Dear Joan Chittister:
Conversations with Women in the Church

Author Questions

At the end of each letter in Dear Joan, the authors pose a question to Joan Chittister. How would you answer these questions? What stood out to you from Sr. Joan’s responses? What questions would you pose?

- How can we encourage more women to recognize each other as sisters?
- Which saints have inspired and invigorated you and your spiritual journey?
- How do we create community and maintain friendships across miles and barriers?
- How do we find Eucharistic sisterhoods in ministry and daily life?
- Who are your sisters? Who has recognized your gifts?
- How do we recognize the miracles other people offer to us? How do we see the gifts of others despite the less-than-perfect situations in our world and church?
- What would it look like for the global church to lament the suffering of creation? What human habits need to die to save the earth? How can we help the environment resurrect so that it can continue to be a life-giving home for generations to come?
- How do we become our authentic selves? How do we discern the myriad of ways God speaks in our lives? How do we gain the courage to act and speak those truths?
- Who are the people that show us how to speak up and out? What are the scenarios that demand a response from us?
- How do we endure in the face of our own “church hurts”? How can we maintain our faith in the midst of corporate sin and scandal?
- How can we invite others to be vulnerable? How do we accompany others in the midst of grief and pain?
- How can the church reach out to people who have been wounded by an institution whose practices can at times isolate people?
- Scripture is filled with masculine language and troubling statements about women. How might we handle this in parishes?
- How can we empower others to do the same? How can we enable other women to preach?
- How can we encourage lay leadership in our own parishes and dioceses?
- Isn’t part of being Catholic to question the wrongs we see in the world?
- How are we each called to pursue our faith in our unique vocations? How have you navigated a world in which you are not welcome? Where do you find the courage to walk forward, often alone, and proclaim your truth to all those who have stood in your way?