



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sexism in Roman Catholic Church Decried by Noted Priest & Nobel Peace Prize Nominee**

*Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Maryknoll Priest, To Appear in Bay Area on Behalf of Women's Ordination Jan 22-25*

SAN FRANCISCO – “Sexism is a sin,” said Fr. Roy Bourgeois in an August 2008 homily at the ordination of Janice Sevre-Duszynska in Lexington, KY. “No matter how hard we may try to justify discrimination, in the end, it is always wrong and immoral.”

Bourgeois, a Roman Catholic priest, is facing excommunication for his public support of women's ordination and the Roman Catholic Womenpriests movement. The religious leader and human rights activist will speak in support of women's ordination at several forums in the San Francisco Bay Area January 22-25, 2010.

"The hierarchy will say, 'It is the tradition of the church not to ordain women,'" Bourgeois continued. "I grew up in a small town in Louisiana and often heard, 'It is the tradition of

the South to have segregated schools.' It was also 'the tradition' in our Catholic church to have the Black members seated in the last five pews of the church. Our Church leaders at the Vatican tell us that women cannot be ordained. With all due respect, I believe our Catholic Church's teaching on this issue is wrong and does not stand up to scrutiny."

In addition to his religious work, Bourgeois is the founder of the School of the Americas (SOA) Watch, and is internationally known for his work to end U.S. government-funded training of Latin American soldiers in torture techniques. Fr. Roy and SOA Watch were recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee.

Speaking on the same program will be Victoria Rue, Ph.D. a Roman Catholic woman priest ordained in 2005 who now leads the Sophia in Trinity Catholic community in San Francisco. Dr. Rue also teaches at San Jose State University. "Contrary to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church," Rue said, "research shows that women were deacons, priests and bishops in the early church. The Roman Catholic Womenpriests movement sees itself as continuing in the tradition of the early church."

In 1994 Pope John Paul II issued an apostolic letter *Ordination Sacerdotalis* which states that Catholics may not even speak about women's ordination. Fr. Roy is breaking this glass ceiling on his national tour.

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 7:00 PM

**WHERE:** First Congregational Church of San Francisco, 1300 Polk Street at Bush, San Francisco.

**ADMISSION:** Free

**Additional talks by Fr. Bourgeois in the Bay Area are scheduled for:**

Santa Rosa - Friday Jan. 22, 7:00 pm

[BethOnIvy@aol.com](mailto:BethOnIvy@aol.com)

Palo Alto - Saturday, Jan. 23, 3:00 pm

[kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net)

Orinda - Sunday, Jan. 24, 3:00 pm

[enewsong@gmail.com](mailto:enewsong@gmail.com)

Sacramento - Monday, Jan. 25, 7:00 pm

[graycall@volcano.net](mailto:graycall@volcano.net)

**Photos:**



1. Father Roy Bourgeois. Photo by Linda Panetta. High resolution image available from media contacts.



2. Victoria Rue officiating as a Roman Catholic woman priest. Photo by Kathryn Poethig. High resolution image available from media contacts.

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Sophia in Trinity is a Catholic community which began in San Francisco, CA, in January 2009. <http://www.sophiaintrinity.org>

The Roman Catholic Womenpriests movement is an international initiative within the Roman Catholic Church 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.

<http://www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org>

School of the Americas Watch is an international, grassroots movement that seeks to close the US Army School of the Americas, also known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, through vigils and fasts, demonstrations and nonviolent protest, as well as media and legislative work in the U.S. Congress.

<http://www.soaw.org>

Victoria Rue, Ph.D. is a Roman Catholic woman priest ordained in 2005 who leads a Catholic community in San Francisco, CA. <http://www.victoriarue.com>

Graphic at top: An unfolding, Corita serigraph, 1971.

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<http://www.corita.org>