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WOMEN THEOLOGIAN REREAD VATICAN II: TO TAKE UP A HISTORY AND PREPARE THE FUTURE

**International theological conference
Rome, October 4-6, 2012**

Pontificio Ateneo S. Anselmo - Piazza Cavalieri di Malta, 5

Press release

8 March: Women, Church and Council

50 years ago, for the first time in history, women made their entrance into an assembly of bishops. This happened during the Second Vatican Council, an event that has changed the Catholic Church and that finally provided the opportunity to bring together ecclesial faith and female consciousness. To women, and to their relation to Vatican II, the international theological conference is dedicated which will be held at Rome, October 4-6, 2012, organised by the Coordinamento Teologhe italiane (CTI). This conference on “Women theologians reread Vatican II. To take up a history and prepare the future” will be held at the Pontificio Ateneo Sant’Anselmo, with a participation of historians and theologians from all over the world (among others Hervé Legrand, Gerard Mannion, Maureen Sullivan, Massimo Faggioli, Tina Beattie, Myriam Wijlens, Laurent Villemin, Angela Berlis, Simona Zetea, as well as Stella Morra, Cettina Militello, Serena Noceti, Cristina Simonelli, Lucia Vantini and Simona Borello from the CTI). The conference is intended as an opportunity for ecumenical discussions among scholars from various theological disciplines and the ecclesial life in order to give account of these first fifty years in which the Catholic Church has acknowledged that the gender difference be a contribution of intelligence and a resource of enthusiasm.

In the afternoon of October 6, in the Auditorium of Via della Conciliazione, the event “*Tantum aurora est. Women, Vatican II, the Future*” will take place, a celebration to commemorate the opening of the Council through images, words and music, in order to reflect on women’s presence in the post-conciliar Church and to render visible their capacity to take advantage of their heritage.

“If today Catholic women, just like the Protestants, study and teach theology all over the world, with all that this entails, we owe it to the profound ecclesial renewal which the Council has interpreted and, at the same time, promoted”, says Marinella Perroni, president of the CTI. “It certainly was no coincidence that for the first time in history some women took part in the assembly of bishops solemnly united in the Vatican basilica. Not many know this, and many, on the other hand, would rather not remember it, but for us it is of great historical importance and symbolic weight. We all know very well, also those who would like to forget it, that the new conciliar season meant the possibility to finally bring together ecclesial faith and female consciousness”.

Together with the Foundation of Religious Studies of Bologna, the CTI is currently preparing the publication of a scholarly study about the presence and role of women at Vatican II (Alberto MELLONI - Serena NOCETI - Marinella PERRONI [eds.], *Tantum aurora est. Donne e concilio*

Vaticano II). Another more popular volume by Adriana VALERIO, *Madri della Concilio. Ventitre donne al Vaticano II*, is published by Carocci.

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The CTI brings together theologians of the different Christian traditions that have a degree in theology or religious studies, as well as lecturers of the theological departments, seminaries, religious congregations and Institutes of religious studies.

The CTI valorises and promotes gender studies in theology, biblical studies, patristics, historical and ecumenical studies.

The CTI contributes to the visibility of women theologians in the ecclesial and cultural panorama in Italy.

The CTI promotes and supports women dedicating themselves to the study, research and teaching of theology.