

THE MAKINGS OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER:
CATHOLICISM, ORTHODOX JUDAISM, AND THE ILLEGALITY OF WOMEN
PRIESTS AND RABBIS

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In separate settings a similar argument has arisen: Why can't women be ordained? Contemporary advocates for women's ordination have attacked the traditional doctrines of both Catholicism and Orthodox Judaism in an effort to uproot "sexist" and "old-fashioned" policies. Proponents of traditional thought, in both camps, have countered their opponents' claims with reliance upon Scripture and custom. Though fundamental theological and ontological differences separate the faiths, both have been forced to confront an identical question.

The subject of women's ordination has created a splintering effect among the faith based groups. Websites and various events have been dedicated to the specific advancement of each faction's agenda. Vast efforts, from all sides, have been expended, but what's really at stake for Catholicism and Orthodox Judaism?

Though neither Catholics nor Jews have sought the other's assistance for supporting its position, this paper coalesces their perspectives and questions, what, if anything, can be gained by each faith from the other's arguments? By exploring the positions of Catholicism and Orthodox Judaism, this paper seeks to answer the above questions and further the debate over the illegality of women priests and rabbis.