

**CWO**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news June 2012 issue 49**

Welcome issue 49 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 July 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](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

In view of the recent call for reform from UK priests, we have amended our statement.

**CWO supports the priests and people of Ireland, Austria and the United Kingdom who are 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.**

There will be more meetings where we take these ideas forward. The next national one will be on 27 October in Leeds 1.00pm to 5.00pm at Mill Hill Church (2 mins from Leeds station). Some group reports below give details of local meetings

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

### **Women Bishops in the Church of England**

The Synod is to be held in York this year from from the 6th to 10th July. The Leeds CWO group are holding their meeting at York on Sunday the 8th. The debate is on Monday the 9th. We hope to join our Anglican sisters at York University. If you can attend, please contact [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) to find out details as we won't know till nearer the date.

**The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)** in the US is receiving unprecedented affirmation and support after the Vatican appointed a panel of three bishops to oversee the organization and to help make changes that Rome thinks are necessary. The LCWR Board has many questions, concerns, and disagreements with the assessment and a special meeting is being held 12 June in Rome with the Congregation of the Faith, the main bishop appointed, and two leaders of LCWR. The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Rome has given their full support to LCWR. They have sent all the Congregational Leaders worldwide information about this censure which UISG believes will have repercussions for women religious in every country. Many of your national religious conferences have sent their affirmations to LCWR, and we have sent our Congregation's full support to them as they present their case before the Vatican officials. The sisters have used the phrase "nonviolent contemplation" to characterize their/our responses. You can read the 1 June LCWR response at [www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org).

## The Maternal Face of God

Sara Ruddick, in her book *Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace*, speaks of the attentive love of a mother. In summary, Ruddick says mothers are characterized by attentive love. They have to keep watching this new life; they have to keep listening and adjusting to the needs of the child. It is necessary to recognize a new agenda with the growth of the child. If the mother cannot transform herself into attentive love, she quite simply cannot be a mother. She has to learn early on that life is about change, not about "standing your ground," which is not going to help a child. All growth is about changing and adjusting to what is needed *at this moment, with these tears, and by this child*. The mother cannot run to abstract truths. Philosophy and theology courses at that point would probably be boring to her.

I cannot help but think that the present persecution of the Religious Sisters by the Vatican reflects this difference. The Sisters, by and large, went toward human need and pain with "attentive love." The clergy, I being one of them, can easily stay in abstract theories and theologies and never get to love at all.

*Richard Rohr*

## We Are Only Anthropoi

How many times have I heard the Ascension Day readings for Year B in my lifetime? Why was it only this year that Peter's words to Cornelius *Stand up, I am only a man after all!* hit me between the eyes? I venture to suggest that it was because the posturing by certain male clerics this year is such a contradiction of that bald statement.

A little investigation revealed that Luke had used the Greek word for a human being, not that for the male of the species, in Peter's statement. Initially, I was disappointed by this as there was no mileage in attempting a denigration of men, as opposed to women. However, upon reflection I realised that Peter's words apply to us all: we are **all** only human beings. Perhaps the Church would do well to remember that all its members are only *anthropoi*.

*Brenda F*

## 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*

## **CWO Regional Groups News**

### **S Wales and West**

Following on from our very successful and interesting day led by Myra and Mary on March 10th, we met again on June 9th to deepen our discussions on Vatican 2.

We would like to propose that the supportive statement developed in London at the workshop on Vatican 2 should now include the English and Welsh priests who have written to *The Tablet* with their concerns. We focused on the workshop questions from the London day and several caught our attention. In particular we felt that *"The laity and the clergy need to become better educated in the history of the Catholic tradition"* really spoke to us and that we needed to understand more about the past to make sense of the present.

Ruth addressed a group of Catholic women in Malvern and hopes that one of two may join us. Anna is also putting out feelers in Glastonbury and the S Wales and West group is planning a trip to Glastonbury next year for the Pilgrimage.

Our next meeting is September 8th for a shared lunch and anyone who lives locally is very welcome. We are going to prepare material to discuss the Early Church; Council of Trent and other Councils; the Medieval Church; Synod of Whitby and Vatican 1. The venue is likely to be Chepstow but may change if we have new members and need a larger space.

### **North West CWO**

North West CWO has met twice times this year. In March we looked at Vatican II and the Vatican 2 Voice leaflet. We also watched "Pink Smoke over the Vatican" and were very moved and inspired by it. Three people pledged to buy the video and give it a wider audience.

The last time we met was to plan some campaigning and we have approached News from Now-Where( a feminist bookshop) who has agreed to stock a copy of " Pink Smoke Over the Vatican". The Fact cinema has also agreed to show it in "The box" which is a small 50 seat cinema on the 18th September. We have permission from Jules Hart to show it but need \$50 screening fee. We are also hoping to get independent cinemas to show it in Lancaster and Sheffield (or Leeds). We have a contact in Lancaster.

## **CWO Regional Group News (Continued)**

### **Leeds**

We have four new members and continue our study of Vatican II. In March, one of our members presented part of her dissertation which showed some of the links between Vatican II documents and women's ministry. This was a very interesting session.

