

## In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannine Gramick's Journey of Faith

At the beginning of *In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannine Gramick's Journey of Faith*, its title character insists that she used to be "a good nun." Having recognized God's calling to ministry from the time she was little, Gramick entered the convent right after high school and devoted her life to the Catholic Church—an allegiance that still remains, even though the very institution she'd committed herself to serving has tried to stop her from doing so. Gramick's troubles, she says, started when she met a homosexual man and took to heart his question: "What is the Catholic Church doing for my gay brothers and sisters?" Barbara Rick's documentary follows Gramick as she works with New Ways Ministry, a Maryland-based group that Gramick co-founded to give support to homosexual Catholics, and takes her appeal for tolerance across the country and to the Vatican. The church's institutional bigotry seems all the more irrational when discussed by Gramick, who handles her overwhelming opposition with humor, an even temper, and—something that's occasionally lacking among members of religious orders—logic. (She points out, for example, that though the Bible does condemn homosexuality, it also condones slavery.) What comes through most strongly in the film, however, is Gramick's warmth and resolve as she butts heads with her peers and continues to deliver her message: "Lesbians and gay people have a rightful place in the church, just like everyone else."

—Tricia Olszewski