

CWO
1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news February 2013 issue 56

Welcome to the edited issue 56 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. If names and contact details are missing, please contact address below

Please send items for March e-news by 15 March.

20th anniversary of CWO
24 March 2013

We will hold a prayer vigil on our actual 20th anniversary, Sunday 24 March outside Westminster Cathedral.

We will arrive at the Piazza at 10.30am. We will pray and hand out leaflets. We have had a banner specially made for our anniversary and will have CWO balloons. Afterwards we can share a meal together and give thanks for twenty years of campaigning and prayer.

We hope as many people as possible will attend so please spread the word. Please contact me if you are thinking of coming.

If you can't be there, please pray for those who are. It is a good feeling to know that someone is praying for us when we're up against some of our critics!

info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

CWO Annual Gathering Saturday 5 October 2013

This will reflect our twenty years of prayer and action
10.30am – 4.00pm
at the Welsh Congregationalist Church, Loveday Street, Birmingham B4 6NP

More details will follow – please put the date in your diaries now.

Links

Obituary for Fr Tissa, a loving and gentle rebel

<http://ncronline.org/news/people/fr-tissa-balasuriya-loving-and-gentle-rebel>

A moving critique of "Call the Midwife"

<http://www.radiotimes.com/news/2013-02-24/call-the-midwife-is-the-torchbearer-of-feminism-on-television>

Miriam Duignan on fourthought (28 days left to watch)

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/4thoughttv/4od#3483445>

Pat Brown and Jack Valero on PM Radio 4 (about 6 mins in) (5 days left to watch)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01qw93j>

Trip to Rome

Two Women's Ordination Conference delegates and Marilyn Hatton and Paul Collins from Australia are going to Rome for some of the conclave.

They wondered if anyone else would be interested in joining them.

They have found cheap accommodation in a convent and will be there from 10-15th March

Please contact info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk if you are interested



There is no earthly reason not to ordain a woman.
It is sexism.
Old-fashioned sexism.

Miriam Duignan

CWO Book

Last month I asked if you could help me with answering some questions for the book Myra and I are writing about CWO. Some of you replied but I would love some more responses please. I won't put a deadline this time on replies. Quotes from you inform me, enrich and make substantial the points I am making: both in looking at some of the psychological and emotional aspects of staying in a campaign like CWO and also contribute to a chapter I am writing on our spiritual maturity.

- How as CWO members do we cope emotionally with the CWO struggle in the long term? I think CWO quotes from individuals are much more powerful than me saying what I think or giving only theoretical answers. If you have sent me something already (as several of you have to this question) please ignore this or write some more!
- What motivates you to keep engaging with the CWO struggle?
- What feelings, motivations and beliefs do you have about the current situation? Also what strategies do you have for keeping going and coping with the campaign? Have you developed a spiritual way of continuing and sustaining yourself?

This is a qualitative piece of writing, not measuring numbers, but I am trying to get a sense of CWO themes from CWO members. I also want any positive points you wish to make, as well as the negative.

Please respond to info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk and say if you want to be named (first names) if your piece is used or if you wish to be anonymous.

Thanks
Pippa B

In God's House by Ray Mouton

I appreciated Amanda's review of In God's House by Ray Mouton, especially as it must be a hard book to read. I hadn't realised that corruption in the church went so far as to whitewash perjury.

I wonder if anyone missed the article in the Guardian in 2010 which covers some of the background of the involvement of the author and lawyer, Ray Mouton, a canon lawyer Tom Doyle and another priest Michael Peterson, a psychiatrist, in sounding the alarm on sex abuse and cover-ups in the church in 1985. The article tells how their attempt to help the hierarchy deal with the problems was defeated by a pretense of taking it up through William (later Cardinal) Levada, while in reality nothing at all was done. The troubling article makes useful reading at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/apr/02/catholic-bishop-william-levada> and also links to the 90 page manual which the three Catholics wrote and which was presumably buried by the church.

Cathy W

Qualities for next Pope

He must

be a good communicator, a listener who really hears what people say to him

have the courage to manage the Curia, reform the Vatican, put the people before the institution, place authority in the grass roots, be democratic

have deep spirituality while having experience of the world and how ordinary people live

be open, transparent, accountable, collaborative, flexible

be compassionate with a mission to serve the People of God and have humility to call on experts for advice.

believe the Good News.

