

Chronology of Women for Faith and Family's activities on the women's pastoral 1984-1990

September 8, 1984 - Women for Faith & Family organizes to circulate AFFIRMATION FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN in response to bishops' request to hear from women in connection with their proposed pastoral on women.

October 1984 - New York Times advertisement challenging Catholic teachings appears, signed by many women religious.

January 1985 - WFF's Ann O'Donnell and Helen Hull Hitchcock appear on the Phil Donahue Show to respond to dissident nuns.

February 28, 1985 - WFF sends letter to bishops on pastoral committee noting that 4,544 women have signed AFFIRMATION.

June 1985 - WFF presents 10,000 names of Affirmation signers to Holy Father in Rome.

August 1985 - WFF presents list of 17,000 Affirmation signers to bishops and, at the committee's request, gives testimony at hearings in Chicago based on letters from women and reports on "listening sessions."

September 1987 - Papal visit to U.S. WFF attends meeting of Pope with laity in San Francisco.

October 10, 1987 - WFF presents list of about 40,000 names of Affirmation signers (U. S. & abroad) to Holy See at press conference in Rome during Synod on the Laity, along with testimony based on thousands of women's letters, prepared for bishop delegates to Synod.

January 10, 1988 - WFF sends letter to members of pastoral committee requesting delay in issuing pastoral until after Pope's expected post-synodal exhortation on the laity appears.

March 1988 - Bishops' administrative board approves first draft of pastoral.

April 1, 1988 - First draft of pastoral, called "Partners in the Mystery of Redemption" issued. WFF writes analysis for several publications.

June 5, 1988 - WFF issues joint statement on draft with women's religious groups, *Consortium Perfectae Caritatis*, and Institute on Religious Life Forum of Major Superiors. Statement sent to Vatican officials and all U. S. bishops before June meeting of NCCB.

June 10, 1988 - WFF sends copies of published articles and other information about the draft pastoral to bishops.

Summer, Fall 1988 - new round of "listening sessions" conducted. Revised pastoral scheduled for completion, December 1989. "Task forces" of women formed in some dioceses to conduct "sessions" and gather information. WFF receives more letters and AFFIRMATION signers.

December, 1988 - Holy See releases Pope John Paul II's *Mulieris Dignitatem*, dated August 15. *Christifidelis Laici* follows.

May 1989 - WFF issues joint statement on "Feminism, Language and Liturgy" with *Consortium* and Institute on Religious Life.

March 1990 - NCCB Administrative Board schedules vote on pastoral draft for November meeting.

April 3, 1990 - Bishops' committee releases second draft, "One in Christ Jesus."

May 1990 - Bishops' committee invites WFF, along with other groups, to offer recommendations for revised draft September 1.

June 1, 1990 - WFF issues statement on draft pastoral to all bishops, calls on bishops to find an acceptable alternative to approving pastoral.

June 1990 - NCCB-USCC (Bishop Matthew Clark, Dolores Leckey) schedule national meeting of women on implementation of the pastoral's recommendations for November 30-December 2, following NCCB's November meeting.

September 1, 1990 - WFF issues commentary, analysis, recommendations on pastoral draft.

