

It was the late 1990s when the Holy Spirit started blowing the winds of unrest through my very Roman Catholic soul. Suddenly, what I had simply tolerated (the failure to ordain women) became a relentless, unavoidable irritation. In 1999, in what was then a desperate move to save my Roman Catholicism, I joined the Women's Ordination Conference. That was when the Holy Spirit really took flight. It was through WOC that I met brave Roman Catholic women who had not only discerned a call to priesthood, they somehow—miraculously—had managed to fulfill that calling (but never doubt the power of the Holy Spirit). By 2001 the original "It can't be me" response that had become the "Please go elsewhere" plea had finally evolved into the realization that "I can run but I can't hide." I finally confronted what the Holy Spirit had been telling me for years: I was called to ministry myself.

In May 2007 I was ordained a deacon by the community that would, two months later, become the Community of Saint Mary Magdalene. I am grateful, honored, and humbled to be chosen as a servant to God's beloved people and to Christ himself. It is indeed a wonderful life.

Maria Marlowe
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