

## DAY 15: December 9<sup>th</sup>

### Does Patriarchy in the Church Play a Role in Abuse?

"**Patriarchy** is a system of society, in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it." (The Dominant Ideology of Patriarchy)

#### Survivors of Abuse share their experience...

"I hear similar themes repeated by victims, of church cultures that treated women's bodies as inherently problematic and seductive...that questioned women's ability to think rationally or make decisions without the leadership of men. ... blamed victims of sexual abuse for inviting the abuse... That effectively silenced victims by telling them that reporting the crime would reflect poorly on the church...These women describe an environment of fear...which made it hard to report, or even to acknowledge, the abuse..."

(Adapted from – Rachel Held Evans' Blog -

<https://rachelheldevans.com/blog/patriarchy-abuse>)

"*God weeps for the sexual abuse of children,*" Pope Francis said, after meeting with hundreds of bishops and seminarians, as well as privately with victims of clergy sexual abuse. (USA. 2015)



<http://mary-magdalene-church-s-molton.weebly.com>

#### Global Realities

1. Feminism promotes women participating in decision-making which affects their lives...to enjoy full and equal civil rights, in and out of the Church.

(Adapted from Joan Chittister, *osb*, Oct. 2013)

2. "The Church, in fidelity to the Gospel, must be open to the full and equal participation of women in all its ministries"

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

3. *Manifesto of Women for the Church* which calls for women's roles that "are coherent with our competences and capacities", is circulating on social media. (February 2018)

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/donne-per-la-chiesa/manifesto-delle-donne-per-la-chiesa/2034720426814026/>

#### Pope Francis

"In communities still weighed down with patriarchal and chauvinistic customs, it is good to note that the Gospel begins by highlighting women who were influential and made history". Pope Francis Sep. 9th 2017, Colombia.



<https://pixabay.com/en/photos/church/?&pagi=7>

"History is burdened by the excesses of patriarchal cultures that considered women inferior... We must "see in the women's movement the working of the Spirit for a clearer recognition of the dignity and rights of women." (Pope Francis, 'Amoris Laetitia' 54)

**CEDAW** (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

**Article 1:** Discrimination against women includes any exclusion or restriction on the basis of sex...in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

**Article 5:** States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate stereotyping, prejudices and discrimination.

#### UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**SDG #10: Target 10.2:** Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex... religion, economic or other status

#### ACTION to promote respect and equality



Read more on the subject **Engage** with your church community; be available for election to the Parish Council **Support** women and girls taking an active role in all church services.

#### Watch: What is Patriarchy?

(Emily Owens, Brown University, 2020)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0LXAC2PXuU>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN), a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

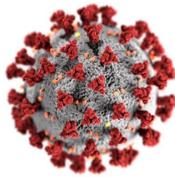
(Updated November, 2020)

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



[www.google.ie/search?rlz=1C1EODB\\_enIE584IE584&biw=1920&bih=974&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=pixiebay](http://www.google.ie/search?rlz=1C1EODB_enIE584IE584&biw=1920&bih=974&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=pixiebay)



### BEFORE

#### THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

**243 million** women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the past year.

#### SINCE THE PANDEMIC

violence against women, especially domestic violence, has intensified.

#### EXACERBATING FACTORS INCLUDE

security, health and money worries,  
cramped living conditions,  
isolation with abusers,  
deserted public spaces,  
limited access to support services.

In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from violence against women response to immediate COVID-19 relief.

*(unwomen.org)*

### On a visit to Peru in 2018, Pope Francis condemned violence against women:

"Violence against women cannot be treated as 'normal' maintaining a culture of machismo blind to the leading role that women play in our communities. It is not right for us to look the other way and let the dignity of so many women, especially young women, be trampled upon."

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/pope-francis-femicide-latin-america-domestic-violence-ni-una-menos-tour-peru-chile-a8170501.html>



*of Activism  
Against  
Gender  
Violence...*

**DAY 15...**

*9<sup>th</sup>*

*December*

**PATRIARCHY IN  
THE CHURCH**



2020 UNiTE Campaign Theme:

*"Orange the World: Fund,  
Respond, Prevent, Collect!"*