



UP TO THE SOURCE

Adoratio with St. John Paul II

FOR WOMEN

If You Knew the Gift of God

**From “On the Dignity of Women” (*Mulieris dignitatem*),
St. John Paul II, 1988.**

31. “If you knew the gift of God” (Jn. 4:10), Jesus says to the Samaritan woman during one of those remarkable conversations which show his great esteem for the dignity of women and for the vocation which enables them to share in his messianic mission.

The present reflections, now at an end, have sought to recognize, within the “gift of God,” what he, as Creator and Redeemer, entrusts to women, to every woman. In the Spirit of Christ, in fact, women can discover the entire meaning of their femininity and thus be disposed to making a “sincere gift of self” to others, thereby finding themselves.

The Church desires to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the “mystery of woman” and for every woman - for that which 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. After all, was it not in and through her that the greatest event in human history - the incarnation of God himself - was accomplished?

Therefore the Church gives thanks for each and every woman: for mothers, for sisters, for wives; for women consecrated to God in virginity; for women dedicated to the many human beings

who await the gratuitous love of another person; for women who watch over the human persons in the family, which is the fundamental sign of the human community; for women who work professionally, and who at times are burdened by a great social responsibility; for “perfect” women and for “weak” women - for all women as they have come forth from the heart of God in all the beauty and richness of their femininity; as they have been embraced by his eternal love; as, together with men, they are pilgrims on this earth, which is the temporal “homeland” of all people and is transformed sometimes into a “valley of tears;” as they assume, together with men, a *common responsibility for the destiny of humanity* according to daily necessities and according to that definitive destiny which the human family has in God himself, in the bosom of the ineffable Trinity.

The Church gives thanks *for all the manifestations of the feminine “genius”* which have appeared in the course of history, in the midst

of all peoples and nations; she gives thanks for all the charisms which the Holy Spirit distributes to women in the history of the People of God, for all the victories which she owes to their faith, hope and charity: she gives thanks for all the *fruits of feminine holiness*.

The Church asks at the same time that these invaluable “manifestations of the Spirit” (cf.



1 Cor. 12:4ff.), which with great generosity are poured forth upon the “daughters” of the eternal Jerusalem, may be attentively recognized and appreciated so that they may return for the common good

of the Church and of humanity, especially in our times. Meditating on the biblical mystery of the “woman,” the Church prays that in this mystery all women may discover themselves and their “supreme vocation.”

May *Mary*, who “is a model of the Church in the matter of faith, charity, and perfect union with Christ”, obtain for all of us *this same “grace”*, in the Year which we have dedicated to her as we approach the third millennium from the coming of Christ.

Litany of Women Saints

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>
Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Philosopher, Carmelite, Patron of Europe	<i>Pray for us</i>
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Patron of Missions and Doctor of the Church	<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.

Marian Mass

Join us every Saturday at 8:15 am for **Marian Mass**. We are journeying with the encyclical of St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris mater*.



Visit our St. John Paul II web page at stmarylitleton.org/stjohnpaul2.