

What we are:

In Germany activities to promote women's diaconate have a long tradition. Since the beginning of the 20th century important persons such as Edith Stein, Cardinal Faulhaber and other experts in theology, as well as groups of the women's associations have discussed the subject thoroughly.

In 1974 the German Synod of Würzburg sent a vote to the Pope asking him to examine the question and to take further steps to revive the old ministry of deaconesses.

In the nineties of the last century groups had been formed in the large majority of the German dioceses to study the tradition of a diaconate including men and women and to discuss arguments.

In 1997 an International Conference about women's diaconate was organized by the department of catholic theology of the university of Tübingen and the Catholic Academy of Stuttgart-Hohenheim.

Immediately after this conference in 1997 the „Women's Diaconate Network“ was founded.

What we stand for:

We want to renew the ministry of ordained deaconesses in a church serving the poor, hungry, homeless, oppressed and marginalized persons, a church going to the fringes of society as Pope Francis once said.

Our primary focus is a church, where men and women work together and can live the ministry of Jesus Christ servant in the same way.

We emphasize the importance of diaconal services in our Church. These services are indeed mostly done by women.

We therefore ask the Church to establish a new form of the permanent diaconate for women and the sacramental ordination of women deacons according to the special conditions and needs of our time.

What we are doing:

We connect the different groups existing in Germany and in other countries, e.g. in the Netherlands, in Austria, in Great Britain and in the U.S.A.

We take part in theological discussions. We talk in all kinds of meetings to inform people, especially in German women's associations.

We take part in the preparation and celebration of the „Day of the Deaconess“ on April 29th each year, the day of St. Catherin of Siena. Because of her care and compassion, because of her commitment for social justice and the renewal of the Church, we declared her the patron saint for our way towards diaconate. It is both, a day of information and of prayer.

Twice a year we publish our information letter for members and for people who are interested in the subject.

We support women, who feel in their heart and mind the vocation to serve the Church as an ordained deaconess.

Our latest project:

We think the time is ripe for a new training course for women who want to prepare for a position of responsibility in the diaconal service. Two of these courses have already taken place in the past, inspired by the example of the men who in Germany prepared for the permanent diaconate even some years before Vatican II took place, to support the reestablishment of this ministry in the Roman-Catholic Church.

This three-year course is supposed

- to give women the skills to lead and to organize diaconal projects in different places
- to underline and to show the importance of diaconal services in our Church
- to give women who feel a vocation for diaconate the opportunity to live and to examine that vocation critically, and to handle the inner tension that they can't be ordained at the present moment
- to show what an ordination of women could mean for a forward-looking Church

This training course started in
September 2020

Women's Diaconate Network

is organised as a non-Profit association

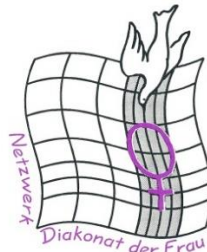
There are various possibilities to support our work financially :

- Become a member
- Donate by bank transfer

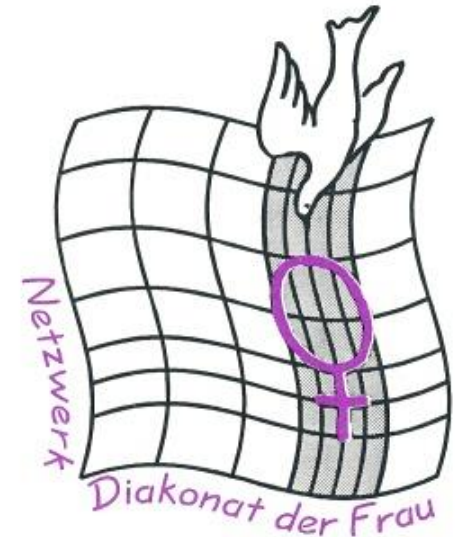
Women's Diaconate Network

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Women's Diaconate Network



We are a network of individuals and groups to promote women's diaconate in the Roman Catholic Church.

Our network has about 200 personal members and moreover nearly 50 organisations with a special membership. Especially the membership of organisations is a kind of political statement in the church structures.