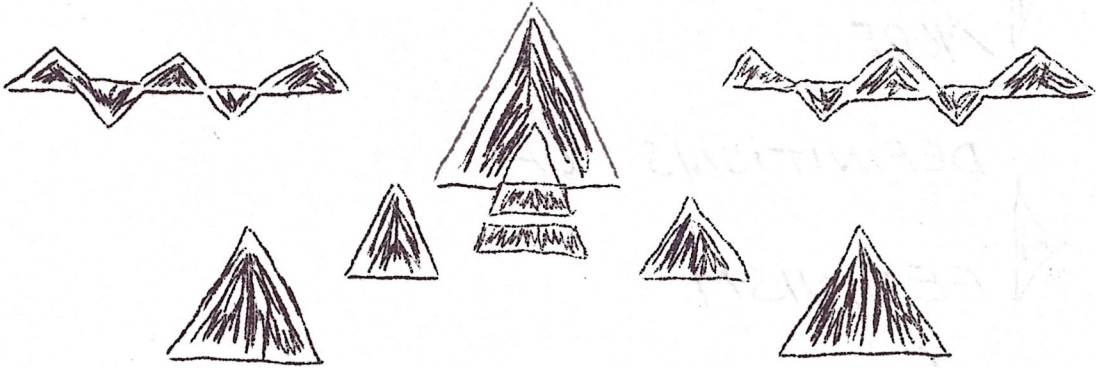


Celeste Baptista

Fatima Gracio



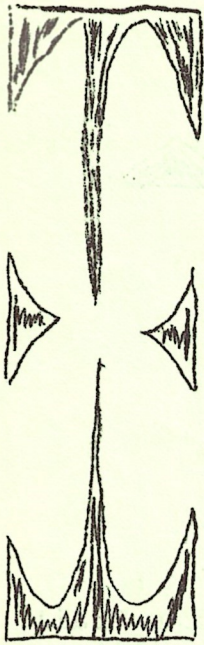
SHARING THE SURVEY

Thinking on feminism is in process - among members of the Grail Women Task Force and in the movement as a whole. To facilitate further exchange of thoughts and feelings, the WTF prepared a survey in summer '78. We hoped to help each other to understand better what feminism means in Grail members' lives. To date we have over fifty responses.

The replies demonstrate the power of feminism to illuminate, disturb, energize, arouse anger, raise questions, expose conflict, and evoke critical analysis. They show balanced, thought-through responses to the phenomenon of feminism. With important reservations, those who have responded identify with the goals and gains of the women's movement. Many indicate how Grail members are personally activated by feminism.

The kinds of strengths in persons and the quality of the concerns shared hold hope for what the Grail Movement, out of our unique tradition, can contribute. Collaborating with the new awakening/new vigor among women is certainly relevant to the Grail. The expanded consciousness generated by feminism connects women's struggles and aspirations with the struggles of the oppressed around the globe -- spurring us to deeper thinking and more strategic action -- impelling us toward a future with more human life patterns -- truer to the Spirit -- for men as well as women.

For these reasons, we decided to share with the movement representative quotes from the survey responses.



MORE

DEFINITIONS OF

FEMINISM

"a movement to actualize the humanity of women."

Mary Louise Bormingham

"a philosophy which advocates full human existence for all persons regardless of sex."

Monica Erler

"A movement which critically analyzes social and personal aspects of life to understand the roots of male dominance and female acquiescence, in order to seek out ways that will build full human and equal persons for the world that lies ahead."

Mary Buckley

"movement for self-determination for all people in all spheres, with a special accent on women."

Lenie Schaareman

"begins with a "pro-women" stance and includes a clear awareness of how that can change the world. Not just making men and women equal, but making woman-ness a positive force for change."

Nancy Geisler

"a movement which encourages women to see and put into action their right and responsibility to make their influence felt in social, political and economical life."

