

Rights & Responsibility: Women's History

Women in the Police Department



by *Thomas Obdyke*
Grade 7

For years, women have been "breaking barriers" and making a change in the way that people look at jobs. But still, women are facing discrimination. The percentage of men in the police department is 86.7%, leaving only 13.3% of officers women. Not only in the police department but in significant industries worldwide, women continue to face discrimination. Some of these industries in which women face discrimination are the areas of

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finance and insurance, agencies and consultancies, health care, transportation and warehousing, and non-profits. These industries and many others have had major pay gaps between men and women. How can people eliminate discrimination between men and women?

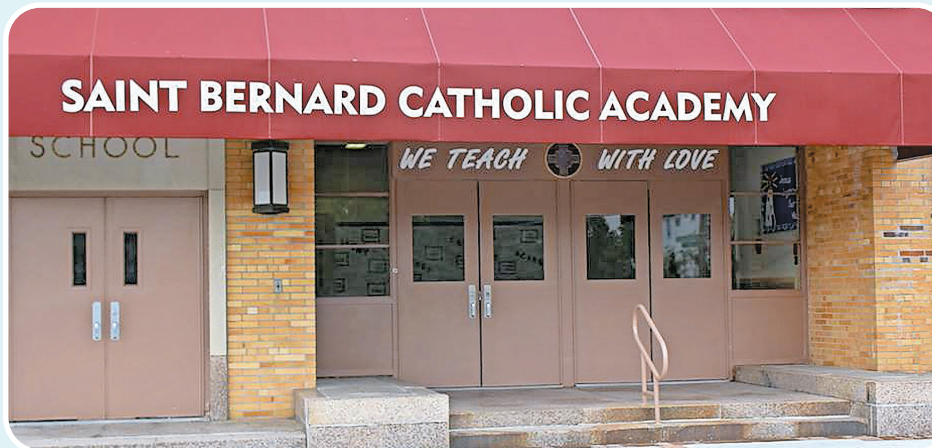
When most people fight for equality, they will always find obstacles. It is the same for women in the police department. Some women officers in the police department face issues such as harassment, discrimination, and disrespect.



Keechant Sewell

Another big problem in many jobs is the pay gap. In the police department, women make 96 cents to a dollar that men make. That would be around \$45 out of a weekly paycheck, so women got paid \$2,340 less doing the same job. Even though women are making progress in equal pay and rights, only some see the good that women can do.

There are also ways that women have been making progress in making men and women equal in all jobs. Women have been striving for equality for many years. As the years pass, people can see the progress people have made to make every human being equal. For example, the police commissioner of the NYPD is Keechant Sewell, the first female commissioner of the NYPD. Keechant Sewell and many other women have shown that they can make a change in jobs for women. God has created us all to be equal, and we were all created in his image and likeness. Women or men should treat their neighbors how they want to be treated.



This edition of The Tablet Jr. was created with the contributions of student journalists from St. Bernard Catholic Academy, Brooklyn.

Women's Rights



by **Raffaella Andreani**

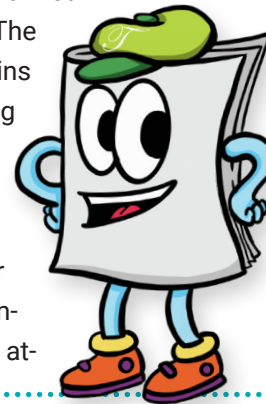
Grade 8

An issue that has always been prominent in the world is women's rights. Women have been discriminated against and not given the same opportunities as men. Many believed they were more capable than women. This was not true, as seen during World War II when women worked in the factories and docks as the men left for war. However, after the war, many were still only employed in industries such as shirts, chains, shoe stitching, nail, etc. Many of these industries, called "sweatshops," also had poor working conditions and long hours with little pay.

