

Appendix A
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the CTSA
From: Elizabeth Johnson, President
Date: 6 June 1996

In response to concerns expressed by many members about the *Responsum* (November 1995) on the question of the tradition about women's ordination, the CTSA board set up a task force. The members of the task force are Jon Nilson, Margaret Farley, and Francis Sullivan. The task force was charged to draw up a position paper whose purpose is to answer the following question:

What is the theological status of the tradition about women's ordination, and by what criteria is this arrived at?

After discussion and slight emendation, the CTSA board at its pre-convention meeting in San Diego received this paper. The board now offers it to the membership as a first draft for your own study and response.

The board invites the membership to probe more deeply into these questions and in particular invites individuals, theology departments, and the theological faculties to examine carefully the theological status of the tradition about women's ordination and the criteria for proposing, recognizing and receiving teaching as infallible.

As theologians our first service is in study. We will devote almost a year to study. Please send any response, emendations, revisions to the incoming president of the CTSA, William M. Thompson at Duquesne University, by March 1, 1997.

The task force, augmented by a biblical scholar, will take all responses under advisement. The board aims to have a paper ready for consideration by the members at the June 1997 convention.

Thank you.