

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



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October 9, 2016

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As I look forward to joining hundreds of women in our diocese for the upcoming Diocesan Women's Conference, I believe this is an opportune time to introduce (or re-introduce) into our parishes faith formation specifically for women. How wonderful it would be to offer such formation for women who return from the conference to their parishes feeling spiritually renewed and looking for a way to continue nourishing their faith and growing closer to Christ!

Some of you undoubtedly are familiar with the *Women of Grace* Study Program, which has been used in a small number of parishes in our diocese over the past decade or so. I suspect that those who have welcomed this program into their parishes can attest to the good fruits produced in the lives of the women who have participated in the study.

Johnnette Benkovic, author of *Women and the Abundant Life* and host of the EWTN television and radio program, *Women of Grace*, presents this beautiful study. Participants explore Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism* and other Church teachings, the lives of women Saints, and especially the example of Our Blessed Mother, to learn about authentic femininity and come to understand their dignity and vocation as God's daughters. Women are nourished spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally, and are equipped to answer their unique calling in their homes, parishes and communities.

I am pleased to recommend this program for all the women in our diocese, and I ask your support in promoting the widespread adoption of *Women of Grace* in our parishes.

I encourage you to learn more about this program, which you can do by visiting www.womenofgrace.com, and it is my sincere hope that you will consider offering the *Women of Grace* Study Program for the women in your parishes.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ Ronald W. Gainer'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer