

Francis shoots down women cardinals

John L. Allen Jr. | Dec. 15, 2013 NCR Today

The veteran Italian Vatican writer Andrea Tornielli published a lengthy interview with Pope Francis in the daily *La Stampa* on Saturday covering many topics, including the recent discussion over whether the pontiff might consider naming women as cardinals.

In effect, Francis shot down the idea, calling it in Italian "*una battuta*," which translates roughly as a sort of joking sound bite, and saying it reflects "clericalism."

Here's the complete exchange, in an *NCR* translation from the Italian.

Tornielli: May I ask if we could have women cardinals?

Pope Francis: "It's a sound bite and I don't know where it came from. Women in the church must be valued, not 'clericalized.' Whoever is thinking about women cardinals suffers a little bit from clericalism."

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