

# "Challenging the Church,"

"A woman in California defies the ban on female Catholic priests.

October 1, 2006 CNN.com CNN's Karen Wynter reports

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## TRANSCRIPT of VIDEO:

For centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has told women they cannot be ordained as priests. Now a small group of women is defying that ban and they face excommunication. But they say it's a matter of faith. Here's CNN's Kareen Wynter.

**KAREEN WYNTER, CNN CORRESPONDENT:** Jane Via knows the odds are stacked squarely against her.

**JANE VIA, ORDAINED BY CATHOLIC REFORMERS:** What do you ask of God's church for Emma Grace?

**WYNTER:** This female priest is going head to head with the Roman Catholic Church to reverse history. Via makes no apologies for defying Catholic tradition which bars women from becoming priests or deacons.

**VIA:** We acknowledge we're breaking a law, but we believe it's an unjust law. And like Rosa Parks and the many people who have gone before us, sometimes the only way to bring an unjust law to the attention of the world is to break it.

**WYNTER:** Via leads a congregation of Catholics inside this San Diego Methodist church. A role she took on after her ordination by an independent Catholic reform movement in Switzerland in June, where an aggressive Roman Catholic women's priest movement is under way to change the church's hierarchy.

**VIA:** It got to the point that I was so angry in church at the men, who will not change hardly a single word of the patriarchal language of the liturgy so that women can feel more included and so, when I heard about the Roman Catholic Woman Priest Movement, I said, I can do this.

**WYNTER:** A San Diego bishop has no comment on her case, but has referred it to the Vatican for review. She faces possible excommunication.

**FR. THOMAS RAUSCH, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES:** I think it's difficult to see these ordinations which are really done from outside the communion of the church as really being helpful in moving the church forward because they will be perceived by many Catholics as an act of disobedience, as an act of rebellion, as an act of defiance.

**WYNTER:** Via's parishioners disagree.

**DAN DINAN, PARISHIONER:** This is a revolution. For years we thought we had to wait for the hierarchy of the church to change things but now we're finding we can change this from the bottom.

**EUGENIE NEWTON, PARISHIONER:** I never thought I'd see that in my lifetime.

**WYNTER:** Via says she knows change won't happen overnight but says someone, someday will benefit from her fight. **VIA:** The realist in me, the part of me that knows lots of history says I just better be happy with some change 100 years from now.

**WYNTER:** Kareen Wynter, CNN, reporting.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

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