

A Letter from A Searching WATAC Woman

I wanted to thank you for the great newsletters you and Margaret have been compiling. I've really enjoyed them and look forward to receiving future editions. The material in them has really made me stop and think about my faith and how I should interpret it for my daughters. My husband is not affiliated with any religion and my daughters' religious upbringing will fall primarily to me. My eldest (now 5) presumed from an early age that God is a woman and frequently corrects me when I use 'he' or 'him' when speaking about God; she now tells me God is not a man or a woman but she continues to refer to God as 'she'. I find it very hard to break the habits I was raised with though I have slowly adjusted the image that comes to mind when I think of God.

I have to admit that I have never been particularly offended by the use of non-inclusive language within the Mass, but I was highly offended when critiquing a fellow Masters student's assessment when they referred to all Teacher Librarians as 'he'. Why does this double standard exist within my own subconscious? This is but one of the questions my short association with WATAC has brought me to ask myself. I don't have the answers but I wondered if I could share some of my questions with the membership (by way of publishing this letter in the newsletter) so that I can use some of the wisdom I know many of you have been pondering these very same questions for much longer than I have been.



How do I foster in my daughters a love of the Catholic Faith and a strong sense that they can be powerful women, capable of achieving anything, at the same time?

- Why should I become passionate about promoting the ordination of non-traditional priests for our parishes when I can't motivate myself to attend mass?
- I want to start speaking about these issues with my friends but we haven't ever really talked about religion – how do I start these conversations I so want to have?

Thank you for sharing your knowledge with me.

If I can share in turn, I recently read a novel by Kathleen McGowan called 'The Expected One'. It's a great read to make you feel that as women we are highly valued by Jesus.

Jennifer Frisardi.