Catherine Shea

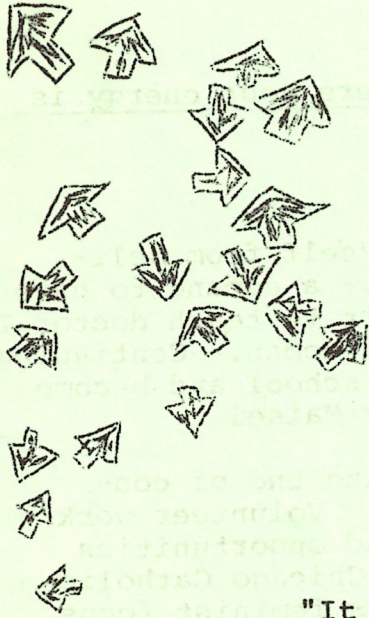
"a movement that responds to the realities of all women across class, race, sexuality, and national boundaries."

A survey definition that received good response.

"a movement working for the recognition and development of women as full adult human beings and for whatever legal, political, economic and other social changes necessary to achieve this goal."

Janet Kalven

"a movement which works to release the energies of women for full participation in and contribution to the range of tasks needed to bring about a new global order." On the survey alongside this one Mary Louise Tully wrote, "Could be a definition of the Grail."



ENERGY...

How does your awareness of feminism affect where your energy is going now?

"for the most part just makes me more aware of male and female programming which hinder creative relationships and work very often. I wouldn't say I've developed creative ways of overcoming the programming."
Peg Linnehan

"It seems that feminist ideas have been so incorporated into my general approach to myself and surroundings that it has affected my goals and activities in a most basic way."
Judy Semonoff

"I use many 'feminist' resources for clients -- women's clinics, assertiveness training etc."
Mary Louise Tully

"How macho and male oriented our society is and what is given to our kids on TV, in school, from other people, etc. -- my decision to do feminist counseling -- to push for my children to have freedom in life choices without sex stereotypes."
Mimi Power

"working to gain acceptance of nurses as capable of taking more responsibility for decision making, giving treatments -- breaking through medical hierarchy."
Shellie Owens

"We're very aware of feminist values here at Franciscan Renewal Center, Phoenix. Many of our classes deal with women's lives and what may be left of them after adverse experiences."
Bea Schwab

"I especially look to becoming more assertive and less dependent upon male opinion of my worth."
Carol White

"Teaching theology - deep possibilities for teaching on women's liberation and its relation to Christian faith. A growing awareness of the human and Christian task which we have only begun to touch on -- at the same time reflection on the past to re-discover the areas and ideas that are important. Overall concern with master/slave dichotomy as regards race/sex/class."
Mary Buckley

ENERGY CONT

How does your awareness of feminism affect where your energy is going now?

"With husband - a continuing effort to free myself from self-imposed ideas of being a wife. With children - a demand to have my own time. In profession - a constant effort to teach doctor I work with an appreciation of me as a nurse and woman. Continuing education - added confidence to continue with school and become more and better."
Mary Maisel

"Extended family responsibilities. On receiving end of continued education: writing courses, theology. Volunteer work: Cook County special Bail Project where I've had opportunities to promote equal services for arrested women, Chicago Catholic Women is an interest I've chosen because of its feminist focus. I lector in my parish for a political reason i.e. to boost the number of women participating in liturgy. In my home I encourage assertiveness in my daughters."
Jeanne Darley

"As women become freed through feminism they more quickly get in touch with their needs and wants - therefore on a one to one counseling basis I find more frequently that they can find and act on alternatives to improve their lives."
Margery Burns

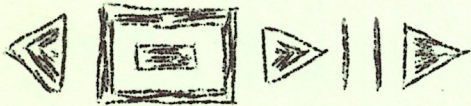
"The professions, such as nursing, which are generally regarded as "feminine" are not as respected as "true" professions, and do not have equal monetary compensation for responsibility (as seen in a recent decision by a federal judge who dismissed a class action suit against the city and county of Denver concerning nurses' salaries."
Alice Drefchinski

What aspects of feminism call forth your energy?

"How to rethink, renew, revive the 'feminine' virtues of patience, gentleness, self-giving -- to free them of masochism."
Mary Louise Birmingham

"Possibility that changing the ways in which men and women relate will have a significant impact, not just on the individuals, but on the development of new social systems."
Gabrielle Miner

Feminist insights into the nature of God; affirmation of the diversity and value of women."
Meganne Root



CONCERNS...

Comments on the concerns of the current women's movement.

"My #1 priority is the crisis in housing for women on low incomes. Many women and small children are forced to spend 60 to 80% of their income on rent...An undue proportion of the nation's children are being raised in poverty and national policy makers do not seem to notice ... I am confronted by the brutal evidence of women's position in our society each day. I have come to expect that little children may have been violated in every imaginable way and I know that our system provides almost no recourse for either the women or children."
Monica Erler

"Choices I make are based chiefly on the question: Where can I best work for radical change for women and society? How can I best raise consciousness about this? What might develop (or help to develop) a mass movement toward radical change? How can I use situations that cry for change right now to begin to build a mass base that will eventually come to radical social change? and political change?
Gabrielle Miner

"Believe it or not, I'm just now willing to even think about feminism as it relates to me. I care a whole lot about some of the issues on the list as I have been touching/touched -- just not thinking of those things within the context of "feminism" per se."
Shellie Owens

"My interests: 1. How does feminism relate to the gospel - the church and Catholic women; how could feminism be a force in the church? 2. Why are women themselves often the great obstacle to their own cause? 3. I still maintain: women have essentially other qualities -- we should not ignore that."
Lydwine van Kersbergen

"Many of the items have a more middle class focus and ignore areas of women's concern where we Grail members tend to have less contact. Wherever we concentrate, it is important to be conscientized about the whole arena in order to have our own special concerns in perspective. Care must be taken not to become, nor encourage others to become, self-absorbed, or absorbed in problems of one's own class without seeing needs of other classes and the importance of a broad perspective."
Gabrielle Miner

CHALLENGE . . .

What aspects of feminism challenge you?

"Personal growth potential for our daughters."

Theresa Wilson

"Seeking my own liberation, working for liberation with other women."

Mary Gindhart

"Challenges to change long standing social patterns -- to be able to demonstrate the equality of men and women."

Sheila Goldstein

"I am energized and challenged by women concerned with social change, either on specific women's issues - or community issues - working in collective ways - giving personal support, critique of action and helping each other see the broader economical/political base of many personal problems.

I am interested in enabling women in this way. Also developing non-hierarchical ways of relating.

I am also interested in liberating religion from sexism (as well as classism and racism) but I don't expect this to be done quickly -- I mean in the "image-breaking", language, cultural expressions area of religion."

Dorothy Rasenberger

"Developing new guidelines for the marrying process."

Mary Louise Birmingham

"The roots of sexism -- sexuality -- to understand it at a deeper level -- how can children be raised without the old hang-ups?"

Mary Buckley

"Raising teenagers with an awareness of the real differences and the many opportunities."

Pat Hutzal

"Emphasis upon the possibilities for wholeness of the individual woman."

Marian Schwab

"I do not know what base to use for all the new freedoms."

Catherine Leahy



What aspects of feminism scare you?



"Lesbianism - but as B. Harrison said, "We have to bite the bullet and recognize it as a phenomenon in nature and culture."
Anne McKay

"Polarization and hardening on key issues -- making them ends in themselves rather than matters for choice, e.g. pro-abortion, anti-abortion, lesbianism."
Martha Heidkamp

"The tendency to rely on abortion rather than birth control for reproductive freedom."
Janet Kalven

"I realize that women have tended to suppress their own needs and desires to the point of being unable to even locate them. But it is the reaction to this that scares me: making self-satisfaction the highest goal. I've watched enough people destroy themselves that way to know I don't want to follow. The current women's movement feeds that human tendency. It feeds it in me. And this scares me."
Gayle Reichert

"Seeing very young women confused and hurt by the new freedoms in sexual life styles."
Elizabeth McGee

"Anytime anybody gets dogmatic."
Judy Semonoff

"Strong separatism and anti-male attitudes. I have enough of my own and don't want to increase them."
Carol White

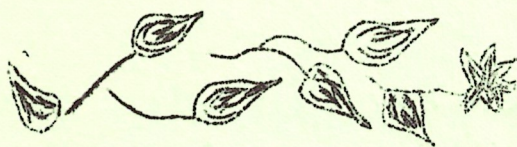
"Possibility of greater violence as relationships shift - change."
Betty Rose

"Independence held as goal rather than honest interdependence. Pro-abortion thinking that focuses heavily on women's rights while downplaying other considerations. The weakening of the ideals of monogamy and two-parent families, as a side effect of feminism."
Jeanne Darley

"To see many young women who do not want and will not accept the role of having or raising children."
Pat Hutzal

"fear that the struggle for the equality of women - their rights and possibilities -- will not reach out to poor women within our country and internationally."
Lenie Schaarman

"The risk taking in stepping out of roles; the possibility of losing all that we have gained."
Shirley Piazza



HOPE

What aspects of feminism give you hope?

"Women bonding together, understanding the lies, silences and secrets we have lived with for so many years."

Frances Crotty

"Despite my fears, it is sometimes wonderful to see new women emerging and becoming stronger and better fitted to make a contribution to life."

Catherine Shea

"Women doing/being as never before personally and collectively -- solidarity building among women."

Alice Kraemer

"Feminism is becoming a grass roots movement, whether or not women use the term 'feminism' for themselves."

Martha Heidkapm

"Feminism is so closely related to what is just and it views each person individually."

María Duivenwooden

"Seeing/meeting so many women in middle age blossom into self development in study, profession, ideas, 'loving themselves'."

Helen Adler

"When I see women doing self determined competent work and building good relationships -- with joy!"

Meganne Root

"Women and the arts. The evidence I see in myself and others that anger can be cleansing -- take us to new places."

Mindy Farasey

"The clarification which the feminist critique can bring forth in our theology and all thinking. The possibility for change that will make life more fully human for all."

Elizabeth McGee

"Conscientization."

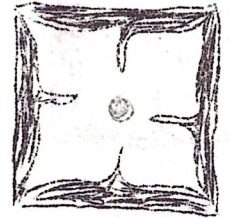
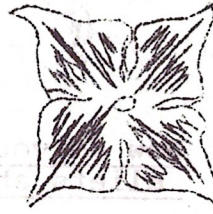
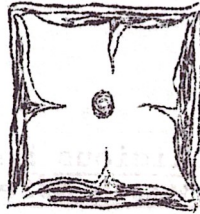
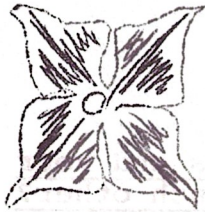
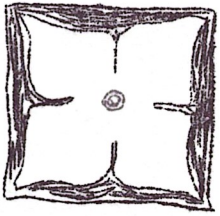
Catherine Leahy

"Increased openness of women of various economic and social backgrounds."

Janet Kalven

"Personal awakening of women --- and men -- I know."

Anne McKay



What aspects of feminism have helped you to be a freer person? hindered?

"As a cradle feminist, I've been grateful to feel less oddball."
Mary Louise Birmingham

"First, a critical awareness and need to understand sexism more deeply. Secondly, abortion, lesbianism pose real questions, but these questions also serve for further reflection."
Mary Buckley

"Accepting myself as a full person with rights and obligations."
Maria Duivenvoorden

"Ridding myself of guilt feelings by discovering some of my complaints are worldwide and part of being female is definitely freeing. However, some feminists seem to be against large families and long standing marriages. I have felt suspect about both."
Mary Pucchi

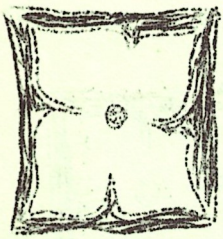
"Honesty within women's company -- alienation within mixed company!"
Teresa Wilson

"Undoubtedly, as long as I have been conscious, women have been more free in American society than in some others. I probably take a lot of freedom for granted. What 'oppression' I have experienced personally has come from women -- not from men."
Mary Louise Tully

"Feminism has helped me to recognize the structural background to my own problems and failings."
Anne McKay

"Being self-defined, self-accepting."
Frances Crotty

"Openness to changing images and roles permitting one to be who one is."
Alice Kraemer



How do your religious beliefs and your
beliefs about women affect each other?

I've always deplored the misogyny of the institutional church and of her greatest theologians, including some authors of Scripture."
Mary Louise Birmingham

"How to remain a Christian while being open to all that is valid and new -- not easy but worth the struggle."
Mary Buckley

"I have renounced the God "out there" for the God within - who happens to be a feminist."
Frances Crotty

"My spiritual life is integrated but the church is impossible."
Monica Erler

"I have gone through a lot of changes on this -- throwing out one for another -- but I do believe that feminism and Christianity dove-tail in a lot of important ways, and that they inform each other. I struggle with the contradictions -- a lot of which seem to result from the institutional church more than from Christianity."
Nancy Geisler

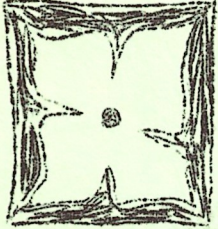
"I'm not sure about women priests. I do believe there should be special ministerial functions for women, including hearing confessions and policy making in higher church ranks."
Jeanne Heiberg

"The spiritual lessons I have been learning have to do with the value of giving up. In many cases to surrender is to win, to let go is to gain. I do not know how to integrate this with the idea of fighting for my rights."
Cheri Holman

"Tensions exist when confronted with traditionalism. Personally, I don't feel it as a problem because I'm not that involved with the traditionalists."
Judy Semonoff

"My personal freedom must be part of my spiritual growth and vice versa."
Carol White

"I experienced liberation through feminism, particularly through friendships with feminists, before understanding Christian liberation, and believe it may have paved the way. For me sisterhood concept enhances Christian relationships."
Jeanne Darley



Religious beliefs -- beliefs about women. (cont.)

"Although I have found strength and energy in the basic meanings and rituals of Christianity, I am always turned off by the exclusively male symbols, language and hierarchy of this tradition -- the irony is that the very rejection has caused me to look closer at basic meanings of Christianity."

Mindy Farasey

"The more time passes the more I perceive the incredible depths of my bondage and that of all women. Sad, yes, but the possibility of a life full of re-learning and re-creation."

Monica Erler

"The need to disentangle religious myths from outmoded social structures they have been used to sanction. I believe much religious myth capable of embracing feminine experience when we seek for renewed meaning and depth."

Eleanor Walker

"Very aware of sexism in work situation and need to educate men and women re. issues ... feminist movement helped me see myself as a capable single parent ... I'm excited by Grail women as models of liberated women ... my career furthered by push for equal rights; my confidence in myself greatly enhanced and supported ... spiritual search deepened by realization of bonds among women, value of women as leaders, thinkers, do-ers in religious areas."

Ruth Gallant

"I believe that the Spirit is using feminism (and other movements) to renew the church."

Elizabeth McGee

"Feminism has made me more aware that my involvement in the Grail calls me to a work to be done --- a continuing contribution of my time and talents to a vital ongoing work of which I choose to be part."

Catherine Shea

"The book of psalms which Marian Ronan put together has been a source of inspiration."

Gayle Reichert

"I believe that eventually women will achieve their freedom and rights in all spheres of life, including that of religion, if they persevere in their struggle for freedom."

Josephine Drabek

"Yes -- moral sensibilities (i.e. mine) are not yet congruent with my developing ideas of women's sexual freedom. This is unsettling."

Marian Schwab

"The questions 'Who is Jesus?' and 'What is the core of the Christian message?' have become real questions for me because feminism demands a new world view."

Betty Rose

"I like getting in touch with our religious experience more than I like the more "intellectual" work of "theologizing". I prefer to start from inner experience not biased toward a feminist line --- and go from there."

Meganne Root



EXCITE

What aspects of feminism in the Grail excite you?

