

“As far as personal rights are concerned, there is an urgent need to achieve real equality in every area: equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers, fairness in career advancements, equality of spouses with regard to family rights and the recognition of everything that is part of the rights and duties of citizens in a democratic State.”

Who wrote this?

Was it: *Gloria Steinem? Elizabeth Cady Stanton? Hillary Clinton?* See page 2 for the answer.

Victory for Women! Victory for Unborn Children!

Remember that cold snowy day in February when you and others in your parish signed the Diocesan Public Policy Committee’s petition opposing abortion expansion while supporting the nine other points of the Women’s Equality Agenda? Around the diocese our parishes gathered **10,362** signatures on this petition, asking the New York State Assembly to pass the life-affirming provisions of the WEA.

Those nine points of the Agenda included bills that:

- *protect survivors of domestic violence from housing discrimination and make it easier and safer for them to obtain Orders of Protection against their abusers
- *require pay equity for women (Equal pay for equal work!)
- *protect victims of human trafficking, raising the penalties for this crime and strengthening investigative tools to bring charges against traffickers
- *ban sexual harassment in all workplaces regardless of the number of employees and make it more financially possible for victims of sexual harassment to take their cases to court
- *require reasonable accommodation for pregnant women in the workplace and outlaw workplace discrimination against people with children

While it took until the very end of the legislative session in late June, **ALL OF THESE PROVISIONS WERE PASSED** by the Assembly! The State Senate had already passed them in January.

Moreover, the abortion expansion provision in the Women’s Equality Agenda **WAS NOT PASSED!** This bill would have legalized abortion in the third trimester and opened the door for non-physicians to perform abortions. With your help, the New York State Catholic Conference and our Diocesan Public Policy Committee have strongly and successfully opposed this bill in the various forms it has taken over the past several years.

Your advocacy has defended the dignity of women and saved the lives of pre-born children. Thank you!

Susan B. Anthony



It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union.... Men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less

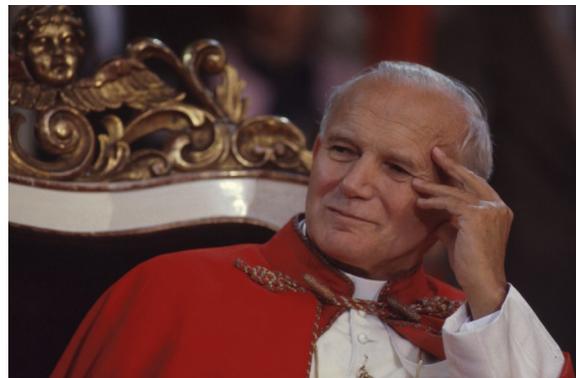
AZ QUOTES

Question from Page 1: Who advocated equal pay for equal work, protection for mothers in the workforce, and equality between spouses?

Answer: St. Pope John Paul II

Letter to Women, 1995 (20 years ago, no less)

http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/1995/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_29061995_women.html



Praised Be: On the Care of Our Common Home



Pope Francis' new encyclical *Laudato Si'* ("Praised Be") is a call to love our brothers and sisters by caring for the Earth, our common home, recognizing that the poorest and most vulnerable people are most harmed by environmental degradation. Read the encyclical here:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Access study guides, bulletin inserts and liturgical resources at these sites:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/index.cfm>

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/PopeFrancisActionKitFINALJulysm.pdf>

Contact your Justice & Peace Ministry staffer (see box below) for further ideas on how to activate your parish to answer the Holy Father's call to care for our common home.

Quotes from *Laudato Si'*:

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face.

[The earth] now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.

We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.

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