We are in the process of planning a Vatican II day to follow on from the London day on 12th May which produced the statement now on the CWO website. This second day will be in Leeds on 27th October from 1.00-5.00 (see first page e-news)

Pat and Pippa have had some media coverage. Pat has spoken to the Scottish Herald and Pippa on the RC corralling of the sacraments: ordination, and gay marriage in the Times and on Radio 4's Sunday. In April, Jean Mayland had major coverage in the Times on her role in defeating the Anglican Covenant which she saw as being centralising and authoritarian. In May she has featured again speaking against amendment about Women Bishops to be discussed at the York General Synod on July 9th.

Leeds CWO are holding a prayer meeting in York during the General Synod on the afternoon of 8th July and will be present on 9th for the debate (see first page of e-news). In Jean Mayland's words about the latest amendment "the woman bishop must provide not any male bishop but an "untainted" one, whose hands have never been anywhere near a woman's head and no woman has laid her hands on his head." This newly inserted last minute amendment seems to reflect some of the thinking about women being "unclean" against which CWO have also struggled.

### **Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women**

Let's Celebrate Thirty Years - Open Day with National Coordinators and special guests\* from Europe at Elim Conference Centre, Malvern, WR14 4DF on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 10.30am - 5.30pm

Programme includes book launch *FORWARD CHRISTIAN WOMEN* with reflections on 30 years of Forum, a festive lunch, workshops based on the book and celebration worship.

Cost £22 includes coffee, lunch and tea

Dinner and overnight stay available on request at extra cost

\*National Coordinators from over 20 countries in Europe are meeting from Wed 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September with the theme Forward Christian Women-Three generations with energy and vision. Special guests include former CoPresidents.

Local contacts: Ingrid Chestnutt 01386 870397  
dorothyknights@waitrose.com

## Links

Tradition shows the church should back, not reject, gay marriage

<http://news.uk.msn.com/articles.aspx?cp-documentid=250241425>

African theologian questions church's exclusion of women | National Catholic Reporter

<http://ncronline.org/news/african-theologian-questions-church%E2%80%99s-exclusion-women>

Brazilian bishop calls for review of who can be ordained:

<http://www.praytelligblog.com/index.php/2012/06/05/brazilian-bishop-krautler-poll-the-worlds-bishops-on-ordination-admission-requirements>

There is concern and dismay that the CDF have yet again attacked a woman, this time Sr Margaret Farley a Yale professor of ethics: CDF have summarily condemned her book on sexual ethics, with all the usual secrecy.

<http://ncronline.org/news/women-religious/bishops-move-against-women-religious-hard-sell-indeed>

You might like to contribute to the Vatican III project being organised by WAC-Austria. More information at

<http://bit.ly/KcRoM3>

A letter of support for the US women religious from Pax Christi International: <http://www.paxchristi.net/international/eng/news.php?id=1547&wat=show>

## Holy Rood House

10 Sowerby Road Thirsk  
Y07 1HX

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 [enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)  
[www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

If you visit our website you will see that as well as our face book page

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

CWO is now on *linked in* and *Twitter*. Please join us on linked in

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Catholic-Womens-Ordination-4336317?goback=.gna\\_4336317](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Catholic-Womens-Ordination-4336317?goback=.gna_4336317)

and follow us on twitter @CWOcampaign  
Just click on the links on the web page

I'd also welcome pithy CWO statements to tweet (max. 140 characters incl. spaces)

*Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition.*

Timothy Leary

## 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*

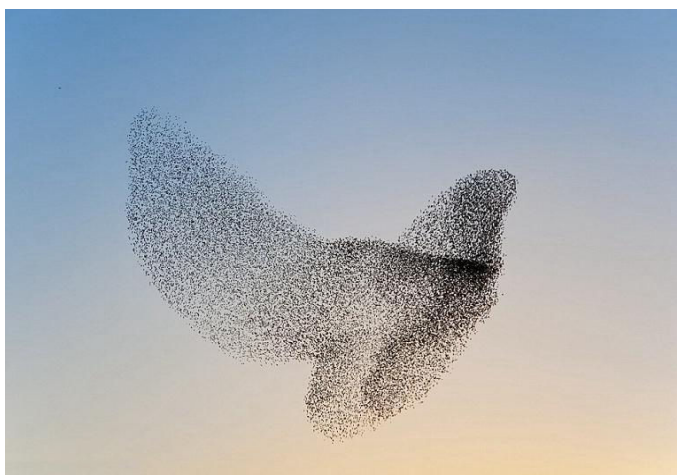
*Moved by a compulsion of the Holy Spirit, we cannot remain ignorant of this injustice in our midst.*

*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*



## Websites

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

Women Word Spirit

[www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/cc](http://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](http://www.womenpriests.org).

Sign up for their regular newsletter

[www.spirituschristi.org](http://www.spirituschristi.org)

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

[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.

## 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. RELINS-Europe ([www.relins.eu](http://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](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.

*The world is turning, changing, with the seasons of the year  
Flowers grow where once the land was cold and bare  
The streams feed the rivers, rivers feed the sea  
And the strength of my friends will feed the change in me.  
For there is no going back; there is no limit now  
No going back; we're too deep in it now  
No going back; you've met the women now  
No going back.*

Sandra Kerr - Miners' wives group, miners' strike