Work collegially with the bishop's conferences around the world to build on the work of Vatican II

walk away from the traditional arguments about the position of women, and be prepared to re-examine the whole question, with the help of involved women and men.

You can fill in your own answers at the Tablet Survey

<http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/thetablet/what-do-you-want-from-the-next-pope/>

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

The only tyrant I accept in this world is the still voice within.

I have learned through bitter experience the one supreme lesson to conserve my anger,

and as heat conserved is transmuted into energy,

even so our anger controlled can be transmuted into a power that can move the world.

When you make yourself into zero, your power becomes invincible.

Do not believe in telling people of one's faith, especially with a view to conversion.

Faith must be lived, and when it is, it becomes self-propagating

Mahatma Gandhi

If I Were Pope

If I were pope I'd proclaim the end of my infallibility and banish the word sin from the doctrines of faith. I'd ask half the bishops and cardinals to replace themselves with a thoughtful woman and complete their ministries in a prison or homeless shelter

If I were pope I'd pay the mystics to write poetry all day and have their words read at the Sunday Masses. I'd pay the prophets to upload their message in five minute videos for youtube viewers around the world. I'd hire a thousand displaced workers to construct a new Sistine Chapel and cover it with mirrors instead of male images

If I were pope I'd announce a contest for 10 new sacraments that celebrate peace-making, justice, and interfaith creations. I'd send envoys to the villages to talk about birth control and distribute condoms wherever they are needed. I'd establish a tuition-free college in every country to train young students how to think non-violently and act ethically.

If I were pope I'd convert closed churches to housing for the needy and meeting places for the marginal and walking wounded. I'd buy farms in rural places and dedicate each one to organic farming and cooperative, sustainable, community-based agriculture.

I'd convert every old Motherhouse and seminary into a training center for spiritual activists, cultural creators and community collaborators. I'd auction off my skullcap, my mozetta cape and my darling red shoes to the highest bidder and send the money to Haiti for the construction of schools and health care centers. I'd sell my Fisherman's Ring on ebay and donate the proceeds to the Gulf shrimpers. I'd trade my red and gold embroidered fascia (the stole with the fringes) for a villa in Tuscany and give free spa retreats to women who've served the church for five years or more.

If I were pope, I'd throw a party at the Vatican and invite everyone who's left the church because they didn't feel welcomed. (The overflow crowd would be treated to weekends at Italian vineyards.)

If I were pope, I'd announce my retirement, and as my last act in office, at the final party, I'd ordain to the priesthood any woman who was ready, marry any gay couple who wanted my blessing, and marry any priest, male or female.

Then I'd get in my jammies, say a prayer of gratitude, and crawl into bed for a much needed nap.

© Jan Phillips, excerpt from No Ordinary Time-The Rise of Spiritual Intelligence and Evolutionary Creativity

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
Tissa Balasuriya

Pray for us

The Annunciation - from Rosa Mundi

The white sun burns; the room is dim;
the dark girl drifts and dreams within.

Another light burns, whiter far;
it lights the room, invading star.

The dark girl screams, but sound is pale;
the starlight burns, a fiery Hail.

She baulks, refuses, turns her face;
the starlight echoes, Full of grace...

She bows her head; she says, Behold;
she drinks the star; its light is cold.

The star is out; the sun is dim;
the dark girl is lit within.

Lynn Roberts

Mrs Brown's take on gay marriage

Mammy (Talking about her son, Rory, who is gay and about to marry his partner): I want the marriage blessed in the Church

Priest: The Church won't bless something it not only doesn't recognise but is against

M: Exactly what is it against?

P: The Church's position on marriage is that it can only exist between a man and a woman

M: I know that but what's the Church's position on love?

P: Well, there are many different types of love, I mean, like love for one's family is completely different from love for one's, let's say, pet

M: Really. What's the difference?

P: Sorry

M: Explain the difference between those two loves

P: Well- well it's like...

M: Look, father. I know Rory and Dino would need the Pope's permission to get married in the Church but they don't need anybody's permission to fall in love..... you just show me anywhere where Jesus Christ refused to sanctify *love*.

Brendan O'Carroll

Websites

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

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

<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

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

www.churchauthority.org

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/cc

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

www.womenwordspirit.org

www.womenpriests.org.

Sign up for their regular newsletter

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

National Catholic Reporter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

www.spirituschristi.org

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/expliturgy/>

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.

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