

**CWO**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news July 2012 issue 50**

Welcome to the edited issue 50 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website [www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) News and previous issues can be seen there.

Please send items for August e-news by 15 August. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

The e-news is small this month. There may be a supplement as details of future meetings come in. Please send items you wish to share with other members.

Details of the Call to Action meeting on 18 July and future meeting on 10 October are below. You may have read about it in the Tablet. This movement gives us great hope but we feel there must be difficult times ahead for this brave group of priests.

Our Annual Gathering will be at St Andrew's Waterloo on 29 September. You will be receiving papers about this soon.

A meeting is being planned for Leeds to take forward our ideas on Vatican II. This will be on 27 October in Leeds 1.00pm to 5.00pm at Mill Hill Church (2 mins from Leeds station).

### Call to Action meeting 18 July

We wanted you to know about our meeting yesterday without delay because you have been so supportive. I think it is fair to say that the meeting went better than we could have hoped. Some seventy priests and deacons turned up and most were able to stay for the whole meeting.

After some input from our three speakers, we broke into groups and discussed points arising from their contributions. Briefly, there was a lot of consensus about what we ought to be doing and, most importantly, we have decided to have a meeting with all of you (who can come along) on Wednesday, October 10th. We will send you details before hand but do get the date in your diaries. It will be a daytime meeting

*Derek R*

## From the WATCH National Committee

You have probably already seen on the news that General Synod yesterday adjourned the final vote on consecrating women as bishops in the Church of England, allowing the House of Bishops time to reconsider its controversial amendment to the legislation. This is great news, and we are so grateful to all those who raised their voices to point out the unacceptable implications of the amended clause 5(1)(c). The speed with which people signed WATCH's petition (6,000 of you so far) must also have been a factor in Synod's thinking as it voted by 288 votes to 144 to adjourn the Final Approval debate. Yesterday's welcome move does not, however, commit the House of Bishops to the withdrawal of its contested amendment. It simply means that the bishops have been given the opportunity to reconsider at a meeting on 12/13th September.

We need to keep reminding the bishops between now and then that the great majority of people want them to withdraw their unpopular amendment and allow General Synod to vote on legislation that is as close as possible to that which was approved by 42 out of 44 dioceses.

It's easy to forget amidst the furore that the original legislation did already offer generous provision for the small minority of parishes that are unwilling to accept the ministry of a woman bishop. We want to see all members of the Church of England continuing to work alongside each other, united in their commitment to share the love of God with all. But we cannot do that if the authority of women's orders is in doubt. So please keep encouraging everyone you know who believes that women should be able to be bishops in our national church on the same terms as men to sign the petition.

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement.

### Links

Infallible – I don't think so!

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

The cost of looking good

[http://www.catholica.com.au/media/swf/TheCostOfLookingGood\\_850x638.swf](http://www.catholica.com.au/media/swf/TheCostOfLookingGood_850x638.swf)

*Anything anyone does anywhere  
affects everything everywhere*

Anon

### CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White  
Pat McGarron  
Marcella Althaus-Reid  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown

*Pray for us*

***Spiritual Pilgrims, Carl Jung & Teresa of Avila by John Welch, O. Carm. (1982:Paulist press).***

Teresa of Avila is known as the psychological saint. She traces through her Crystal Castle the many mansions in which we reside in our approach to unity with God. Jung's archetypes are used throughout this book to describe the inner journey to God. 'Centring our life on God does not rob us of our personality but guarantees it. This book is about Christian individuation, the movement into the wholeness of our personality as union with God deepens'. (Introduction p.1). I highly recommend this book to everyone.

EXTRACT (pp.188-189)

'When women are absent from certain arenas of life, the feminine is represented by the anima of the men who are present. That anima is the function of an archetype which is notoriously ambiguous ...It produces an attitude in men which may be highly idealistic: 'Women love them! God love them!': or fearfully pessimistic: 'Women !God help us!' When women are present to the men, they provide a concrete imaging of the anima and allow the men to enter into a relationship with the feminine in life. The extreme attitudes toward the feminine may give way to a more realistic attentive attitude.

Erich Neumann, in his study of the feminine archetype identifies two characters of the elementary and the transforming. It is my impression that the Church is highly endowed with the elementary character of the feminine. The elementary feminine gives birth, nourishes, and surrounds. It manifests a conservative tendency causing it to hold fast to what has been produced. 'Mother Church' is an expression of the elementary character of the feminine.

The transforming character of the feminine represents a dynamic element of the psyche which drives towards motion and change. It is this character which is scarce in the church when women, and the experience they represent, are not present in important areas of Church life. A matriarchal elementary, feminine presence is tolerated and even encouraged. But an anima, transformative feminine is discouraged. The elementary feminine nourishes, makes secure and only asks for loyalty. The transforming feminine demands relationships, risk and growth.

The growth of the individual requires that the inner masculine or feminine figure be acknowledged, met, and related to in genuine dialogue. The growth of the Church as a human community depends on the essential relationship of the masculine and the feminine.

*Myra P*

## 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*

*Eternity is not something that happens after you are dead. It's going on all the time. We're in it now.*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

## Websites

[www.womenwordspirit.org](http://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

[www.womensordination.org](http://www.womensordination.org)  
More news of Rome Petition, Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/expliturgy/>  
Rachel is a professed hermit of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham. She sent this link to an experimentally inclusive version of the new liturgy. This is an (unauthorised) work in progress and she would welcome any feedback or ideas to improve it.

[www.womenpriests.org](http://www.womenpriests.org).  
Sign up for their regular newsletter

[www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/ccc](http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/ccc)  
Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/>  
National Catholic Reporter

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>  
**Lesbian and Gay Christians**

[www.spirituschristi.org](http://www.spirituschristi.org)  
A truly inclusive Catholic Church

**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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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. ([www.relins.eu](http://www.relins.eu))

The conference is scheduled to take place in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 November 2012 and will be hosted by KADOC-KULeuven ([www.kadoc.be](http://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](mailto:kristien.suenens@kadoc.kuleuven.be)) before March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Replies will follow no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

**From FutureChurch USA on the 22nd July Feast of St Mary of Magdala**

***Go Forth***

***Leader:*** *Dear friends, we are about to go forth into the world renewed to be disciples of the reign of God. God will seek to re-create us. Christ will continue to be our Way, our Truth, and our Life. The Spirit will be our guide and inspiration. May St. Mary of Magdala and the women religious be our model of courage and faithful service to the Gospel. By their example may we delight in the presence of Jesus and shout with joy: "I have seen the Lord!" May God bless us all: Source of Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.*

***All:*** *Amen*

***Leader:*** *Let us go forth from here in peace to be signs of hope and preachers of the Good News.*

excerpt from "2012 Celebrating the Prophetic Witness of Women Religious in the Tradition of St. Mary of Magdala "