those called to Catholic priesthood and ordained by God, who have been rejected by the institution or denied by us because of gender, sexual orientation, or other unjust disqualifiers. May we become a Church that recognizes the work of the Holy Spirit in all of God’s people and strives to create the pathways that allow the fullness of God’s plan to manifest.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for those who have suffered emotional or physical abuse at the hands of someone they trust or persons of authority. May our hearts overflow with compassion as we accompany the wounded in their journey for healing and call for change.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

We pray for those whose voices we do not hear in our parishes, workplaces, and communities. May the Spirit of Discipleship awaken in us the desire to seek the lost and forsaken and return them to the fold of God’s love.

*R. God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

**LEADER:** For what else shall we pray?

**ALL:** *God of love and light, receive our prayers.*

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**SILENCE AND SOLIDARITY**

Feminism & Faith In Union  January 21, 2018  Page 27 of 41
In solidarity with the millions of women, and of all peoples, whose voices have been silenced, the community will sit together for a 5-minute period of silence.

During this time, consider praying for the wisdom to become aware of those women, and others in your life and community, whose voices could be louder. Pray for the courage to make room for the voices that are missing. See those around you, see their faces. See the faces of those who are not present. Realize and trust that we are moving forward in the company of Jesus.

CLOSING BLESSING
by Sheila Peiffer, Women’s Ordination Conference National Board of Directors President
LEADER: Gracious and Loving God of all,
We ask your blessing on those [who march] to uphold the principle that “Women’s rights are Human rights”
We march together as your infinitely varied family,
Acknowledging that the good of each is bound up in each.
We march together to honor the legacy of all who have worked for justice before us,
We march together to bring a spark of hope to the despairing,
We march together to lift up gender equality, racial justice, LGBTQI rights, immigration reform and all the many issues that cry out for solutions of compassion, wisdom and right.

Holy One, send forth your Spirit on all those who march, grant us courage to be steadfast, make us gentle in confronting power, keep us safe and help us harness kindness and humor as we walk in solidarity to bring fullness of life to all.

CLOSING SONG SUGGESTIONS
Sing a New Church, ©1991 Delores Dufner, OSB, The Sisters of Saint Benedict, OCP Publications
We Are Called, ©1988 David Haas, GIA Publications, Inc.
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVANCING WOMEN IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN YOUR LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITY

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVANCING WOMEN IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN YOUR LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITY _____

You marched. You prayed. You sang, you blessed! Now what? How can we keep the conversation going? How can you help create more leadership opportunities for women in your local parish or faith community? Here are some suggestions. Our prayers go with you on the journey!

- Start with people you know who care about the issue, love the Church, and are active in parish and/or diocesan activities. Invite them over for coffee to talk about what can be done in a way that advocates for women ministers yet is clearly loving and respectful of the institutional Church. Include women and men since both perspectives are needed if we are to grow into the inclusive community envisioned by Jesus.

- Start a women’s faith sharing group in your community. By forming circles and groups for study, prayer, and faith sharing, women grow spiritually and are empowered to transform their lives and the life of the Church.

- Begin a “women and the Word” column in your parish bulletin. Invite prepared women leaders in your parish to take turns writing short reflections about the Sunday scriptures.

- Write an op-ed piece for your diocesan paper, and the women’s or religion section of your local newspaper. Feature scripture stories that highlight Jesus’ refusal to accede to the patriarchal norms of his day (e.g. women taken in adultery, the prodigal son, the women who traveled with Jesus). Other articles might include stories about women ministers in the earliest churches, Catholic women who changed the world, women in the Hebrew scriptures, etc..

- Advocate for greater latitude in allowing prepared women pastoral ministers to preach on a regular basis in your parish/diocese. If your diocese does not have an institute to prepare lay preachers, encourage the formation of one.

- Start an annual liturgical celebration of the feast of Saint Mary of Magdala on July 22. Invite a local religious educator to present recent Biblical scholarship about Mary of Magdala. (Visit futurechurch.org for resources!)

- For the Lenten/Advent series in your parish, focus on the inclusive practice of Jesus in the Gospels, or the women disciples in the earliest churches. Invite biblical scholars from nearby Catholic colleges or universities to give the program and open it up to the diocese.

- Leverage your social media accounts to raise awareness about and help to sanctify feminism in the Church.
The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21...

...YOUR PARISH NAME HERE — WOMEN AND MEN TOGETHER...

...WILL COMMEMORATE, CELEBRATE, AND CALL FORTH...

Feminism and Faith in Union!

Inspired by the Women’s Marches around the world one year ago, and eager to share an infusion of feminist energy and truth with the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Your Parish Name Here will celebrate Feminism and Faith in Union on Sunday, January 21.

Feminists of all genders are invited to gather for an interfaith blessing at location here, and then we will hold our own march! At Parish Name, parishioners will be praying, singing, preparing — and then joyfully welcoming marchers as they pour in off the street into our church.

