



UP TO THE SOURCE

Adoratio with St. John Paul II

FOR WOMEN

Gratitude for Being a Woman

From “Letter of Pope John Paul II to Women”

June 29, 1995

I greet you all most cordially, women throughout the world!

1. I am writing this letter to each one of you as a sign of solidarity and gratitude...

The Church “desires to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the ‘mystery of woman’ and for every woman—for all that constitutes the eternal measure of her feminine dignity, for the ‘great works of God’, which throughout human history have been accomplished in and through her” (No. 31).

2. This word of thanks to the Lord for his mysterious plan regarding the vocation and mission of women in the world is at the same time a concrete and direct word of thanks to women, to every woman, for all that they represent in the life of humanity.

Thank you, women who are mothers! You have sheltered human beings within yourselves in a unique experience of joy and travail. This experience makes you become God’s own smile upon the newborn child, the one who guides your child’s first steps, who helps it to grow, and who is the anchor as the child makes its way along the journey of life.

Thank you, women who are wives! You irrevocably join your future to that of your husbands, in a relationship of mutual giving, at the service of love and life.

Thank you, women who are daughters and women who are sisters! Into the heart of the family, and then of all society, you bring the richness of your sensitivity, your intuitiveness, your generosity and fidelity.

Thank you, women who work! You are present and active in every area of life—social, economic, cultural, artistic and political. In this way you make an indispensable contribution to the growth of a culture which unites reason and feeling, to a model of life ever open to the sense of “mystery”, to the establishment of economic and political structures ever more worthy of humanity.

Thank you, consecrated women! Following the example of the greatest of women, the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, you open yourselves with obedience and fidelity to the gift of God’s love. You help the Church and all mankind to experience a “spousal” relationship to God, one which magnificently expresses the fellowship which God wishes to establish with his creatures.

Thank you, every woman, for the simple fact of being a woman! Through the insight which is so much a part of your womanhood you enrich the world’s understanding and help to make human relations more honest and authentic.

3. I know of course that simply saying thank you is not enough...

6. My word of thanks to women thus becomes a heartfelt appeal that everyone should make every effort to ensure that women regain full respect for their dignity and role...

More than anything else, the word of God enables us to grasp clearly the ultimate anthropological basis of the dignity of women, making it evident as a part of God’s plan for humanity.

Litany of Women Saints

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| Saint Mary, Mother of God | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Anna, Prophetess | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Mary Magdalene, Disciple | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Agnes, Virgin | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Helena, Mother | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Monica, Mother | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Olga of Kiev, Regente | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Bridget of Sweden, Widow | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Joan of Arc, Heroine | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Elizabeth of Portugal, Empress | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Teresa of Jesus, Doctors of the Church | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Marianne Cope and Saint Catherine Drexel, Religious | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Catherine Tekakwitha, Lay Woman | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Religious | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Theodore Guerin and Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Religious | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, Wife | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Luigi and Saint Maria Beltrame Quattrochi, Spouses | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Religious | <i>Pray for us</i> |

A Woman's Prayer

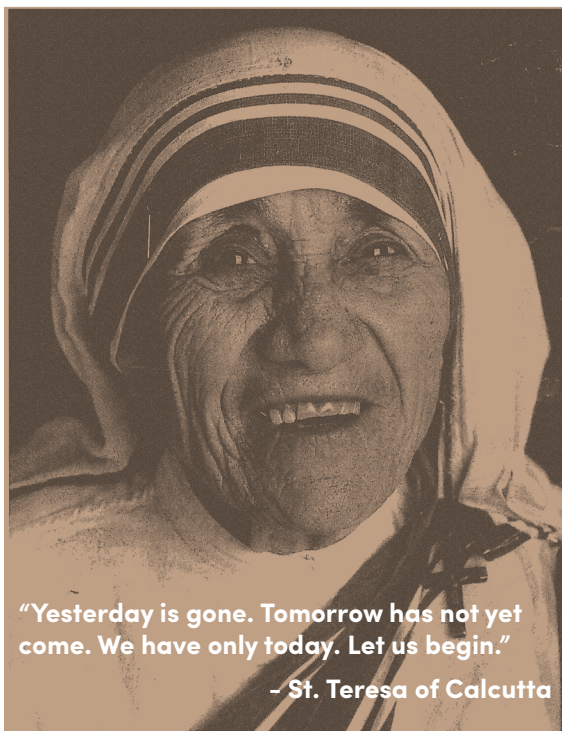
Thank you Lord for having created us as women.

We are well aware that in our culture it is unclear what the gift of being a woman means. That is why we approach your Son, Jesus Christ, confident that He will enlighten and confirm us with regard to the mystery and depth of our being.

We were created in complementarity with man, as a sign of mutual help. It is in receiving ourselves as a gift and giving ourselves as a gift that we fulfill our vocation, welcoming at the same time the gift of man, and the gift of human being. Through Motherhood we are filled with wonder at the uniqueness of each person.

Lord, you have made us capable of seeing people and the world around us from the heart, uniting reason and feeling. Our vision shares in Yours, for we see others in their greatness and limitations, placing ourselves at their service.

May the Virgin Mother, model of every woman, help us so that our feminine genius may creatively enrich the life of our families and society. Amen.



"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta