

CWO e-news June 2011 issue 38

Welcome to issue 38 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there.

Please send items for July e-news by 15 July. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

CWO Annual Gathering

1 October 2011

at

The Salvation Army
Hill St
Newport
Gwent
NP20 1LZ

10.30am –5.00pm

10.30 registration/refreshments

11.00 AGM (for members only)

1.00 Lunch open to all

2.00 – 5.00 open to all

Speaker (to be confirmed)

Reflection

Map showing venue and station

[Newport, Gwent NP20 1LZ](#)

Comments in National Catholic Reporter on the ousting of Bishop Morris

<http://ncronline.org/taxonomy/term/163?page=1>

Report on the Bi-Annual Meeting of German Catholic Women Theologians 2011 AGENDA Conference in Stuttgart

CTA members may be interested to learn about the existence of a Forum of German Catholic Women Theologians – AGENDA – founded 20 years ago. It meets regularly every two years and has just held its tenth anniversary conference in mid-May at the Catholic Academy of the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. The overall theme “*Aggiornamento Today*” focussed on the meaning of diversity in relation to Vatican II and its place in contemporary theological reflection and experience. The programme was wide-ranging and unusually stimulating, with many different contributors from diverse backgrounds – almost too rich to be digested during one weekend.

What does diversity mean in the Church, the Academy and the world today? *Aggiornamento* and diversity were revolutionary topics ago during Vatican II. Fifty years ago they provided many challenges for fresh thinking and renewal in the Church. But today we need more than the memories and printed documents of Vatican II (briefly discussed in personal statements by several participants who reflected on how they had received, read and interpreted these documents at that time, what hopes they had raised for the whole Church, and especially for us as women. There was even a mention of a generation of “Council Mothers” (and some of those had been German women).

How to retrace the visible influence of Vatican II in the present, but also how to rediscover some of its lost heritage? Can we still build a meaningful bridge from Vatican II to the present? The views of participants were divided here. We need to foster dialogue between different generations and between women theologians from different parts of the world (as represented at this conference).

To mention a few other themes: diversity was explored from theological, ecumenical, cultural and political perspectives. It was mentioned that Pope John XXIII had described the “women question” as one of the “signs of the times”. If the special gifts and contributions of women are not taken seriously, the Church deprives itself of an immense “chance of grace”. Vatican II provided an important juncture for the emergence of a new ecclesiology, but where are the women? It seems that the process of “deculturation” of western Christianity has much to do with the non-recognition of women, since women are still being treated as second-class citizens in the Catholic Church.

What is the appropriate location and content for theology today? How can Christian faith prove itself in the midst of new social developments on a global scale? And what is the impact of these developments for contemporary theology and the practice of Christian life? Vigorous discussions reflected the wide range of participants’ views and commitments. The women present were fully aware of the great difficulties the reception of Vatican II had encountered, but they showed themselves equally keen to take up the tremendous pastoral challenges of many documents that have remained unmet so far.

Report on the Bi-Annual Meeting of German Catholic Women Theologians 2011 AGENDA Conference in Stuttgart (continues)

Two unusual aspects of this conference made it stand out from most others. First, out of the 113 registered participant women theologians, twenty-three were professors in different universities. Seven of these came from abroad, but all others worked in Germany, and about half of them had been signatories earlier this year of the Memorandum "A Year of Departure': German-speaking theologians call for reform", circulated to CTA members in February.

The second special feature was the presence of five women professors from different South American countries, representing another Forum of Catholic women theologians grouped together under the name TEOLOGANDA. This organisation was founded in Buenos Aires in 2002 to promote theological lectures, conferences and publications by fully trained women theologians. It is directed by Professor Virginia Azcuy who was present at the German meeting, together with colleagues from Brazil and Mexico. The South American and German organisations – TEOLOGANDA and AGENDA – collaborate regularly, as in workshops held in 2002, 2004 and 2006. In March 2008 they organised a Congress of German and Latin American Women Theologians at the Jesuit University San Miguel in Buenos Aires which attracted over 300 participants (10 % were men). Detailed reports can be found in *Herder Korrespondenz* 62 (2008) and in the journal *Stromata* 1/2 (2008) published by the Jesuit University San Miguel.

