

The pope urges "a more incisive female presence in the Church"

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Pope Francis admits that "women tend to be left aside" in Church decision-making, says this must be rectified



Pope Francis in front of a group of women present at a general audience in the Vatican in November 2018. (Photo by MIGLIORATO/ CPP/CIRIC)

Women must have a greater place in the decision-making bodies of the Catholic Church.

That's Pope Francis' **special prayer intention** for the month of October.

"Today, it is especially necessary to create broader opportunities for a more incisive female presence in the Church," he says in the latest monthly video recorded for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

In the short clip, which was uploaded on social media on Oct. 8, Francis also stresses the need to "promote the integration of women, especially where important decisions are made" in the Church.

"Women tend to be left aside"

The 83-year-old pope has made this observation before. In a speech in 2015 to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for Culture, he pointed to the need for an "incisive" presence of women in the Church.



In the new one-and-a-half minute video, which is aimed at amplifying the pope's traditional monthly prayer intention, Francis insists in particular on the role of the laity.

"Lay people are protagonists of the Church. We must emphasize the feminine lay presence because women tend to be left aside," he says in his native Spanish.

"We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church, without falling into forms of clericalism that diminish the lay charism," the pope adds.

Francis has named a growing number of women to key positions in the Roman Curia since he became pope in 2013.

One of the more notable appointments came this past January when he chose Francesca Di Giovanni to be Under-Secretary in the Vatican Secretariat of State's Section for Relations with States or "foreign ministry".

And just last August he appointed six lay women as experts on the Vatican's strategic Council for the Economy.

source: <https://international.la-croix.com/>