

Killaloe Session 2 Women in The Church – Riona Browne

Feedback notes from the groups

- The need for a theological understanding of the exclusion of women from ordination
- Are current changes only happening as a reaction to the shortage of priests or is there a desire to move forward as an act of faith?
- Great to notice and see that women are actually speaking out more often
- The leadership qualities of Irish women are frequently unseen because of the noisier qualities of male leadership of people are clearly to be seen in their organisational and management skills, in their insightfulness and perceptiveness
- Women are properly seen as demonstrating better caring skills to deal with the wounded in society – but the influence of women should not be limited to a silent influence
- The significant majority of people working in and for the church are women
- Change in the Church always comes from the top down – it is time that those in senior positions in the Church moved on the issues raised for improving the lot of women in Church – Mary McAleese’s allegation of endemic misogyny needs to be dealt with responsibly: the cure for misogyny is equality of treatment
- Without women there would be no Church. It is mostly women who are the volunteers in the Church. It is mainly mothers who pass on the faith
- Many women are happy in a supportive role. They are wired differently and bring a different perspective to the Church
- Sad the Synod has not progressed the position of women. Without equality there is trouble
- While the Church is male dominated, the majority of people involved in the Church are women. Also many of the Saints are women
- The Church isn’t a dictatorship so change can come from the bottom up
- Women are good at doing the jobs and they can multi-task. They can bring nurture to the Church
- Not just within the Church, but women are not equal in society