

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news May 2012 issue 48 supplement

CWO supports the priests and people of the Irish and Austrian Church in standing against the direction being taken by the Pope and Curia. We join in prayerful solidarity with all in the UK who are disturbed by the way the church is deviating from the path opened to us by Vatican II.

This is a supplement to the May e-news. Things are happening almost too fast to keep up! This is mostly a series of links plus some items that have come in since the last e-news. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for June e-news by 15 June. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

WATCH PRESS RELEASE TUESDAY 22nd MAY 2012
House Of Bishops Discussion Outcome: Women Bishops' Legislation

WATCH (Women and the Church) is deeply disappointed to hear that the all male House of Bishops has, in a closed meeting, decided to make two amendments to the draft legislation on women bishops that had been so carefully crafted after years of debate and scrutiny from all sides and had commanded the support of 42/44 dioceses across the Church of England.

They have failed to listen to the voice of ordained women and those who support their ministry and been swayed by those who are opposed into making concessions that can only undermine the ministry of women in future years.

Their decision to intervene in this way will significantly undermine the credibility of the House of Bishops both inside and outside the Church.

The exact wording of the amendments is not in the House of Bishops' Press Release, nor are the figures of how many bishops voted for and against them. WATCH will be considering the amendments in detail over coming days and will issue a full response in due course.

The Reverend Rachel Weir, Chair of WATCH said "The House of Bishops' intervention will be an enormous blow to the morale of women clergy who were looking to their bishops for clear affirmation of their ministry as a welcome gift to the Church."

Contact: Revd Rachel Weir Chair of WATCH 01865515305 07815729565
Sally Barnes Media Officer WATCH 020 8731 9860 07759343335

Kevin T. Kelly Book Launch at Hope University, Liverpool, 24 May

At the launch of his new book "50 Years Receiving Vatican II, a Personal Odyssey" (Columba Press), the Rev Dr Kevin Kelly stressed that Vatican II has been the burning enthusiasm of his whole life as a priest. Throughout his life he has practiced as a moral theologian and pastor, whether as a chaplain, parish priest, seminary teacher or leader of a major project for lay people's development.

The Council did not come out of the blue, but stemmed from various renewal movements within the Church which led to a wonderful pouring out of the Holy Spirit on and through the Church. Following quickly upon publication of the Council documents, a great variety of initiatives were taken with the warmth and inspiration of the Spirit being palpable. Kevin Kelly committed himself to these in and around Liverpool with "fire in the belly". The keys to these initiatives were: honouring and enabling God's presence in everyday lives; making the text of the Bible available to all the people of God; fostering women's full participation in the Church; and enhancing close ecumenical relationships. In this light, his work as a moral theologian has not been to issue instruction, but to help people with decision making within normal life. He has seen nearly all the initiatives, to which he gave so much of himself, either closed down or allowed to fade away. He finds now that his writings, for example, on the inhumanity of excluding women from the priesthood, on homosexual love and his objections to the new missal translation, are much less likely to find a publisher. Yet he shows no bitterness, and his whole manner conveys the gentleness and kindness of a great Christian.

Kevin Kelly continues to have hope for the Church: the God of surprises, the Holy Spirit, can always be depended upon. We need to pray knowing that all depends on God, and act as if all depends on ourselves.

Thanks to Olive P for this report

See also [The Vatican's Tahrir Square](#) by Kevin T. Kelly on our website

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

To honour women religious whose actions reflect the Spirit's lead at Vatican II

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of Wisdom, Compassion and Courage (heart rage for Justice),

Sibling of every mortal in need,

Empower our beloved Sisters, and us...

To see prophetically and hear without distortion,

To speak truthfully and with respect,

To touch tenderly and always stand tall in You,

For Your honour and glory, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Comment on CWO's facebook wall

It is time for progressive bishops to stand up and LEAD. I love the idea of a Catholic Spring. Or, OCCUPY Church!!

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

A struggle brewing among US bishops

<http://commonwealmagazine.org/all-aboard>

Thanks to Cathy Wg

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### Catholic Rebels v The Vatican

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/catholic-rebels-v-the-vatican.17575388>

CWO mentioned  
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Vatileaks

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18209956>

Catholic Bishops Challenge Girl Scouts USA For Conflict With Church Teachings

<http://www.dignityusa.org/content/catholics-come-out-support-girl-scouts-godlovesthegirlscouts>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/05/10/girl-scouts-catholic-bishops_n_1507133.html

<http://thinkprogress.org/health/2012/05/11/482527/girl-scouts-inquiry-catholic-bishops/?mobile=nc>

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/where-i-stand/attack-girl-scouts-shows-current-law-isnt-working>

Cathy Wt writes

There seems to be a collection of fresh repressive actions or revelations in the recent weeks eg the actions against the US sisters (and related Justice/Peace organization Network and legal/financial organization RCRI), the news of six silenced prominent Irish priests, Vatican action against the Justice umbrella group Caritas (related to CAFOD and similar), various gay marriage objections, Pope mentions women's ordination in holy week (maybe this is positive..), attack on Hans Kung by bishop Koch, threats to lay groups like those protesting the appointment of traditionalist priests (USA) etc.

Some US commentators think what's happening there could be connected with the current and possible future trials of church officials for abuse cover up - either as a smokescreen or attempt at political manipulation or resource acquisition.

Celebrating Vatican II

The 50th anniversary of the opening of the Council by Blessed Pope John XXIII: sponsored by The International Federation for Renewed Catholic Ministry, We Are Church UK, Stand Up for Vatican II, Catholics for a Changing Church and The People of God Trust

The Lansdowne Club, Fitzmaurice Place, Mayfair. London W1J 5JD

Saturday 13th October 2012

A Study Day

10.30 registration and coffee

11.00 Introduction by Clifford Longley, Chair of the Conference

11.15 Dr Helen Costigane SHCJ Celebration and Hope

12.15 The Rt Revd Bishop Christopher Hill The Anglican Response and Reception of Vatican II

13.15 buffet lunch with wine included and coffee

14.30 Professor Anthony Padovano How Vatican II has changed us and the Church

15.30 short break

15.45 Discussion and Questions to the Panel chaired by Clifford Longley

16.45 tea

17.30 close

Tickets £45 each [£40 if booked by 1 July] to include lunch, wine, coffee, tea from The Pelican Trust, 1 Carysfort House, 14 West Halkin Street, LONDON SW1X 8JS, cheques payable to The Pelican Trust. Limited availability.

[The use of mobile phones and the wearing of denim, jeans, casual trousers and trainers etc is not allowed in the Lansdowne Club. Smoking is permitted in the outer courtyard.]

A Reception and Gala Dinner

18.30 Wine reception in the Ballroom Gallery

19.30 Three course dinner with wine in the Ball Room

After dinner address by John Wilkins MBE

Lounge suits. Tickets £55 each [£50 if booked by 1 July] from The Pelican Trust, 1 Carysfort House, 14 West Halkin Street, London SW1X 8JS, cheques payable to The Pelican Trust. Limited availability.