

Sisters of Charity of New York

Office of Peace, Justice, and Integrity of Creation March 2021 Update

Celebrating Women's History Month

The Prophetic Role of Women in the Church &



Catholic Women Preach is an innovative project designed to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the Church today by responding to Pope Francis' call for broader and more active engagement of the baptized in the preaching mission of the Church. This project is a deeply faithful, hopeful and joyful initiative intended to build up the Church.

Following the liturgical year, Catholic women will reflect on how the texts relate to all Catholics today with a special emphasis on the lives of women, their apostolic call, and their roles in the Church and the world.

Their preaching will highlight women traditionally omitted or misrepresented in our lectionary and open the Scripture texts to deepen our understanding of God's saving presence in the world. Those who view these preaching videos will have the opportunity to see the deep spirituality of Catholic women who preach.

[Click here to visit Catholic Women Preach and subscribe to receive weekly emails.](#)



This year's Commission on the Status of Women will focus on ways to ensure full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

[Click here to register for one of the many live-streamed events celebrating and advocating for women.](#)



CSW65
Commission on the Status of Women

WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE · EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING
15-26 MARCH 2021 | END VIOLENCE · ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY | #CSW65

A Long Way to Go: Taking Action to End Forced Marriage Around the World

Forced marriage is when one or both participants are married without consent or are too young to legally give consent. Forced marriages occur due to emotional and financial threats, pressure, or coercion.

Child marriage occurs globally, most often in developing nations. UNICEF estimates that 11% of women worldwide were married before the age of 15. In the United States, child marriage is legal in 46 states. More than 200,000 children as young as 12 were married between 2000 and 2015.

This information is from the US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Stop Trafficking Newsletter. [Click here to read the newsletter, which has many ideas for action steps to end forced marriage.](#)

A Prayer for Women Through the Ages

BY REV. JUDE GEIGER

Spirit of renewal, God of many names, and one transforming and abundant love, we turn this month, in our nation's life, to reflect on the stories, the heritage and the struggles of the women throughout the ages.

We seek to learn from all those voices that have been left unheard. May we pause before the silences of the ages, find who has been left out, and craft new ways of inclusion for every week, and every month.

May this spiritual practice, bring out the voices of all those struggling, all those left apart.

May we let go of our assumptions and cold comforts, of what is the normal to live by, unless it be a standard that is rooted in compassion, in inclusivity, in diversity.

May this month of reflection teach us to search for those stories that are different from our own. Mother of possibility, in the finding, may we come to know ourselves changed. Renewed where we are dry, Hopeful where we are lost, and open where we are shut.

