



WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Patricia Fresen

"Long Walk to Freedom": Ordination for Catholic Women

**Tuesday, March 30 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum
21 W. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara**

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- Patricia Fresen, leading advocate for women's ordination in the Roman Catholic Church
- Tuesday, February 9 / 8:00 p.m.
- Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 21 W. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara
- FREE
- Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317

Description:

Using the title of Nelson Mandela's autobiography as her theme, Patricia Fresen considers developments, issues and challenges within the Catholic Church today which may be opening the way for the "long walk to freedom" of people within the Church, with a particular focus on priesthood for women.

Speaker Profile:

Born in South Africa, Patricia Fresen joined the Dominican Order and completed a B.A. in Education. At the age of 40, Fresen studied theology in Rome for seven years, earning a Licentiate in Theology, *summa cum laude*. In 1996, Fresen earned a doctorate in theology through the University of South Africa and took a post at the newly-opened Catholic University of South Africa in Johannesburg. In 2003, Fresen was secretly ordained a deacon, then a priest, by two Catholic bishops. After her ordination, Fresen was forced to leave the Dominican Order after 45 years. In 2005, Fresen was ordained a bishop so as to continue women's ordination within the Catholic church and has since prepared and ordained many women in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Organization Description

Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP) is an international initiative within the Roman Catholic Church. The mission of Roman Catholic Womenpriests North America is to spiritually prepare, ordain, and support women and men from all states of life, who are theologically qualified, who are committed to an inclusive model of Church, and who are called by the Holy Spirit and their communities to minister within the Roman Catholic Church.

The Roman Catholic Womenpriests movement is an initiative within the Church that began with the ordination of seven women on the Danube River in 2002. Reclaiming their ancient spiritual heritage, womenpriests are shaping a more inclusive, Christ-centered Church of equals in the twenty-first century. Women bishops ordained in full apostolic succession continue to carry on the work of ordaining others in the Roman Catholic Church. They advocate a new model of priestly ministry united with the people with whom we serve. They are rooted in a response to Jesus who called women and men to be disciples and equals living the Gospel.

Sponsors:

This free, public event is presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB.

**For more information, call
UCSB Walter H. Capps Center for the
Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life
at (805) 893-2317**

**Editor: For color images,
please call Leonard Wallock at (805) 893-2317.**