Since then, progress has been made, and women have been granted more rights as time has gone by, yet issues still need to be resolved. One big problem today is that with some jobs, men get paid a higher amount of money than women. According to pay-scale.com, "For every dollar men earn, women earn 0.82 cents." This may not sound like much, but a significant sum of money is being taken away from women. News.un.org states, "Women carry out at least 2.5 times more unpaid work than men." This means that women are working and not earning any rightfully earned money. The website, <https://blog.dol.gov>, explains how this is especially true regarding jobs in care work, such as childcare workers, domestic workers, home health aides, etc.

The problem of pay difference for the same job between men and women has been getting more and more at-

tention over time. For example, on Dec. 2, 1970, the Equal Pay Act (EPA) was passed. This act helped to "narrow the gender wage gap in the United States," according to history.com. More recently, people have been protesting for equal pay. Census.gov explains how in 1996, something called "Equal Pay Day" began. It originated from the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE), and its purpose was to bring awareness to the gap between the wages of men and women. Since then, there has still been Equal Pay Day each year, usually falling sometime in March during Women's Rights Month. Women (and even men) rally to raise awareness of this topic. Equal Pay Day has continued to get a great amount of attention, so much so that rallies are now held all over the country. The efforts made to better the rights of women by people throughout history have made a considerable impact on society.

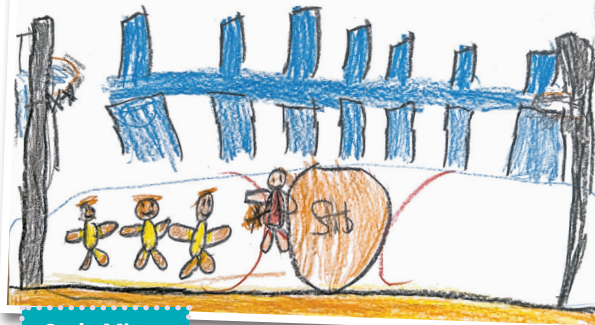


Women can do anything!



Annaliese Badette
Grade 2

"Women in basketball"



Carlo Mineo
Grade 2



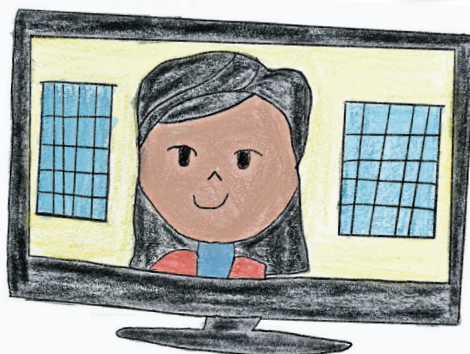
Tatiana Valle
Grade 4

Art on the Walls



Carter Mazzariello
Grade

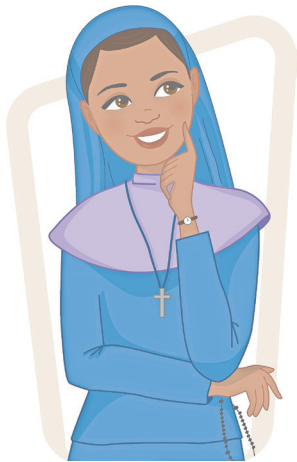
Gabrielle Louis Jean
Grade 5



Eliana Garzon
Grade 4here



ASK Sister Elizabeth



Do women worldwide have the same rights as women in the United States?

Jaydon, thank you for your question. I am sad to report that many countries do not treat women equally, whether it is equality in the workplace by pay scale or leadership roles; levels of education that women can achieve; representation at the political level, and arranging a marriage for girls at an early age. The United Nations has been working for years to address these unfair practices across the globe.

In the Book of Genesis (1:27), "God created mankind in his image; in the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them." From the beginning, God created us to be equal. We must trust that nations will come to accept that whether male or female, we are equal and should be treated with mutual respect and held to the same standards.

You can work on this with other youth as a young student on your way to high school. Asking this means you are concerned. Thank you.

Why do women in the church have different rights than men in the church?

Thank you, Faith, for your question. You have a beautiful name. In our world today, faith is what we depend on to carry out the mission of Christ. You may have seen women performing ministries at Mass as lectors, altar servers, and distributors of Holy Communion.

