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Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu

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The Forbidden Vocation: Exploring the Rise of the Roman Catholic Womenpriests

Requested amount of time spent per week: **15 hours for 15 weeks**

A note for the Honors team:

I hope that you will consider funding this requested amount due to the complexity and nature of this research which has involves extensive pre-production, production, and post-production. I realize that we are already several weeks into the semester, but I hope that given my unique situation, you would consider providing funds for 15 hours of work for all 15 weeks. I spend at least 20 to 30 hours a week working on this project, and on top of that time, I have an extensive list of expenses to cover.

Week 1

1 hr

Meeting with Dr. Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu to discuss the topic of women's ordination in the Catholic Church and where the Roman Catholic women priests fit into a church that rejects them.

1 hr

Meeting with Dr. William Shaules, a professor in the theology department at LMU who specializes in New Testament exegesis. He shared some of the biblical arguments in support and against women's ordination to the priesthood.

30 min

Email correspondences with Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu on the subject of women's ordination and my documentary approach.

1 hr 30 min

Phone call with the woman priest Jennifer O'Malley. She shared with me how the theological beliefs of Roman Catholic Women Priest (RCWP) differ from those of the Catholic Church.

1 hr

Zoom meeting with Juanita Cordero in which she shared her personal call to the priesthood and her ministry to those experiencing homelessness.

1 hr 30 min

Zoom meeting with Juanita Cordero in which she explains the necessity for women in ministry and the special gifts women can bring to the priesthood.

1 hr 30 min

Virtual mass with Juanita Cordero's worship community. This was the first mass I attended from RCWP, so I learned how they worship as well as some of their beliefs.

1 hr 30 min

I took notes on a documentary Diane Whalen was in, entitled God's Daughters, and noted what her ministry was like pre-COVID, when she was able to hold mass in a physical church (not online). I was able to identify a research gap.

1 hr 30 min

I took notes on a documentary on the Roman Catholic Womenpriests, entitled Pink Smoke Over the Vatican. I learned more about the convictions, drives, and beliefs of the women of RCWP. I was able to identify a research gap.

4 hrs

Theological research into the history of the priesthood, the Church's stance on women's ordination, and current opportunities for women's leadership in the Church. I read published, peer-reviewed articles and a textbook entitled, Introduction to Catholicism.

TOTAL: 15 hours

Week 2

2 hrs

Zoom meeting with Juanita Cordero in which she further elaborated on answering her call to the priesthood and the biblical and spiritual reasons for doing so.

1 hr 30 min

Zoom meeting with Diane Whalen in which she described the work she does for her worship community, Holy Wisdom, and shared what she does outside of her work with Holy Wisdom.

1 hr

Zoom meeting with Diane Whalen in which she shared how her marriage and motherhood positively affect her ministry.

1 hr 30 min

Virtual mass with Juanita Cordero

30 min

Email correspondences with Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu on the subject of women's ordination and my documentary approach.

15 minutes

Email correspondences with Juanita.

15 minutes

Email correspondences with Diane.

2 hrs

I took notes on the documentary, Deliver us from Evil, to get a better sense of RCWP's desire for reform within the Church. I also looked to the documentary as an example of how I can approach getting genuine responses from my subject.

6 hrs

Further theological research under the direction of Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu including readings on egalitarian models of leadership, modern eucharistic communities, and the Roman Catholic priesthood today.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 3

1 hr 30 min

Zoom meeting with Diane Whalen in which she explained where she sees herself within the church and why she opposes clericalism.

30 min

I took notes on a Ted talk given by Diane Whalen in 2015 entitled, Stepping Forward into Priesthood. I learned more about her personal convictions, RCWP as an organization, and the movement's ability to influence global change.

30 min

Email correspondences with Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu.

30 min

Email correspondences with Diane.

3 hrs

I rewatched and took more notes on the documentary, God's Daughters, keeping in mind my conversations with Diane over Zoom. I resolved that this documentary does not capture her warm and inviting personality. She appeared tense and impersonal. I contemplated ways to make Diane feel more comfortable opening up to me, so that my documentary interviews with her are genuine and authentic.

2 hrs

Phone call with Victoria Zobrist who oversees LMU's Christian Life Community (CLC) and has a MA in Theological Studies with an emphasis in Historical-Systematic theology from Boston College. She shared with me her ongoing studies and research in the realm of women's ordination to the diaconate.

2 hrs

Drafted a list of interview questions to ask Diane on location, including several sub-questions to get her to elaborate more on specific subjects.

5 hrs

Further theological research under the direction of Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu. I read scholarly articles that feature the Roman Catholic Womenpriests organization and a book written by Juanita Cordero and another woman priest, Suzanne Thiel.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 4

2 hrs

I rewatched and took more notes on the documentary, Pink Smoke over the Vatican, which features interviews from many women priests.

1 hr 30 min

Zoom meeting with Diane in which she went through her planner to show me what she does in a typical week.