"More scope and impetus for Grail goals of enabling women to develop full potential."
Eleanor Walker

"Women supporting women."
Dode Shepherd

"I believe that all the efforts made in the area of feminism in the U.S. Grail are helping and will be very important to the movement in other parts of the world."
Catherine Shea

"I think the programs at Grailville this summer on "Women and Worship," "Women and Violence", and "Sexuality" were excellent."
Mary Gindhart

"The support that women living different life styles can give each other."
Betty Rose

"Questionnaires such as this! We're talking more."
Mimi Power

"Women learning 'male' trades; less fear of living with conflictual issues that have no simple answers (such as diverse sexual styles, abortion)."
Mary Louise Birmingham

"The fact that it is combined with religious search and human liberation."
Cheri Holman


"I think there's so much in the way of skills, training stuff that could be done for Grail members. Really creative thought and action that could be done in collaboration with liberation and religious search task forces, but consistency and patience are important."
Peg Linnehan

"The chances I have had to delve into non-traditional areas - to be competent."
Judy Semonoff

"The potential within the Grail to effect change -- to further feminism."
Barbara Zuefle

"Greater consideration for women's opportunities for fulfillment --- humanizing of women's and men's lives -- shift from duty centered parenting to happier sharing of responsibilities."
Jeanne Darley

"The solidarity, support, mutual risk taking, the searching."
Shirley Piazza



MISGIVINGS...

If you have any misgivings about aspects of feminism that you have perceived and experienced in the Grail, please frankly write about them.

"Individuals, to be sure, share many concerns but the official Grail position toward feminism is aloof." Monica Erler

"Feel some ambivalence about emphasis on sexual expression -- buys into as well as counters social emphasis on sex." Eleanor Walker

"I dislike the hard-line approach many feminists take - that's such a 'male' way of dealing with people!" Shirley Piazza

"Have we had a free enough discussion on areas such as lesbianism, reproductive rights, sexuality? It seems to be very difficult to do so, concretely." Gabrielle Miner

"I think the possibilities for feminism in the Grail are unlimited but I have felt that sometimes the discipline of hard work to go from one understanding or one expression to another or one stage to another is lacking." Peg Linnehan

"Occasionally a sense that married women are written off, not encouraged as much to participate -- or condescended to. Find that difficult to cope with or confront." Judy Semonoff

"I have experienced some women using feminism as a ploy to put down other women or to reinforce the feeling that they are being put down -- but only rarely and by a few." Meganne Root

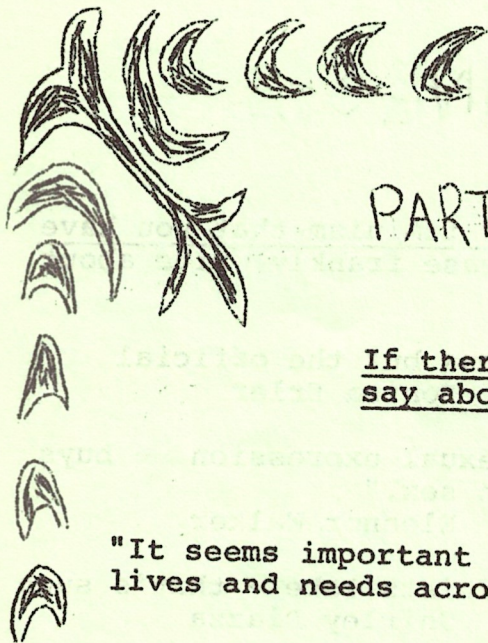
"Mainly with unwillingness to really let new ideas trouble us -- no growth without trouble." Mary Buckley

"About lesbianism - I am not saying that we should not feel repulsed, angry or critical of lesbians or lesbian politics. What I am saying is that we need to admit how/what these feelings are openly, rather than closed and hurtfully - let's keep in mind a vision of acceptance which is part of our faith." Nancy Geisler

"This is hard for me but I would like us to politically take stands (as the Denver Grail did on the R.F.) on women's issues -- to declare ourselves open to all women - even if different in life choices from majority." Mimi Power

"Seems too theoretical - or perhaps geared to traditional woman." Pat Durcholz

"I'm disappointed in our inability to mobilize energies around women's issues and in the members who see feminism as irrelevant to their main concerns." Janet Kalven



PARTICULARS...

If there is anything you would particularly like to say about feminism in the Grail --

"It seems important in the Grail to find ways to understand women's lives and needs across cultural/national boundaries."

April McConeghey

"I found the booklet that resulted from Seminary Quarter 1976 really inspiring, thoughtful and probing. Feel this is especially important and appropriate work for the Grail to be doing."