On Jan. 11, 2021, Pope Francis changed Canon Law with the decree "Spiritus Domini" (Spirit of the Lord) to allow women to be permanently installed in these roles. Instead of the law reading "laymen," it now reads "lay people." As much as this decree recognizes the important role of women in the church, it is clear that becoming deacons or priests is reserved for men.

Deacons and priests are "ordained" ministers, whereas lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and altar servers are ministries open to qualified lay people. Maybe you or your classmates will think of becoming an altar server.

Pope Francis has made recognition of women's "precious contribution" to the church. As baptized Catholics, male and female, we have a role to play in the church's mission: serving others and spreading the Good News.

How can we help empower young girls to grow into strong women?

Your question, Julianna, gives great witness that you recognize that any young woman can be empowered to be the best she can be, strong, fearless, a leader, and a maker of change. Women can achieve greatness in whatever field they have an interest in. No one should ever be stopped if told, "Oh, sorry. That's not for you." Their response should be, "Why not?" Hard work and determination have to be two qualities that must be present. Mary, Our Dear Blessed Mother, was a perfect example of how to be a strong young woman. At a young age, Mary faced challenges. Do you think she wondered how she could be the mother of God? By saying "yes," Mary exemplifies how a strong woman can be committed, genuine, compassionate, faithful, and a true role model for women of all ages.

Inequalities in Women's Sports



by **Kimora
Meristil**
Grade 8

Many people justify refusing to watch women's sports with the excuse, "it's just not as good as men's," but usually, that is not the case. Many individuals still believe that men are better than women, but in reality, strong and talented women prove that they can do anything men can do. Not only are prejudiced opinions about women's sports still going on because of sexism, but it is also still going on because of the lack of representation in media coverage.

According to Axios, "51% of adults in

the U.S. say there is not enough coverage of women's sports by the media," and only 6% say there is too much. Many don't pay attention to women's sports as much as men's simply because they identify them as unimportant. Not only do people not watch women's sports solely because of their gender, but women also don't get paid as much as men. Studies have shown that male athletes make 15-100% more than women athletes. For instance, a WNBA player would make only \$130,000 a year, whereas an NBA player gets paid around \$5.3 million yearly, which is 41 times the women's team's salary. Not only does this wage disparity occur in women's and men's basketball, but it also occurs in other sports, such as soccer. For example,

the women's soccer team in the United States is better than the men's, but they get paid less for some reason. Only on May 18, 2022, was it established by NPR that the United States women's and men's soccer teams were going to be paid equally.

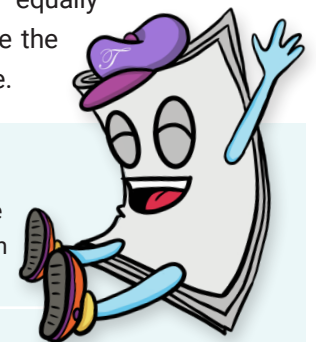
Not only are these inequalities unfair to women, but it also goes against God and his word. People discriminating against women in sports simply because they are women goes against many things God has taught, one being the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule is "treat others how you would like to

be treated." Many people don't treat women how they would want to be treated in and outside of sports. A few things that don't abide by the Golden Rule in sports is how women don't get paid the same as men in most sports, and people also discriminate against them and don't watch their games just because they are women, and think they can't perform as well as the men. Everybody was created in God's image, meaning everybody should be treated equally and practice the Golden Rule.

TEACHER GUIDES

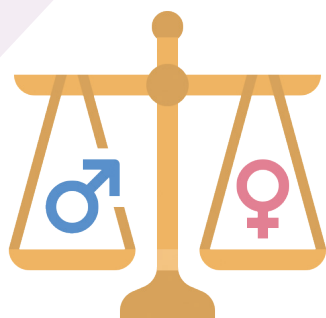
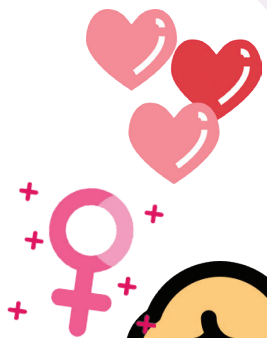
Instructional Resource Guides are available for each issue of the Tablet Jr. You can find the supplemental lessons on [CTNBQ.ORG/TABLETJR](https://ctnbq.org/tabletjr)

