

One Spirit~One Call Service

September 26, 2010

Welcome

Sarah Granger, St. Andrew parishioner

Welcome.

We are called. We are called to be here today, called by the Spirit to raise our voices for justice and to claim our dignity. We are here because we love the church, our church, and today we give voice to the need for renewal in our church. What an amazing sight – to be here together.

Give a wave if you are from N or NE Portland.

Give a wave if you are from NW, SE or SW Portland.

Give a wave if you are from the suburbs.

Give two waves if you are traveled more than 30 miles to be here.

It is time. It is time to break the silence and to raise our voices in public about the fact that women are not being treated with equality and dignity in our Catholic Church.

My name is Sarah Granger. I am 34, a wife, a mother and an active member of St. Andrew Parish. Six weeks ago I was called by the Spirit to be one of the coordinators of this event.

I have not always been a self-assured leader and a confident organizer. Throughout my life I have had paralyzing bouts of self-doubt and self-criticism. At times I have struggled to realize my own gifts. And like many women, I have even had moments where I have been plagued with self-hatred. I share this because these experiences have a context. Despite the fact that I was raised in a loving home and I have been surrounded by many loving and life-giving relationships, I've received messages throughout my life from society and from my church that I am not good enough; that my way, a woman's way, it not THE way and I have witnessed time and time again, women's gifts not being appreciated and embraced.

My pain about this is very real and tangible and this pain is at the core of why I am here today.

We all have our reasons for being here today, we each have our story and we each long for healing, renewal and inspiration.

God Bless Jennifer Sleeman! Jennifer Sleeman, an 80-year-old Irish woman has given us inspiration. And Gayle Bache had the opportunity to speak with Mrs.

Sleeman last week.

Gayle Bache, St. Andrew parishioner

I had the opportunity to speak to Jennifer Sleeman last week.

She took my phone call even though she has been overwhelmed with calls ever since she spoke out against the unequal and unjust treatment of women in the Catholic Church.

When we spoke the first thing she said was how wonderful it is what we are doing on the other side of the world.

She has inspired us with her courageous call that women can no longer be treated as second-class citizens.