Those women participants of the AGENDA conference held in May who are not teaching in German universities or colleges exercise a wide range of pastoral functions in parishes, hospitals or diocesan structures across the whole country. This situation is very different from that in Britain since Catholic women in Germany have had access to full theological qualifications since the mid-twentieth century. They have been able to take on many pastoral and spiritual functions in the Catholic Church, especially at parish level, so that they enjoy much greater public visibility than in many other countries. More information about the activities of these so-called "*PastoralreferentInnen*" can be found on the website of their professional association which groups together men and women carrying out similar pastoral tasks as lay people (see www.pastoralreferenten.de/).

The German conference on "Aggiornamento Today" was organised by Professor Margit Eckholt who holds the Chair of "*Dogmatik and Fundamentaltheologie*" at the "*Institut für Katholische Theologie*" at the University of Osnabrück, together with Maria Theresia Zeidler M.A. The papers and discussions of the German and South American participants will soon be published as a book.

Ursula King
University of Bristol

Working Title for book - 'Piazza Theology': reflections on CWO experiences in public places and personal lives.

Thank you for all your responses so far for this book. We want you all to be part of the process as the book develops. We have now come up with a structure for five chapters based on the word 'AWAKENING' - a well-known term in all classical spirituality.

Chapter 1: Awakening - history of reasons why members joined CWO based on your personal reasons (Pippa and Myra)

Chapter 2: Awakening on Westminster Piazza and other public spaces e.g. the papal visit and any local experiences in the public arena (Pippa and Myra).

Chapter 3 : Awakenings through history (written by Myra).

Chapter 4 : Awakenings - psychological impact (written by Pippa).

Chapter 5 : Awakenings in the Church !!!!!!!!!!!!!

NOTE: We will be sending out future questions for more reflections. We may also ask some of you to elaborate more fully on the response to the first question - what experiences awakened you to join CWO.

Thank you for being willing to be part of the process as the book develops through writing.

Pippa B and Myra P

'Pink Smoke over the Vatican' @ the kitchen table

Thursday 21st July 2011

The evening will include a meal and chance for conversation around this important issue.

Pink Smoke Over the Vatican is a documentary film about the controversial movement of women seeking to be ordained as priests in the Roman Catholic Church.

On June 3, 2008, The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which is the modern name for The Holy Office of the Inquisition, issued a sweeping order of excommunication for "the crime of attempting sacred ordination of a woman."

Pink Smoke Over the Vatican chronicles the events that led up to this severe punishment and tells the stories of the determined women and men who, through the forbidden and illicit path of female ordination, are working to end the underlying misogyny and outdated feudal governance that is slowly destroying the Roman Catholic Church. The voices of these women must be heard!

for more info on the film:

www.pinksmokeoverthevatican.com

Anne Cross
The Kitchen Table Cafe
catering for community conversation

292b Barking Road
London
E6 3BA

0208 586 7979

Prayer Link

Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm, please pray for CWO, its members and its mission.

Saturdays at noon, join with women and men all over the world to pray for the work of Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW!)

Please take part in one or both of these prayer networks if and when you can

The CWO Prayer

Moved by a compulsion of the Holy Spirit,

we cannot remain ignorant of this injustice in our midst.

We long for all humanity to be acknowledged as equal, particularly among your community of the church,

so we pray grieving for the lost gifts of so many women.

We ask you, God of all peoples, to bring insight and humility to all those in positions of dominance, and an understanding that the ascended Lord called us all to act doing Christ's work here and now.

We ask this of you, God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, Spirit our Sustainer

Inter-being

I always think that we all live, spiritually, by what others have given us in the significant hours of our life. These significant hours do not announce themselves as coming, but arrive unexpectedly. Nor do they make a great show of themselves, they pass almost unperceived. Often, indeed, their significance comes to us first as we look back, just as the beauty of a piece of music or a landscape often strikes us first in our recollection of it. Much that has become our own in gentleness, modesty, kindness, willing to forgive in veracity, loyalty, resignation under suffering, we owe to people in whom we have seen or experienced these virtues at work, sometimes in a great matter, sometimes in a small. A thought which had become an act sprang into us like a spark, and lit a new flame within us. If we had before us those who having thus been a blessing to us, and could tell them how it came about, they would be amazed to learn what passed over from their life into ours."

Albert Schweitzer

from Memories of Childhood and Youth

British Museum Exhibition - Treasures of Heaven 23 June - 9 October 2011

This may be of interest or provide opportunity for comment. Some 150 objects will be on display from collections around the world including the Vatican.

