

**Catholic Women's Ordination (CWO)**  
**Statement on Vatican Announcement of presence of women at Synod**

We welcome this first step, and the persistence of campaigning groups like CWO has helped to bring about this positive, initial move. It will make a significant difference to the Sisters in the Dicasteries with specific responsibilities. However, it is not enough for the lay women around the world who want a genuinely synodal church.

The women will be chosen by Francis on the basis of their knowledge and “general culture and prudence”, the Vatican said. They will be chosen by a male, priestly hierarchy that have vowed before their own ordinations to uphold male only, priestly ordination.

Cardinal Mario Grech, who is running the synod, emphasised that only 21% of the delegates would be non-bishops, stating: “It's an important change, it's not a revolution.”

We hope Francis will continue to promote able women and men from diverse backgrounds, but we need him to recognise the need for a truly synodal church, and the synodal demand for women priests is high on the list. We want to see this “crack in the stained-glass ceiling” brightly illuminated by the knowledge, wisdom and experience within our own and our sister organisations.

**Prayers from our Vocation Sunday liturgy at Westminster Cathedral**

*Women are standing on the “prophetic edge” of the church, denied the opportunity to stand in roles of meaningful leadership or ordained ministry. They have worn out their shoes walking the walk of service and ministry to a church that refuses to recognize their contributions and their callings.*

*We pray for those who have gone the extra mile for the church, only to find the door to meaningful leadership and decision-making closed.*

*Catholic women are called by God: called to renewed priesthood; called to equality; called to full participation in the leadership of the church.*