

**CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action  
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church  
E-news April 2013 issue 58**

Welcome to the edited issue 58 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 May e-news by 15 May. 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)

Pope Francis' reaffirmation of the rebuke of the American nuns has been a disappointment to say the least. Can we hope that he plans to do things in a certain order and his priority is the reform of the curia which we welcome? We know we have to have a renewed Church before women can be ordained but must we wait for that before Francis supports these brave women?

The Church has been going backwards quite fast. He's got to stop that. It's like driving a car in reverse. First you have to get it into neutral. We pray Francis will soon find the forward gear.

There are several links below on this issue; please click them. It's important.

**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

The AGM will be in the morning. This is to be followed by lunch.

In the afternoon, local members and supporters in the Midlands are planning for an afternoon of celebration and reflection on where we are as women in the church, after twenty years of CWO in the UK and many decades of social and theological development by women and men across the world from early in the twentieth century up to the present. We will also be asking what the next steps might be towards the future which God calls us to.

We have already been talking to possible key participants, and hope to have details of speakers, programme and a flier over the next month or so.

So watch this space and please put the date in your diary

## St Mary's in Exile

It was just over four years ago today that the St Mary's Community at South Brisbane was exiled from their church home.

They journeyed by candle light to their new home at the TLC Building. Continue the journey with them [on Facebook](#)

## Gestation - from Rosa Mundi

*When she goes to the well, behind their hands  
the women nudge and murmur and exclaim;  
her head bends lower as her waist expands;  
she hurts with innocence; she hates their blame.  
They note her husband, where he stares and stands;  
they watch; they wait to see his anger flame.  
She feels his pain closing like metal bands  
around her own hurt, and she feels his shame.  
She watches him; his eyes catch hers, his gaze  
intent, examining her watching soul;  
he crosses the hard earth towards his wife:  
the women sigh - anticipate the blaze -  
and see his hands reach slowly to console,  
enfolding grudgingly the newer life.*

Lynn Roberts

## The Earth is the Lord's: Renewing the Covenant of Creation

A conference run by Modern Church 15 - 18 July.

<http://www.modernchurch.org.uk/conference/2013.htm>

## Links about the American nuns

Pope Francis reaffirms critique of LCWR\*

<http://ncronline.org/node/49711>

'Tainted by radical feminism'? More like 'living the Gospel' Joan Chittester\*

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/where-i-stand/tainted-radical-feminism-more-living-gospel>

Video American nuns struggle with Vatican for change (after the inevitable advert)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=50143016n>

## Other links

Francis: Vatican II a beautiful work of the Holy Spirit

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/latest-news/5211>

What might be in Pope Francis' inbox - Frances Correia

<http://jesuitinstitute.org.za/node/52>

From National Catholic Reporter\*

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/pope-taps-eight-cardinals-lead-reform>

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/embrace-women-s-gifts-protesters-say>

Irish reformers sceptical about prospects for change

<http://ncronline.org/node/49056>

\* for all NCR links you will need to delete the pop up video first

## Social media

### Facebook

We had over 1,500 hits over Holy Week and Easter, Mainly looking at the BASIC Last Supper picture which includes women and children. We now have 352 likes/followers.

We have had a recent debate about Vocations going on between four people, that has attracted 500 viewers (including one from Italy – Francis?) and we have supported the Ordain Women calls in the Lutheran and Mormon Churches.

Olly Dennis has also had contributed some useful comments.

The AGM will be promoted on the page.

*Cathy W*

### Twitter

We now have 113 followers for the CWO Twitter account, so are getting quite a bit of attention. If you have a twitter account and wish to put out a message on CWO just send it @CWOcampaign. If you don't have a twitter account but would like to put a message out there, send it to me, Kathryn at [kp.graham@btinternet.com](mailto:kp.graham@btinternet.com) or to Pat. I think social media is the way to go to get ourselves heard. I have sent messages to Pope Francis @Pontifex but no replies as yet.

*Kathryn G*

## 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  
Jack Sutcliffe

*Pray for us*



Not being heard is no reason for silence

Victor Hugo, Les Miserables

*(Thanks to Esmeralda Kiczek who tweeted this on our page)*

## 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](http://www.womensordination.org)

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

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

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

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

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

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

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