Together at time of mass, we will celebrate our Gospel values and bear witness to the inequalities experienced by those marginalized in our faith tradition and society.

Together, in the holy sacrament of the Eucharist, we will celebrate the sacred union of faith and feminism!

There are many ways to participate! We need volunteers to make signs, publicize the event, and to lead and coordinate on the day itself. To sign up to help in any way, email insert your parish email here. And follow the event on Facebook at facebook.com/feminismfaith. We look forward to celebrating with you on January 21!

Are you hosting a march? Include your own map here, with march route! Or add other information about your event!
Feminism and Faith in Union!
A Natural Partnership?
We know from Galatians 3.28 that there is no longer male and female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus, but you might still be wondering....
Am I a feminist?
What is feminism?
How does it relate to our faith?

Did you know...

Merriam-Webster declared "feminism" the Word of the Year for 2017.
Feminism was the most looked-up word in its online dictionary, with 70% more searches than in 2016. Their definitions: “the theory supporting the political, economic and social equality of the sexes” and “organized activity on behalf of women’s rights and interests.”

Feminism isn’t just for females. People of any gender can be feminists.
“A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men.” —Gloria Steinem

Feminism is inclusive and empowering. It is NOT anti-male.
Instead, feminists value the gifts and contributions of all people. Think of how much richer our world and our church would be if everyone’s voice was heard and everyone’s gifts were recognized and embraced.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit... To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. 1 Cor 12.4, 7

“We need as a church to be ‘informed’ and ‘reformed’ by the prayer, experience and spiritual leadership of women in the church....The voices of those women who advocate for more visible and audible leadership are critical for the future of our church. To hear and see women in leadership roles is not an ‘indulgence’ but a recognition of the God-given gifts of faith and fidelity that are at the heart of discipleship. Thank you Mary of Magdala!”

— Fr. Bob VerEecke, SJ, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in NYC, in his letter From the Pastor’s Desk, October 29, 2017

Feminism and Faith in Union is an initiative of The Women Who Stayed – the women’s ministry of St. Francis Xavier – in partnership with Peace & Justice, Catholic Lesbians, Gay Catholics, and the many other ministries of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City. Sponsoring partners include FutureChurch, Call to Action, and Women’s Ordination Conference.

facebook.com/feminismfaith • feminism-faith.org
SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR LOCAL EVENT

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR LOCAL EVENT

To spread the word about your event, advertise on facebook, twitter, Instagram and other social media sites. Also - write and send a press release to your local Catholic newspaper and local and regional secular papers. Use an easy to read font, in 12 point size. Be sure to include a phone number where you can be contacted in case anyone has questions!

Here is a sample:

Release date: the day you send the release

For Immediate Release

Title of your Event: [Ex: Catholics in San Diego Celebrate Feminism and Faith in Union with other Catholics Around the Country]

Contact: [Your name, title, telephone, email]

City: [Your city]

Inspired by the Women’s Marches around the world one year ago, and aware that the Roman Catholic Church and institutions around the world are in dire need of an infusion of feminist energy and truth, Catholic women and men from [your city] are joining Catholics in NYC and around the country to march and hold prayer services on [date] to celebrate Feminism & Faith in Union.

Feminism & Faith in Union is an initiative of The Women Who Stayed – the women’s ministry of St. Francis Xavier – in partnership with Peace & Justice, Catholic Lesbians, Gay Catholics, and the many other ministries of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City. Sponsoring partners include FutureChurch, Call to Action, and Women’s Ordination Conference.
Feminism & Faith in Union is comprised of events in the US and around the globe on January 21, 2018, as well as ongoing activities and prayer services to help us welcome feminine Wisdom into our faith communities.

Catholics and faith communities from [your city] will gather at [location] at [time] to celebrate with [ex: a march, a Mass, a prayer service, etc.].

[Add a more complete description of the actual event – who, what, when, where].

[add a couple of quotes from local participants here].

Feminism grows out of the Gospel where all are affirmed as equal in God’s image. In union, we model equality and celebrate the gifts of women and all people.

To learn more, visit www.feminism-faith.org

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About: [Add section describing your parish, group, organization, etc.]. Include your parish website.

The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed) and Ministries of St. Francis Xavier, NYC FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
The Women Who Stayed (the-women-who-stayed)
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women’s Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)
Hand-Held Signs and Buttons!

You can bring your Catholic voice to Feminism & Faith in Union by using these easy-to-print hand-held signs... use the templates on the following pages

Print your sign(s) on regular copy paper. Fill in the blank sign with your own empowering words!

Then attach to sturdy paper and affix to a cardboard tube. Carry your sign with you as you march and attend Mass on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

And remember to order your Feminism & Faith in Union buttons! Visit our store at http://www.feminism-faith.org/.
FEMINISM AND FAITH IN UNION CREATE:
#CatholicToo
#Silence is not Spiritual