

## Reflection for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter 2020

Today, in Acts, we encounter an interesting development. Normally in religious meetings men and women were kept separate. They were separated for worship in the synagogue. However, they were present and welcomed to the meeting with Paul, with the result that Lydia hosted Paul and his companions. The Council of Vatican II in the 60s asked the Church to be more open to women and to give them a much more significant role in the life and government of the Church. This is something that Pope Francis has taken up. Recently, he named the first woman to a managerial position in the Vatican's most important office, the Secretariat of State. In response to a request from a number of bishops, Francis has reconvened a commission to study the ordination of women as permanent deacons. In his New Year's sermon, Francis declared that women "should be fully included in decision-making processes" in the Church. Many popes have spoken highly of Catholic women. Pope Francis has named a number of women to senior positions in the Vatican. He chose the first female director of the Vatican Museums, the first woman consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the Synod of Bishops' secretariat. He has also appointed the first women members to the Vatican body overseeing religious life. Elsewhere, he has appointed two female undersecretaries at the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, a woman undersecretary at the religious life department and the first female deputy director of the Holy See Press Office. Before jumping to conclusions, Pope Francis has made it clear that all Commissions and Dicasteries should consist of priests, religious and laity - both men and women. He recognises the need for a more rounded approach with wide representation when discussing key issues in the Church believing that the inclusion of women is important if not essential. Rest assured that Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit as our guide and support for any decisions we may make in the future.

Notes . . . .

Q: Why did the dyslexic agnostic with insomnia stay up all night?

A: She was wondering if there really is a **dog**.

Would a fly without wings be called a **walk**?