



Voice of the Faithful 2020 Conference: *Visions of a Just Church*

Online Zoom Conference, October 3, 2020

Phyllis Zagano, Ph.D.

Phyllis Zagano, Ph.D., is a theologian and internationally acclaimed Catholic scholar. She has lectured throughout the United States and in Canada, Europe, and Australia on contemporary spirituality and women's issues in the Church. On Aug. 2, 2016, Pope Francis appointed her to the Papal Commission for the Study of Women in the Diaconate, which convened in Rome, November 2016.



Dr. Zagano has published hundreds of articles and reviews in the popular press and peer-reviewed journals and is the author or editor of twenty books in religious studies, including groundbreaking work on women in the diaconate. Her award-winning books, which are widely translated, include *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church*, 2001 Catholic Press Association and 2002 College Theology Society Book Awards; *On Prayer: A Letter for my Godchild (Spanish version)*, 2004 Catholic Press Association Book Award; *Women & Catholicism: Gender, Communion, and Authority*, 2012 Catholic Press Association Book Award; and *Women Deacons? Essays with Answers*, 2017 Catholic Press Association Book Award.

Her other books include *Women in Catholicism*, *Ordination of Women to the Diaconate in the Eastern Churches*, *Women in Ministry: Emerging Questions on the Diaconate*, and *Women Deacons: Past, Present, Future*. She also edited Liturgical Press' *Spirituality in History* series.

In addition to her academic writing, she has written on women deacons in many publications, such as, *US Catholic*, *Commonweal*, *America*, and *St. Anthony Messenger*. Her regular column, *Just Catholic*, appears in the *National Catholic Reporter* and in other publications in this country and around the world.

She is the recipient of the Voice of the Faithful Distinguished Layperson award, which recognizes exemplary lay leaders who enthusiastically use their gifts in the Church's service. Her nomination said her "Her rare and dedicated combination of deep personal faith, bold courage and unwavering persistence is forcing the conversation on behalf of all women in the world."

She also has received the Isaac Hecker Award for Social Justice from The Paulist Center Community in Boston for "her prolific body of work that has constantly echoed the cry of the poorest in our society for dignity and for justice, both inside and outside the Church ... specifically the dignity of all women."

Dr. Zagano has taught at Fordham and Yale universities and is currently senior research associate-in-residence and adjunct professor of religion at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.