



Sponsoring Organization: Catholic Women's Council
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Press Release

MAGDALENA CENT

Catholic Women Seek Their Own Financial Resources



The MAGDALENA CENT, modelled after the Peterspfennigⁱ (Latin: Denarius Sancti Petri), is a new fund created to strengthen identification with the Catholic Women's Council (CWC) movement and to provide broader financial support and security for its work. The MAGDALENA CENT is collected annually worldwide as an offering during church services in parishes, religious orders, associations, federations, and organizations, or as individual donations. Unlike the Peterspfennig, the MAGDALENA CENT benefits the work of women in the Catholic Church who are committed to #EqualDignityEqualRights. The fund is administered by the sponsoring association CWC and used to advance its goals and carry out its tasks.

The Catholic Women's Council (CWC) movement connects women, groups, and institutions worldwide who advocate for and already live out the vision of #EqualDignityEqualRights in the Roman Catholic Church, regardless of their culture. The CWC focuses in particular on #EqualDignityEqualRights for women in the Catholic Church, recognizing that in some Roman Catholic anthropologies, women and people of other gender identities are discriminated against or even denied. The CWC fosters dialogue among Catholics, religious orders, Catholic women's organizations, and liberal Catholic organizations in all regions of the world, giving visibility to their concerns, scholarly and theological insights, and demands. The CWC project is strategically led by the volunteer-based global CWC Executive Board, which includes appointed members from all continents.



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Making Women's Voices Heard

At Pentecost, the apostles, unsettled by Jesus' death, were filled with the Holy Spirit. From that moment on, they had the courage and the ability to speak in all languages to carry the message of Jesus Christ into the world. That is why Pentecost is considered the "birthday of the Church." Since 2020, the **Catholic Women's Council (CWC)** has been a global movement making women's voices heard in just as many languages. The CWC encourages women to raise their voices for a fraternal Catholic Church, calling for #EqualDignityEqualRights for all people.

Vision of the CWC Supporting Association

In addition to the many women volunteering in local groups, on the executive board, and on the board of the sponsoring association, financial resources are needed for regular digital listening sessions and in-person meetings. Funding competent speakers, professional translators, technicians, and communications specialists also requires a broader financial base. Therefore, the board of the sponsoring association, which is responsible for the legal and financial security of the CWC, has developed the following vision:

The CWC is supported ideologically and financially by individuals and organizations worldwide. In the spirit of Mary Magdalene, the Apostle of the Apostles, we as women in the CWC are on an apostolic mission and advocate for #EqualDignityEqualRights. To this end, the MAGDALENA CENT is being launched, which will provide the CWC with financial momentum.

Launch of the MAGDALENA CENT



The CWC calls for a collection to be taken once a year during worship services in parishes, religious orders, associations, federations, and organizations, or for individuals to make donations on their own. A suitable date for the collection is the official feast day of Mary Magdalene on July 22 or another day in the church year when a fitting event (worship service, gathering, etc.) takes place.

The MAGDALENA CENT is both a symbol and a physical coin or amulet. It is a visible sign of solidarity among women worldwide, which can be produced and distributed by organizations on a decentralized basis.



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The MAGDALENA CENT supports the work of women in the Catholic Church who are committed to #EqualDignityEqualRights. The contributions help create spaces for spirituality, education, and fellowship, and further strengthen communication.

Why Magdalena? A theological perspective

The accounts of the women who followed Jesus have often been obscured by centuries of translation and interpretation. Anyone who reads the original Greek text discovers that the women's support consisted of more than just their money: the women traveled with Jesus, they shared in his preaching, and they lived out his message. They were not silent spectators; they were co-bearers of the Gospel. Just as these women did, just as Mary Magdalene did back then, countless women today live out their calling in the Church—teaching, sanctifying, and leading. They offer their time, their strength, their knowledge—and often their money as well. Yet their work is frequently overlooked and scarcely acknowledged.

Mary Magdalene, the namesake of the MAGDALENA CENT, shows the way forward: Magdala means “the tower.” Mary of Magdala is thus the early Christian beacon (see the reverse side of the coin), who exemplifies that women called to ministry throughout Christian history have been a light and guide for many—and still are today.

A Global Call

Ensuring that Catholic women and women's organizations receive the place they deserve—so they can contribute their expertise, talents, and charisms to the Church with dignity and equality—will require patience, trust, and financial support. The MAGDALENA CENT is a tool to ensure that the light of the lighthouse shines brightly, so that women around the world can see one another and come together, and so that the many every day, often unnoticed (women's) tasks within the Church are brought into focus.

The Catholic Women's Council calls on all believers to support the CWC movement financially through the MAGDALENA CENT, so that it can continue to grow and spread the vision of #EqualDignityEqualRights.

The Peter's Pence has a long tradition. It was first collected in the 8th century, later used for the construction of St. Peter's Basilica, and finally standardized in the 19th century by Pope Pius IX. In more recent times, however, it is remembered primarily for various allegations of misuse or lack of transparency. Instead of directly strengthening the Church's mission, the Peterspfennig is increasingly being used to offset the Holy See's budget deficit.



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For further information, the project group is happy to assist.

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[1] **The Peter's Pence (Latin: Denarius Sancti Petri)** is the Pope's official collection. Once a year, on June 29, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, it is collected during a Sunday Mass in Catholic churches worldwide. In 2024, the amount was approximately 58 million euros. The local churches transfer the money to the , the Apostolic See's representative office in their country; the Nunciature then transfers it to the Holy See.

The majority of the funds comes from donations by the faithful. A small portion (about one-fifth) goes directly to aid projects, such as social or charitable initiatives. The remainder goes into the Holy See's general budget to fulfill the Pope's apostolic mission. This includes, among other things, supporting financially weak local churches, disseminating papal messages, as well as funding the apostolic nunciatures and the administration. In total, the Peter's Pence covered just under one-fifth of these expenses. (Source: <https://www.obolodisanpietro.va/en/rapporti-annuali/rapporto-annuale-2024.html>)