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## Food for Thought

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Through the long arc of their history in the United States, it is a simple fact that women religious built the church. We wouldn't have the Catholic school system without them. We wouldn't have a hospital system without them. We wouldn't today have a Catholic presence in many of the worst parts of our cities without them. We wouldn't have ministry to the displaced, unwanted and hurting without them. In many cases we wouldn't have any ministries or education programs in our parishes or dioceses without them. And in some of the priest-poor sections of the country, we wouldn't have parishes without them.

**Tom Roberts,**  
*National Catholic Reporter*



A candle loses nothing  
by lighting another candle.

I always liked that the name  
of my religion (Catholic) was  
also an adjective meaning  
all-embracing.

**Maureen Dowd,** *New York Times*

We do not ask who people are  
before we offer them help.  
We help because they are  
human beings like us.

**Dalai Lama**



... the church doesn't exist for itself, but to change the world, which means that if its message is to penetrate the various realms of culture — medicine, law, the academy, politics, the economy and so on — it's either going to be carried by the laity, or not at all.

**John Allen**