

**Being Disciples of Jesus  
in Charity, Justice, and Prophecy  
Why Simply Being Good-hearted is not Enough**

Oblate School of Theology  
National Retreat  
February 6-9, 2023

**Ron Rolheiser OMI**



## Sessions ...

1. **Monday AM** - What is Social Justice and its distinctiveness from Charity
2. **Monday Afternoon** – The Place of Social Justice with Christian Spirituality as a whole
3. **Monday Evening** – Some Principles from Scripture and Church Teachings

1. **Tuesday AM** – Justice and the Ecological Crisis
2. **Tuesday Evening** – One major social justice issue – *The Inequality of Women*

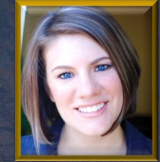
1. **Wednesday AM** – One major social justice issue – *Justice and End of Life Issues*  
(Monsignor Jerry McCarthy)
2. **Wednesday PM** – One major social justice issue – *Justice and Abortion*

1. **Thursday AM** – Ten Principles for Christian Prophecy
2. **Thursday PM** – Quiet Prophecy



Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women



*"Feminism is the radical notion that women are people." Rachel Held Evans*

### A. The Inequality of women as a worldwide phenomenon

- Unequal status and unequal rights in most countries of the world
- Unequal victims of violence
- Unequal economic status
- Unequal status ecclesially.



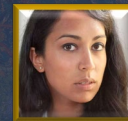
Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

### B. The Phenomenon of Feminism as an attempt to address this

#### I. The Various kinds of feminism:

- *Liberal feminism*
- *Romantic feminism*
- *Liberationist/Radical*
- *Womanist – Alice Walker*
- *“Intersectionality” - Feminism with a nuance – Amia Srinivasan*





Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

### II. A generic definition of feminism -

*Feminism is a comprehensive ideology rooted in women's experience of gender oppression which believes that personal problems are also political and which offers a critique of patriarchy which it sees at the base of this oppression. (Sandra Schneiders)*



*Feminism is a worldview or stance that affirms the dignity of women as fully human persons in their own right; critiques systems of patriarchy for their violation of this dignity; and advocates social and intellectual challenges to bring about freeing relationships among human beings and between human beings and the earth. (Elizabeth Johnson)*





Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

### III. Some common tenets within feminism

- i) It is an *epistemological rupture* within Western History ... "another voice".
- ii) It is a challenge to dualism of all kinds.
- iii) It is an attempt to view things from the point of view of intimacy rather than from the point of view of ruptured intimacy.
- iv) It is an emphasis on the bodily, the incarnational, the embodied, the physical.
- v) It is a challenge to unbridled pragmatism and efficiency.
- vi) It is a challenge to understand the "political" dimension within personal problems.
- vii) In its more radical expressions, it is a positive challenge to re-integrate the insights of mythology and "paganism" into the Western mindset.



Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

### IV. Explication - “In another voice”

1. According to feminist ideology there have been two (human) voices within history
  - a. A dominant voice – Patriarchy
  - b. “Another voice” – The Feminine





Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

2. Pushing things further, feminist ideology says this division of voices has made for a double dualism within history:

a. The dualism caused by Patriarchy – “father rule”

“If God is male, then male is God!”

☩ *God, as male – over – the earth*

☩ *King – over – kingdom*

☩ *Pope – over – church*

☩ *Bishop – over – diocese*

☩ *Priest – over- parish*

☩ *Father – over – family*

☩ *Husband – over – wife*

☩ *President – over – country*

☩ *CEO – over – company*

☩ *Dean – over – faculty*

And always this is conceived of as “superior over inferior”





Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

b. This dualism then undergirds a second dualism – of superior over inferior

- ✚ Spirit – over – matter
- ✚ Soul – over- body
- ✚ Men – over – women
- ✚ Rich – over – poor
- ✚ Strong – over - weak
- ✚ White – over – colored
- ✚ Humanity – over- nature
- ✚ Healthy – over – ill
- ✚ Rational – over – emotional
- ✚ Left brain – over – right brain



Tuesday Evening -

## One major social justice issue – The Inequality of Women

3. Feminist ideology sees feminism as an “epistemological rupture”, wherein the “voice” in the right-hand column is beginning more and more to be heard in history
4. Good and bad feminism: The difference between “strident feminism” and “healthy feminism” – i.e., the former denies the moral legitimacy of the patriarchal voice, the latter affirms its legitimacy but sees the need for a radical rebalance and sees the rebalance as contingent upon “structural” change rather than on simply personal metanoia.