2 hrs

Zoom meeting with Diane in which she explained the differences between a regular and contemplative mass and shared how Holy Wisdom differs from the Catholic Church in respect to its understanding of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

2 hrs

I attended a virtual mass of which Diane was the presider. I went 30 minutes beforehand to chat with Diane and interact with the community members. I was able to gauge Diane's relationship with the faithful and identify the similarities and differences from a mass from the institutional Catholic Church. I also stayed 30 minutes after to speak more with Diane and the other woman priest in that community, Kathleen.

30 min

Email correspondences with Juanita. She gave me the contact information for several other women priests.

7 hrs

Further theological research from five peer-reviewed articles under the direction of Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu. I drew up questions relevant to future meetings and filming of Diane Whalen.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 5 (Current Week)

2 hrs

Zoom meeting with Diane. She shared how being a woman priest feels lonely at times and talked about the qualities necessary to be a spiritual director.

1 hr

I read and took notes on Holy Wisdom's February newsletter, which was written by Diane. The newsletter gave insight into her religious and political beliefs as well as the various other ministries (outside of celebrating mass) in which Diane is involved.

3 hrs

Rewatching and taking notes on a few of my past recorded zoom meetings with Diane to further develop my interview questions for the documentary.

30 min

Email correspondence with Diane.

30 min

Email correspondence with Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu

2 hrs

I will watch the documentary Pope Francis: A Man of His Word. I will look for a common thread between the reformative work of Pope Francis and that of the Roman Catholic Womenpriests. I will make note of the techniques used to portray his story and see if there are any I can emulate.

2 hrs

I will attend a virtual mass led by Diane. I will go 30 minutes beforehand and stay 30 minutes after to ask Diane questions about her homily and Holy Wisdom newsletter for the month of February. My crew, Matthew and Dylan, will also attend.

4 hrs

Further theological research from peer-reviewed articles under the direction of Dr. Gonzalez-Andrieu.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 6

2 hrs

I will attend Holy Wisdom's virtual Ash Wednesday mass to continue to build trust with Diane and identify further similarities and differences from the institutional Church.

2 hrs

I will attend my first contemplative mass from the Holy Wisdom community. I will continue to build my relationship with Diane. Before the mass, I will interact with the faithful and ask about their connection to Diane and Holy Wisdom. After the mass, I will speak with Diane about why she is doing the documentary. This question will further reveal her personal beliefs, convictions,

and drives as well as provide insight into the struggles that women face in seeking reform within a male-led Church.

4 hrs

Around four zoom meetings with Diane dispersed throughout the week to learn more about her priesthood. I will ask how her ministry has changed and evolved due to COVID and what she envisions her community will be like post-pandemic.

1 hr

Zoom meeting with the Holy Wisdom Community member, Adina Meyer, to learn more about her connection with Diane and to learn more about how Diane ministers to her community. She suggested during the last mass I attended that I also reach out to a woman named Donna. I will get Donna's contact information from Adina.

1 hr

Zoom meeting with the Holy Wisdom Community member, Donna, for the same purpose listed above.

30 min

Email correspondence with Diane.

30 min

Email correspondence with Adina.

2 hrs

Transcribing this week's zoom meetings and using qualitative analysis to find similarities between the responses of Adina and Donna.

2 hrs

Based on my meetings with Diane, Adina, and Donna, I will further develop my interview questions for the documentary.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 7

1 hr

I will plan casual, yet investigative questions to ask Diane during our first in-person meeting.

5 hrs

I will meet with Diane in person for the first time to better get to know her before filming her for the documentary. With her permission, I will record these conversations so they can possibly be used in the final documentary.

7 hrs

I will carefully listen to and transcribe her responses from our in-person meeting. Based on what she says, I will reword and modify my questions for the formal, sit-down interviews for the documentary.

2 hrs

I will take notes as I watch Diane preside over a virtual mass. I will be with her in person.

Note: There will be more research activities that go over the maximum of 15 hours for this week.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 8

15 hrs +

This is the week of filming. We will record Diane's formal interviews from March 4-7. Each day will be a minimum of 6 hours long which goes over the maximum of 15 hours for this week. In addition, earlier in the week, from March 1-3, I will meet with Diane for around three or four hours each day.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 9

15 hrs+

I will review, transcode, organize, import, and back up footage (will be about **24 to 48 hours of audio and video** to sort through)

1 hr

I will hold a debriefing meeting with Diane

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 10

15 hrs+

I will assemble a radio cut of the footage

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 11

15 hrs+

I will begin to incorporate b-roll and look for stock footage (if needed) to assemble a rough cut.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 12

15 hrs+

I will polish the rough cut.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 13

15 hrs+

I will work on a fine cut and send it to Dylan Rivers who will serve as my sound editor.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 14

15 hrs+

I will finish the fine cut and color correct the footage.

TOTAL: 15 Hours

Week 15

15 hrs+

I will finish post-production sound with Dylan.

TOTAL: 15 Hours