

# Catholics disagree on religious tradition

**Call to Action meets support marriage for priests while a conservative group has its own meaning.**

DETROIT (AP)— Women would be ordained in the Roman Catholic Church if there wasn't so much confusion between doctrine and tradition, the leader of a dissident Catholic group said Saturday.

Linda Pieczynski, president of Call to Action, said a group of conservative Roman Catholics meeting 15 miles away in a Detroit suburb are misguided in their opposition to several key dissident issues.

Call to Action met here through Sunday showing support for married priests, women in the priesthood and popularly elected bishops. Last May, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz in Lincoln excommunicated members of the group and several other organizations.

Pieczynski said Bruskewitz's excommunication order was good for membership, attracting 5,000 new members to the group.

Although excommunication could affect other Call to Action members, Pieczynski said dissidents won't willingly leave the church.

"We're not going anywhere, but we're not buying it either," she said. "If you leave, you can't change it."

She said the group was trying to be true to the origins of Christianity.

"We're not talking about changing church doctrine," Pieczynski said, adding that allowing only men to be ordained as priests is a tradition that needs changing.

But in Sterling Heights, a conservative group held its own three-day weekend conference called "Call to Holiness," which was expected to draw 2,000 Catholics. The counter-conference was staged to defend traditional Catholic church teachings, spokesman Jay McNally said.

McNally argued it was the dissident group that was wayward, "especially on the moral issues."

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**JAY McNALLY**  
"Call to Holiness" spokesman

He said the dissident group's stances on homosexuality, abortion and birth control run against centuries of Catholic teachings.

"The church does change and does adapt. But the Pope cannot change the teaching that women cannot be ordained," McNally said.

About 5,000 people attended the Call to Action conference. Speakers included theologian Hans Kung and dissident French Bishop Jacques Gaillot.

Call to Action grew out of a national conference held by the church in Detroit in 1976 as a national advisory session on social justice. It points to national polls that show a majority of Catholics believe women should be allowed to be priests and priests should be allowed to marry.

Call to Action, with 18,000 members, hopes to change traditional thinking, which Pieczynski said makes no sense.

"Women in the Catholic tradition have even been called misbegotten males," she said. "That's been harmful to women. The Catholic church is extremely influential and if it makes a statement to uphold women's ordination it will say women are important."

Pope John Paul II has said the aspects of women in the priesthood and married priests are closed issues.

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