

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news February 2012 issue 45

Welcome to the edited issue 45 of CWO e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Also details of how to join us.

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

Please read below about the day we have planned to mark the anniversary of Vatican II. Fifty years ago there was great hope for our Church. What has happened to those hopes? CWO wants to try to regenerate that optimism and plan how to take our Church forward.

Material to stimulate discussion can be found on our website

<http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm>

Scroll down to **Whatever happened to Vatican II?**

Also see

<http://www.womenpriests.org/authority/index.asp>

BBC Four Programme – Catholics

First of a series of three programmes is on BBC Four tonight at 9.00pm. This one is on priests, the next on children and the last on women. If you watch, please write to TV and Church press with comments.

CWO's facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Womens-Ordination/27311398359>

We have 200+ people commenting on and visiting our facebook page. You can post something or if you can't do this, please send suggestions for postings to social media rep Cathy at info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Whatever Happened to Vatican II?

A day of reflection and planning

Saturday 12 May At Andrew's Short Street Waterloo

10.30am – 4.00pm

All welcome

Programme

10.30 – 11.00	Registration and refreshments
11.00 – 12.15	Kathleen Walsh introduces the day followed by questions from the floor
12.15 – 12.45	Liturgy
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 2.30	Discussion in groups
2.30 – 3.00	Feed back from groups
3.00 – 4.00	Plan action

Interesting links

Joan Chittester

<http://rosemarieberger.com/2012/02/10/joan-chittester-women-and-their-stories/>

New Catholic Times

<http://www.newcatholictimes.com/index.php?module=articles&func=display&pid=1&aid=3140>

National Catholic Reporter is publishing articles connected to Vatican II anniversary. Please keep checking their website

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/curial-horror-greeted-john-xxiiis-announcement-ecumenical-council>

From a leaflet dated 1959

O Divine Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, Who dost infallibly assist and guide the Church, pour forth the fullness of thy gifts upon the Ecumenical Council.

Kind teacher and Comforter, enlighten the minds of our bishops, who, responding to the invitation of the Sovereign Roman Pontiff, will gather in solemn assembly. Grant that from this Council there may come forth abundant fruits: that the light and strength of the Gospel may ever more widely influence human society: that new vigour may infuse the Catholic religion and its missionary task; that the Church's teaching may be better known and Christian morality more widely practiced.

Sweet Guest of our souls, confirm our minds in truth, and dispose our hearts to obedience, so that the decisions of the council may find in us generous acceptance and prompt fulfillment.

We beseech Thee, too, on behalf of those sheep, who no longer belong to the one fold of Jesus Christ, that they also, glorifying as they do in the name of Christian, may finally regain unity under one Shepherd.

Renew in our time Thy wondrous works, as in a new Pentecost, and grant that Holy Church, gathered together in unanimous, more intense prayer, around Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and guided by Peter, may spread the kingdom of the Divine Saviour, which is the kingdom of truth, of justice, of love, and of peace. Amen.

Thanks to Maggie W

Events @ the kitchen table catering for community conversation

Thursday 15th **Quiz Night @ the kitchen table** £7 including supper
March 7pm

If you have any ideas for conversation events, community nights or anything else that we could do @ the kitchen table please come along to our

Kitchen Cabinet Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm

Everyone welcome!

For more information about this events & to book please call or email
anne@thekitchentable.eu / 0208 586 7979

Book review - Christianity in Evolution: An Exploration – Jack Mahoney

Moral theologian Jack Maloney Jack Mahoney is emeritus professor of moral and social theology in the University of London and was formerly the principal of Heythrop College, University of London. He has written several books including 'The Making of Moral Theology: A Study of the Roman Catholic Tradition' and in this book 'Christianity in Evolution' is concerned with Catholic reactions to evolution and its theological implications. He discusses such things as how this affects our image of God and the implications for the doctrine of original sin . He sees Jesus by his sacrifice as saving humanity from death and dismisses the idea of original sin. In particular he points to the death and resurrection of Christ as freeing humanity, not from the curse of original sin, but from death. In his humanity He faced death and overcame it – an act of cosmic and everlasting significance.

Mahoney goes back to the question raised by Pope John Paul in 1988 'Does an evolutionary perspective bring any light to bear upon theological anthropology, the meaning of the human person as being in the image of God , the problem of Christology and the development of doctrine?'

The author admits his unease at the implications for Christian belief of accepting the concept of biological evolution. His claim is that by expressing himself in human form in Christ 'advanced the ethical horizon of the human species and provided a living and dying inspiration for its members, who are individually and as a whole created to live in the image of God's own altruism.'

He contends that Jesus did not "die for our sins" in order to pay back or satisfy God, as Christian theology has stated since the days of the apostle Paul in the first century. Mahoney believes that the life, death and altruism of Jesus represents an evolutionary progress in human ethical behaviour. He sees Christ as a model for perfect morality and states that this is fully consistent with a scientific point of view.

In his article 'God with Us' (http://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/20090812_1.htm) Mahoney takes the theme of the presence of God in individual life – a presence he sees as dynamic, as having a purpose - it is around what that purpose is that the discussion centres. Read again John 3 v 16 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' No mention of sin there. Fit that with Romans 6 v 23 'The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

There are so many theories of the atonement - everything from tricking the devil to Christus Victor. Mahoney has a new idea which takes sin, which he acknowledges exists, out of the equation. All men and women sin and all die - but Mahoney sees their death as natural part of the fact of their humanity. He then goes on to say that through the death and resurrection of Christ they too can overcome death.

