

(For the reader's information)

The July 14, 2011 issue of The Long Island Catholic printed an article written by Msgr. Batule of ICC defending the Church's position that only men can be ordained priests.

The Letter below to the Editor of TLIC is the opinion of a member of Long Island VOICE of the Faithful and frequent contributor to its web site column,

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## **Misstating Catholic Teaching on priestly ordination**

July 15, 2011, 4:57 PM

By

**Edward J. Thompson, Sr.**

Dear Editor:

I am perplexed by the argument of Msgr. Batule in making the case against women's ordination. He admits that two Catholic Commissions find that Scripture does not bar women from ordination. Yet, he states that Sacred Tradition teaches that only men can be ordained. However, isn't Sacred Scripture part of our Sacred Tradition? If this is so, how can these Catholic organizations and others say Sacred Scripture does not preclude women priests, yet Batule can assert that women should not perform priestly functions?

This highly-charged issue is not served well by Msgr. Batule's attack of Catholic editor, Bob Keeler. It seems to me that Mr. Keeler is simply reflecting the views of many Catholics today. Rather than criticism, we should be thankful that *Newsday* has a voice that reflects Catholic values to the largely secular world, albeit not always in keeping with Batule's values.

On a practical note, in the face of fewer vocations, we need more priests to administer the Eucharist, which we teach is the center of our Catholic lives. An open discussion, rather than a closed mind, needs to be held, to include the possibility of women priests as part of the solution to the coming Eucharist shortage.

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