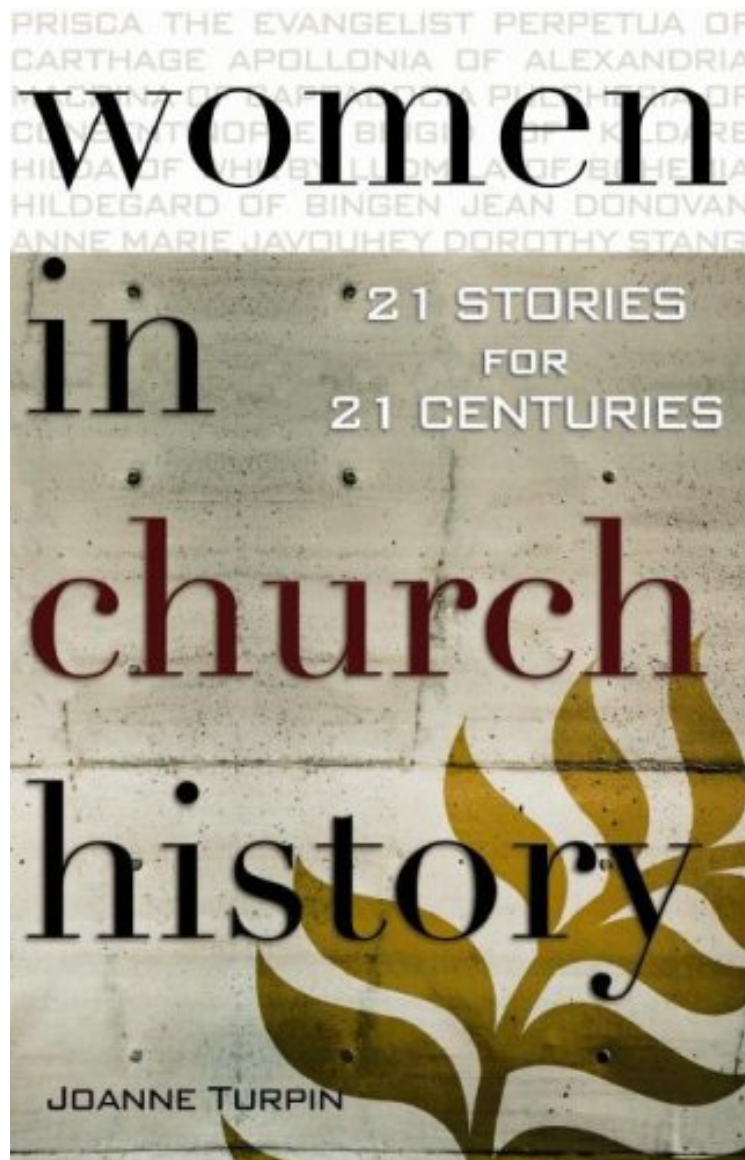


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Jesus made no secret about his feelings toward women, Joanne Turpin writes. He gifted them with his healing touch, invited them to be among his disciples and welcomed them as friends. In turn, they supported his mission, followed him along the dark road to Calvary and remained faithfully near the tomb. Jesus rewarded their fidelity with the supreme joy of being the first witnesses to his Resurrection. That is where the story of women in the church begins and a glorious beginning it is. From first-century Rome's Prisca the Evangelist, companion of Paul, to Dorothy Stang, a missionary sister in twenty-first century Brazil, Joanne Turpin takes us on the lively and adventurous journeys of twenty-one women invaluable to the twenty-one centuries of Catholic church history. Each woman included in this inspiring volume for her exceptional contribution to the Catholic church also portrays personal holiness and moral courage. These women, some well-known and others not-so-well-known, serve as missionaries and martyrs, reformers and peacemakers, pioneers and prophets, teachers and humanitarians, mystics and writers of spiritual literature. Each woman understood the meaning of true love and emphasized loving service.

"A consummate storyteller, Turpin paints marvelous portraits of some of the women who made the Church what it is today. I recommend this for all who are curious about women's influence on church history as well as for those who think women had no place in the Church's history. --Laura Swan, O.S.B., author, *The Forgotten Desert Mothers: Sayings, Lives and Stories of Early Christian Women* About the Author JOANNE TURPIN wrote *Twelve Apostolic Women and Catholic Traditions: Treasures New and Old* (St. Anthony Messenger Press). She received a journalism degree from the University of Washington and is a resident of Seattle.