



Religions for Peace 
Italian Women of Faith Network

Women of Faith and the Family:

Between Tradition and Modernity.

October 1st, 2014

Sala Giubileo
LUMSA University
Via di Porta Castello, 44 - Roma

9:00 – 9:05

Welcome

Francesco Bonini
Rector LUMSA University

Adalberto Mazzini Bernardini
Vice-President Foundation IFIIE
Coordinator of RfP-Italian Women of Faith Network

Christina Lee
Member of the International Women's Coordinating Committee
Religions for Peace, Co-Director Center for Interreligious Dialogue –
Focolari Movement

9:05 – 9:15

Opening Remarks

S.E. Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri
Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops

9:15 – 11:15

Equal and Different: Modern Women in Traditional Families

In every religious tradition, the man-woman relationship is considered the basic unit of the family. Modernity has however introduced new models of interaction between men and women. Throughout the last centuries, this relation has been increasingly modeled on cooperation and mutuality. This change of paradigm has also been paralleled by a clear effort of reinterpretation of those sacred texts that pertain to male and female roles in the family. In the first panel, women scholars from each monotheistic tradition will share their experience of wives and mothers living in the 21st century. Does equality entail roles-identity or complementarity? What, if any, is the unique contribution of women of faith to the changing spousal relationship models? How can religious and political institutions favour fair and solid relations in the family?

Irene Kajon
Full Professor of Philosophical Anthropology, University of Rome “La Sapienza”

Isabella Crespi
Associate Professor of Sociology of Education, Macerata University

Nouzha Guessous
Professor, Hassan II University, Casablanca
Researcher and Consultant in Human Rights and Bioethics

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:30 **Women and the challenge of education: passing on the faith in the age of “liquid modernity”**

Religious education may represent a challenge for mothers, living in the age of “liquid modernity.” On the one hand, modern techno-scientific advancements have contributed to the culture of “disenchantment” and to the marginalization of the Transcendent. On the other hand, the prioritization of individual choices has challenged traditional models of authority and religious practice. As mothers, women struggle to pass on the faith to the new generation. How can they teach to respect tradition, while nurturing their children’s ability to choose and “critical thinking”?

Chair: *Jane Adolphe*

Associate Professor of Law, Ave Maria Law School, Naples, Florida

Tova Hartman

Professor of Gender Studies and Education, Bar Ilan University, Jerusalem

Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn

Founder & Director of the International Academy for Marital Spirituality (INTAMS), Brussels

Shahrzad Houshmand Zadeh

Professor of Islamic Studies at Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

The Conference will be in English.
Translation in Italian will be available.

We gratefully thank



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