Maggie W

CWO merchandise new item!

CWO mugs are for sale

White mugs

New purple logo including strapline and the slogan "CWO's my cup of tea" (Apologies to coffee drinkers)

These will cost £4.50 each
Or 3 for £12
Or 10 for £35

We're hoping people will buy them for their office/Church tea room/meeting room.

You might like to send one to your bishop!

These will be ready in a couple of weeks. Advance orders may get a discount!

info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

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

CWO Retreat 3-5 August – for CWO members only

Once again we are holding a retreat for all CWO members at Noddfa. Cost £88. To reserve a place, please send deposit (non refundable) of £50 to Noddfa, Conwy Old Road, Penmaenmawr, North Wales, LL34 6YF . Please book by 31 May and state any dietary or other needs.

Saint Hildegard Doctor of the Church - International Conference Bingen - Disibodenberg - Eibingen – October 25-28 2012

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) - seer, mystic woman, healer, composer, politician and soon also to be a Doctor of the Church!? Her elevation into this position, and, also connected to this, her official sanctification might be declared in October 2012 by the Pope in Rome.

In order to reflect on and celebrate this event properly, the newly-founded *Scivias Institute for Art & Spirituality* (in co-operation with the city of Bingen & other partners) invites you to an international conference in Bingen and to the "Land of Hildegard".

Qualified teachers from Germany, America, England and Spain give lectures and hold workshops in the German and/or English language. The question as to what we can learn from Hildegard as a teacher shall be asked and answered earnestly in the fields of theology, literature, music, art, medicine and politics. The results of the workshops shall be presented at the end of the conference and end in a celebration of Saint Hildegard's life and work.

Conference locations are in Bingen at the *Rupertsberger Gewölbe* (the remains of Hildegard's original convent!), at the *Museum am Strom*, at the *Hildegardisforum* on the Rochusberg; and, in the „Land of Hildegard“ at the site of the ruins of *Disibodenberg*, at St. Hildegard's Abbey and at the old Parish Church in *Eibingen*.

Accommodation for conference participants is reserved in different price-classes at *NH-Hotel Bingen* (20), *Hotel Krone Bingen* (20), in the Guest House of the *Kreuzschwestern* (10) and in *Bingen Youth Hostel* (10 Plätze).

The Conference fee is € 150,00. It includes entrances, a buffet with Hildegard-food and a concert with Hildegard's music.

Application is necessary till August 30, 2012 at the latest. Early bird bookings are most welcome!

Scivias Institute for Art & Spirituality

www.scivias-Institut.de – annette.esser@scivias-institut.de

Dr. Annette Esser – Winzenheimer Str. 23 – 55545 Bad Kreuznach, GERMANY

*Christians are not people of the cross.
Christians are people of the empty tomb
who know that every step
on the way to light
is Light.*

Joan Chittister

Call for Papers - Liturgy as muse

Religious institutes as protagonists in renewing liturgy, sacred art and music and church material culture (1903-1962)

International conference of the European Forum on the History of Religious Institutes in the 19th and 20th Centuries (RELINS-Europe) Leuven, Belgium, 8-9 November 2012

The intended focus of the 2012 Relins conference is the role – to which still too little attention has been paid – played by religious and religious institutes in the reform and renewal of religious art and the material culture of church architecture and of worship between 1903 and 1962, along three main themes.

1. Religious Institutes and national/international networks
2. Motives, ideas and significance of the religious protagonists
3. Conflicts and public perception

All these questions and themes will be discussed at the 2012 RELINS-Europe conference. RELINS-Europe (www.relins.eu) is an international forum that aims to foster international, comparative research on religious institutes in (Western) Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. Previous conferences were organized in 2001 (Rome – Historiography of Religious Institutes), 2002 (Vallendar – Legal Position of Religious Institutes), 2004 (Rome – Religious Institutes and the Roman Factor), 2005 (Fribourg – Religious Institutes and Catholic Culture), 2006 (Rome – Missiology, Science and Modernity), 2008 (Leuven – Patrimony, Business and Management of Religious Institutes) and 2009 (Ravenstein – Educating a Catholic Elite).

The conference is scheduled to take place in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 November 2012 and will be hosted by KADOC-KU Leuven (www.kadoc.be). Proposals for papers (max. 500 words, including a title), together with a curriculum vitae and a list of publications, should be addressed to Kristien Suenens (kristien.suenens@kadoc.kuleuven.be) before March 1st 2012. Replies will follow no later than May 1st 2012.

Unanswered questions are far less dangerous than unquestioned answers.

Anon

Websites

www.womenwordspirit.org

Women Word Spirit

www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/cc

Catholics for a Changing Church

<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

Holy Rood House Thirsk

There are many interesting days and residential courses and retreats.

You may wish to book overnight accommodation, or stay for the whole weekend at Holy Rood and take advantage of their provision of complimentary therapies, creative arts and spiritual accompaniment.

Please visit their website or email with enquiries.

enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk

www.holyroodhouse.org.uk

Holy Rood House
10 Sowerby Road
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HX

CWO Annual Gathering

Please make a note of the date 29 September at St Andrew's Waterloo. More details later

Sure [Fred Astaire] was great, but don't forget Ginger Rogers did everything he did backwards...and in high heels!

Bob Thaves 1982 © NEA Inc