

Epilogue: The Dangers of Gender Theory

Emily Reimer-Barry

The thing you need to know about women
the pontiffs explain
is that women are really good at suffering.

She will be saved through childbearing

Women are so good at giving of themselves
They are brilliant at loving
especially when it hurts
See how she hides her pain
See how she knows her proper place

Holy men in their Roman collars teach about *the need to respect the natural order*
They write the laws
make the deals
uphold the traditions

We cannot separate the masculine and the feminine from God's work of creation

She's the helper

The creation of woman is thus marked from the outset by the principle of help

In giving themselves to others each day women fulfill their deepest vocation

She knows her place

*Women must not appropriate to themselves male characteristics contrary to
their own feminine originality*

Be like Mary, they say.
She always said yes
Just say yes

*Mary attains a union with God that exceeds all the expectations of the
human spirit*

Be like Mary
Follow your son as he is tortured by the State
See him die in agony
dying of starvation
hanging from a Southern tree
shot by police
sent off to fight in somebody else's war
Mary, the men say, was the perfect woman
obedient
submissive
compliant
helper to man

Mary didn't complain, they say

She kept all these things in her heart

Hold it in
bury it
suppress it
Smile!
Fake it so you can make it

*Almost always in silence, they carry life forward. It is the silence and strength
of hope.*

Believe us, we mean it

The Church highlights the definite critical issues present in gender theory

*Desiring a personal self-determination
is to make oneself God*

But what if her strength is not that she suffers but that she sees?
Sees from her suffering
that there is another way

She sees the possibility of repair
of binding wounds
of breaking bread
of bearing life
of managing her fertility
of saying no
of saying yes yes yes
of telling our stories

What stories they'd hear
if only they cared to listen
to how *gender theory plays a central role.*

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¹ Italicized portions can be found in 1 Timothy 2:15; *Dignitas Infinita*, no. 60; *Amoris Laetitia*, no. 286; "Letter to Women," no. 7; "Letter to Women," no. 12; *Mulieris Dignitatem*, no. 10; *Mulieris Dignitatem*, no. 3; Luke 2:19; *Dignitas Infinita*, no. 46; *Dignitas Infinita*, no. 56; *Dignitas Infinita*, no. 57; *Dignitas Infinita*, no. 56.