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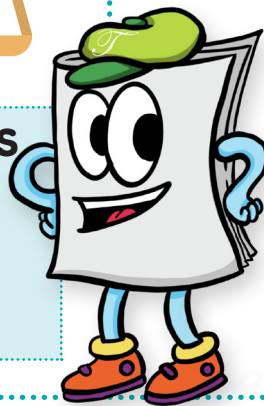


Word search grid with letters arranged in a heart shape. The letters are: O T U K, B W K F U Q, K A X P J Y T X, Z J M A G Q U Z Q B, Y N U V D I S C R I M I N A T I O N Q A L, J W V D O V O L E A D E R S U Q I C E B I, T T P H Z S M U T E V Z F J E Y T W N S D, Q B I T H U U O E A T G O W D P U U T I O, R W Z I D D E G E Q U A L I T Y T S H D N, H T G N E R T S O W D K P G N I T F K, Q W S W X O Y P I N R N P E G T H D W, V G B O K H O A L Q T M V D S G D, O Q X B C J T X N Q O E I T N I F, C P T N E M R E W O P M E O R, S U F F R A G E S E M R C, A C T I V I S T R B P, W P L N R S A B Y, X W C D W I M, N N P G Y, E R E, X.



FIND THE WORDS

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| ACTIVIST | EQUALITY |
| WOMEN | LEADERS |
| CONSTITUTION | RIGHTS |
| DISCRIMINATION | STRENGTH |
| EMPOWERMENT | SUFFRAGE |



Diocesan History Corner

by Joseph Coen



Helen McCormick

A Lifelong Crusader

Helen P. McCormick died on Feb. 21, 1937, at the end of a life of achievements and good works. She was born on July 16, 1889, in Brooklyn where she remained through her years at Erasmus High School. After Helen completed studies on the education of mentally impaired children at Dartmouth College, she went on to teach such children in the public schools of Bay Ridge. She also taught English classes for adult immigrants in Brownsville while studying at Brooklyn College Law School where she got her degree. Appointed a factory inspector for the NYS Department of Labor, she helped improve conditions for factory workers in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

She was the first woman to be appointed as Assistant District Attorney for Kings County (Brooklyn) in 1917, where she got experience working with women and delinquent

girls. Her experiences led her to found Brooklyn Catholic Big Sisters, Inc. in 1920. The organization grew rapidly, and by 1933 cared for 8,000 new cases. By 1934 it ran a Diocesan Free Employment Office which placed females in 3,625 jobs.

Although she married Patrick Toole in 1927, McCormick continued to use her maiden name until her death. She was a leader in the fight for women's right to vote, including service as the chair of the Woman Suffrage League of the Tenth Ward, Brooklyn. When she died over 20,000 people paid tribute to a woman who knew the importance of rights and responsibilities.

Joseph Coen, C.A., is the archivist of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Fun Activities for You from Sadlier www.sadlier.com

How Can You Respond to God's Love?

Let's start with reading Matthew 4:25, 5:1 – the story of the Sermon on the Mount. One of the most well-known sections of the Sermon on the Mount is the Beatitudes. The word beatitude comes from the Latin word which means "blessed" or "happy."

Jesus shows us how to achieve happiness "in God alone, the source

of every good and of all love." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1723). In the Gospels, Jesus demonstrated that everyone has the right for human dignity. It didn't matter if the people were rich or poor, young or old, man or woman.

As a Catholic, it is your responsibility to follow the



teachings of Jesus. St. John Paul II said "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being." In March we celebrate great women. Think about great women in your life – your mom, your aunt, your grandmother, or maybe even a teacher.

How have they inspired you to live a happy Christian life? As a family, think about great women in

history. Use the QR code below to read about Sister Katharine Drexel and her ministry to provide an education to all people, regardless of race or religion.

See directions online by taking a picture of this QR code:

