

WOMEN PROCLAIM THE WORD

The German diocese of Osnabrück has prepared a special Women Preaching event (13-17 September 2020). The diocese has prepared a series of videos to help prepare women to preach. September 13 to 20, 2020, is the week of action "*Women proclaim the word.*" This will take place as part of the international year of the Bible proclaimed by Pope Francis. In other Christian denominations, women preaching is part of everyday life in worship. In the Catholic Church, certain tasks are officially only assigned to certain people. This particularly applies to the ministry at Mass. According to canon law, *only consecrated persons, i.e. priests and deacons, are allowed to preach in worship, all others are not.* In view of the fact that every baptized and confirmed person is called to bear testimony I invite whoever is reading this reflection just to reflect on certain questions as food for thought:

- a) Is it alright to widen the framework so that women with their charisms can be seen and heard in the liturgy and preaching?
- b) 2020 is the international year of the Bible. What pastoral commission can there be for women in the church?
- c) How exactly can women be visible in worship?
- d) Is it enough for them just to give testimony in a family context or at work?
- e) How can baptized and confirmed people actively contribute their experience of life and faith in the divine service within the framework of the preaching.
- f) How can non consecrated people be involved to bring their talents to worship?

Pope Francis recently recalled that the word of God can only be proclaimed by consecrated people.

- g) Can a priest continue to hold the primary responsibility for the celebration of the Mass if he allows a non-consecrated man or woman to preach in his worship service?