

## **Why women cannot be priest or deacons?**

**Answer:** The Catholic Church teaches that only men can be priests or deacons, and this teaching is rooted in the Church's understanding of tradition, Scripture, and the role of the clergy.

The Catholic Church believes that Jesus Christ, during His time on earth, chose only men as His Apostles. The Church sees this as a model for the priesthood.

One of the key roles of the priest is to represent Jesus Christ, particularly during the celebration of the Eucharist. The Church teaches that since Jesus was a man, the priest, acting "in the person of Christ," should also be a man.

The Catholic Church believes that this practice, where only men are ordained, has been part of the Church's tradition since the time of the Apostles. The Church holds that it is not a matter of culture but of divine will, meaning this teaching comes from God's plan and the example set by Jesus.

***CCC 1577:*** "Only a baptized man validly receives sacred ordination.

***CCC 1548:*** "In the celebration of the Eucharist, the priest represents Christ, who is the head of the Church."