

Lisbon Patriarch called on carpet for women's ordination comments

Tom Roberts | Aug. 9, 2011 NCR Today

It is fascinating to see the speed with which the Vatican can react to any statements that might be perceived as supporting the ordination of women.

In a recent interview, the Patriarch of Lisbon, head of the diocese in the Portuguese capital, said that he believed that "no fundamental obstacle" exists from a theological point of view to the ordination of women.

He elaborated a bit more, as Vatican Insider [reports](#) [1] in a story that also recounts that the patriarch, Jose da Cruz Policarpo, was summoned for a conversation on the matter -- after receiving a letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith -- while in Rome on other business.

It is impossible not to note that bishops who for years protected priests who sexually abused children have not received so much as a letter from the pope, much less a summons to account for their actions. But mention that there's no reasonable theological or scriptural impediment to women's ordination, and the wheels of authority spin quickly.

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[1] <http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/homepage/world-news/detail/articolo/policarpo-sacerdozio-6779/>