

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A MASTER OF WORKAROUNDS!

Barbara Belle – June 2021

The recent feast of Pentecost was a reminder that the Holy Spirit is the master of surprises, not blocked by our fears or locked doors. Change can and does happen in the Church, even when it sometimes seems impossible. Trying to be attentive to the Spirit, the Women and Justice Issue Team has created a Resource and Discussion Guide, “[*Seeking Justice and Inclusion for Women in the Church*](#),” for use by Marianist communities (lay or religious) and parish groups.



Barbara Belle

We invite you to join us in a prayerful dialogue to explore a deeper understanding of this issue in the context of Catholic Social Teaching and the Marianist charism. **The event will be held on July 22 - the feast of Mary of Magdalene - at 7:30 pm EDT.** Please consider joining this discussion (and invite members of your community) if you would like to explore how both men and women might respond to this issue.

This event is inspired by the [Discerning Deacons](#) organization. They are collaborating with others across the country to organize house meetings and parish dialogues throughout the summer about how the Church carries out the mission of witnessing Christ’s love and mercy in the world – by recognizing and drawing from the gifts of EVERY baptized member.

“When we are rooted in the Spirit, we are hopeful. We want to lift up a prophetic vision of diaconal ministry. We want to explore what difference it would make if women were ordained as deacons. How would it enhance the Church’s capacity to meet pastoral needs, to evangelize and to speak to young people who yearn to see a more inclusive and prophetic church?”¹

They have created a website (<https://discerningdeacons.org>) that details how you and your parish might get involved. Their vision: “The efforts of this group will gather people’s real hopes, stories, prayers, and concerns and collate them in a report that we present to Pope Francis and members of the Papal Commission before they meet this fall.”

We invite all Catholics to sign this [public affirmation](#): “We embrace the prophetic call and ministry of deacons. We witness the historical and contemporary diaconal ministry of Catholic women. We hope in the Spirit to lead this discernment, renew the Church, and heal our world.”

Please join our dialogue on July 22, 7:30 pm Eastern Time via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87120516404?pwd=NWxXcm55WVFzNi9TL29paEtoMTdtQT09>

-OR: Meeting ID: 871 2051 6404, Passcode: MSJC

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87120516404# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,87120516404# US (New York)

¹ This quote is taken from the Discerning Deacons Toolkit: A Guide for Hosts, available at <https://discerningdeacons.org/learn/>.