There will be a Conference: Matter of Faith, at the British Museum, on Friday 7th October and Saturday 8th October. The Museum says that people in Britain have had little opportunity to see sacred art since the destruction of shrines and ending of pilgrimages at the Reformation.

Thanks to Mary L

Eucharist, Community and Ministry 8-15 August (Mon-Mon)

We will be considering the development of thought around concepts of Eucharist and the interconnections with ministry.

Emphasising the importance of community in the Eucharist. Among the aspects we will be exploring will be Eucharistic space, the Café Church movement, the strong connections of Eucharist with justice and peace.

The team, some members of the Noddfa community, and our chaplain, Fr. Charles Ramsay from Rhyl will explore various forms of community and ministry. We hope to have contributions from Fr. Owen Hardwicke and Ianthe Pratt. There will be input from Katharine Salmon, who is researching for a Ph.D. on Ministry; Anne and Malcolm Dixon will speak on Eucharistic space. Anne Cross and Mike Bold will be showing us how "The Kitchen Table", their initiative in East London, works. We are also hoping to invite some local residents for a session on how they view community.

Different aspects of liturgy, using the wonderful spaces available to us at Noddfa, will be explored. The aim is to make the week as participatory and multi-sensory as possible while also providing space and quiet for reflection, alongside the general conviviality of a CPW week.

Chair: Sue Williamson

Organisers: Howard & Mary Sherman

Chaplain: Fr Charles Ramsay

For further information and a booking form.

Contact hshermans@chester-uk.co.uk

Phone 07985052651. Bursaries on request.

Websites

www.womenwordspirit.org

Women Word Spirit

<http://www.gras.org.uk>

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign group for women's equality in the Church of England

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/>

National Catholic Reporter –

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>

Lesbian and Gay Christians

www.womenpriests.org.

Sign up for their regular newsletter

www.spirituschristi.org

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

www.womensordination.org

More news of Rome Petition, Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

Who is the Enemy?

*The enemy is hubristic humanity,
living as though we could control
nature.*

*Until we decommodify people, land and
credit,
we are doomed to inappropriate
exponential growth
and the entrenched habit
of exploitation of people and planet
that together widen the rich poor gap and
degrade the planet's life support systems.*

Global Table – 30 March 2011 – Christian
council for Monetary Justice

The Pope's War: Why Ratzinger's Secret Crusade has Imperiled the Church and How it can be Saved

A review of this book by theologian Matthew Fox, founder of the University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland, can be found at

http://www.spirituschristi.org/spirituschristi.org/Welcome_files/5-10-11_Bulletin.pdf

You can subscribe to the Spiritus Christi Newsletter via their website.

<http://www.spirituschristi.org/spirituschristi.org/Welcome.html>

What is my relationship with silence?

As a rule, most people are afraid of silence. That's our major barrier to prayer and to depth. Silence and words are related. Words that don't come out of silence probably don't say much. They probably are more an unloading than a communicating.

Yet good words can also feed silence. But even the word of God doesn't bear a great deal of fruit—it doesn't really break open the heart—unless it's tasted and chewed, unless it's felt and suffered and enjoyed at a level deeper than words. If you look for the citations of Mary Magdalene in the Gospels, she acts, waits, listens, and asks, and hardly ever "says."

If I had to advise one thing for spiritual growth, it would be silence.

Richard Rohr

CWO Merchandise

Every month, as this month, the last page is a CWO merchandise form. Please do have a close look and see if there's anything you could buy which would help to publicise CWO while at the same time improving CWO's financial position.

The car stickers are a great way of advertising CWO. I have had one in my rear window for many years and it gets a lot of attention. It could also go on any window – doesn't have to be a car.

Please have a think about buying something.

CWO Merchandise

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker! You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet.

The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME Prayer mail is a collection of prayers sent in by members, some written by them. This CWO initiative is an inspirational collection.

		Quantity	Unit cost	Cost
Very smart biro with CWO logo, website and `phone no	Purple/silver lettering		£0.80	
Car stickers with CWO logo, website and `phone no	Purple on cream		£1.50	
CWO badge	Purple/white lettering <u>R</u> enewed <u>O</u> rdained <u>M</u> inistry for <u>E</u> veryone		£1.00	
Postage and packing				£1.00
Donation to CWO (optional)				
Total - Cheques to CWO				

Delivery address

Contact email or phone number

Send order to CWO, PO Box 183, Leeds, LS8 9EN