



SUGGESTIONS FOR ADVANCING WOMEN IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN YOUR LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITY

The Women Who Stayed ([the-women-who-stayed](http://the-women-who-stayed.org))
FutureChurch (FutureChurch.org)
Call to Action (cta-usa.org)
Women's Ordination Conference (Womensordination.org)

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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.