Mary Picchi

"I fully accept feminism as a profound social change, (or as an important face of such change); think we need to keep looking critically at issues of religion, sexuality, etc. -- they're not simple right/wrong questions."


Eleanor Walker

"Yes, the Grail should be a center for this reflection, struggle, etc. It is being true to its roots when it follows this road."

Mary Buckley

"True to our history -- and to its heroines -- which seeks conversion and commitment to the constant creative renewal of life at all levels, we must work to realign our resources in response to feminist insights into the condition of women. This is where the vision of the Grail and that of the most profound feminism meet -- in their call to us to realize that "we are not who we thought we were", to become who we are. Life among us -- at its best participatory, imaginative, responsive, generous, celebratory -- is what women and the world desperately need at this moment in which the future is being born."

Mary Bohlen

 G.W.T.F.

On what aspects of feminism would you like to see the Grail Women Task Force work?

"Feminist psychology and how it differs from the standard."
Maria Duivenvoorden

"Contribution of feminism to spirituality (not just beating on patriarchy); helping women find structures and styles for working together; broader study of sexuality than pro or contra lesbianism."
Eleanor Walker

"Really all concerns on page two of the survey, but in particular the religious search and breaking of patriarchal molds and creating replacements for these."
Mary Picchi

"Assertiveness training, value clarification, arts and aging."
Jeanne Heiberg

"In depth study of how personal change comes about."
Dode Shepherd

"The tension that exists for many women between the desire to be free women and the desire to be good wives and mothers."
Pat Hutzell

"Openness -- political stands and statements by Grail -- wherever interests of women on task force lie."
Mimi Powers

"Place where women can experience freedom and responsibility, enjoyment and headaches of working with women."
Mary Louise Tully

"Clarification of double standard from earliest years -- it seems to me that's what women's rights are all about."
Agness Stanger Hollmiller

continued. . .

aspects of feminism that you would like to see the Grail Women
Task Force work on ... continued.

"Women and radical social change -- feminism has an important
role here." Gabrielle Miner

"Socialism/feminism. Woman as a change agent for a more just
society." Alice Kraemer

"Breaking our own stereotypes -- basic justice issues --- freer
decision making." Alice Dougan

"To help women believe in each other and affirm each other. This
is the main task of the Grail and the hardest, because women do
not basically like each other much." Helen Adler

"Women's image of themselves -- its limitations and its negative-
ism." Pat Durcholz

"Women and family, women and society, women and study, women and
all the oppressions." Mary Buckley

"A broader concept of family -- communities which stress equality
-- continuing work on sexuality, feminism and Christianity, ena-
bling skills and women and the arts. Continuing collaboration
with Religious Search Task Force on days of quiet centering, en-
couraging women to take leadership roles in these areas." Catherine Shea

"Ordination of women to the priesthood." Shirley Piazza

Pat Durcholz returned her survey with this personal letter which in a moving way shares what feminism means for her.

"The most important task today is to help women improve their vision of themselves and of other women in order to be able to contribute to a world now so badly run. If our work and our role in society is discounted and disregarded by men, that is something we may expect from the nature of men's history and the arrogance it has bred in them. But when we discount and disregard ourselves we go against our own nature. No one else can bring about the new world of justice until women bring it to themselves. It is not so much "blaming the victim" as a denying of the victim status among ourselves and all of the inferiority imputed to it. Until we do, the concessions that we wring from government, industry and the church will be shallow in their effects, only serving to reinforce an isolation between women who make it and women who do not, between women who are employed and women who are not, between women in the lower socioeconomic classes and middle class women.

I hope for the time when I will no longer read studies that show female teachers believe male students superior to female students, when there are no longer studies that show competent women feel less capable than less capable men. I hope for the time when young women continue to strive academically even past the seventh grade, when they take math, chemistry, physics, electronics and shop as often as young men take them. I hope for the time when young women who are superb athletes are cheered on by other young women as often as young men are cheered on by young men and by young women; when women's sports are attended as often as men's sports are attended, when women prepare themselves physically so as to feel more competent as a whole, and when they will respond as often to assault with the fight mechanism as with the flight, but if they chose flight to be prepared to run well.

We need to see young women enjoying each other's company as much or more than young men's company. We need to see the day when a hostess invites single women to groups as often as single men or married couples, when women no longer view each other first as sex competitors.

I would like to read in the newspapers some day that the fashion market is changing, that women as well as men are more interested in durable clothes and are refusing to buy "stylish" clothes that either disguise or distort their bodies. I would like to read further down that page that the pharmaceutical companies are diversifying because their cosmetic lines are losing money, that women are no longer buying diet pills, nor are they buying suntan lotion in the quantities expected.

I would like to live to see groups of men and women where women spoke as frequently as did men and what they said carried as much weight in their group. I would like to see the day when women respect homemaking and child care as a true profession and when they need to hire someone from these professions they plan to share a

from Pat - continued

large portion of their income with someone who cares for their children just as they would now plan to share a large portion of their income with the bank for their automobile or their home.

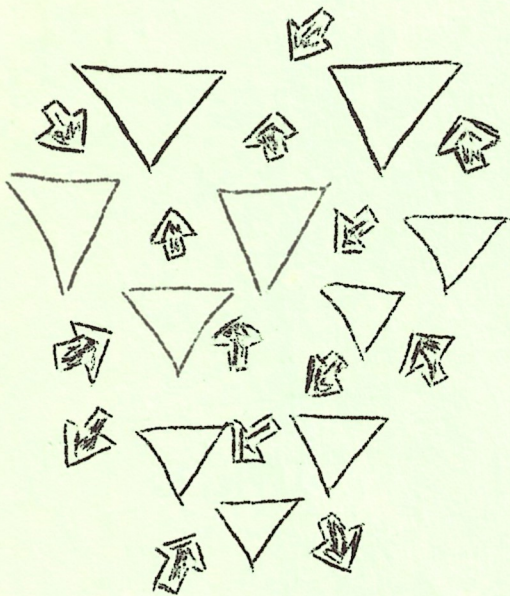
I would like to see women frequenting plays and movies in which women are portrayed as strong as well as beautiful, courageous as well as patient, leaders as well as followers, the ones who save as well as the ones who are saved. I would like to see them insist to go despite the preferences of the men in their lives.

I hope for the day when women will as often coach each other to do well as managers and as mechanics as they now coach each other in cooking and housekeeping. It is we alone who can show the woman who is our customer as much respect as the man who is our customer. It is we alone who can treat the woman who serves us as well as we would treat a man who serves us. We need to respect the judgement of the older woman who was a teacher at least as much as the older man who was a lawyer. Who else can respect our daughters enough to allow them to take calculated risks, to be as proud of their school work as that of our sons, to hope they have as much opportunity to contribute to the public life as we hope for our sons... or more. Who else but women can respect our own timetables, our own opinions at least as much as the timetables and opinions of the men we know and live with.

If it is proclaimed that women's primary role is that of mothering (or nurturing) then it should be announced that we will mother and nurture the world as well as the children in it; that we will bring our own special contribution to all tasks and to a world so sorely in need of relief from the violent and intense competition that has resulted from the monopoly of patriarchal institutions.

It is up to women to turn the world around to God and the first step to doing that is to acknowledge in each other our unique capacity to do so. I don't care if y.u call all this feminism. But I do care if whatever it is called is then rejected by women."

Pat



CONTINUING...

THE DIALOGUE

We suggest meeting with each other to consider these responses and to probe the following new questions:

1. How do you see our Grail tradition in relation to feminism?
2. How can we creatively reappropriate our tradition?
3. What in the Grail tradition is pertinent to women's further liberation?
4. What do you want to disavow?

We will welcome further sharing from both those who answered the survey and other Grail members. Saying more about the 'old' questions is fine too!

The thinking that develops from this exchange can be a help in preparing for our IGA. Women's concerns are a Grail priority in many countries. We are sending the survey and this account of the responses to some of the international members who have expressed interest. When you write to a Grail member in another country, please invite them to join the dialogue!

We look forward to receiving and sharing the next set of replies. The deadline is March 30, 1979.

Mary Bohlen and Elizabeth McGee
for the Grail Women Task Force

Graphics by Diane Mantz.