

CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news July 2013 issue 61

Welcome to issue 61 of the e-news which has been edited to remove some personal details. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for August e-news by 16 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

The Midlands Group are finalising the planning for our Annual Gathering - more next month. The date, time and place are detailed below. Their working title is "Where are we as women in the RC church today" and speakers both young and older will be sharing their experience.

Pippa has asked us to consider a piece by Richard Rohr. Please send comments for next month.

Seven CWO members enjoyed a peaceful, reflective and fruitful week-end at Noddfa. Details for next year's are below. You have plenty of notice and there will be reminders each month but bookings cannot be accepted after 31 March 2014.

Every month there is a request in the e-news for people to pray for CWO between 6.00 and 7.00pm on Wednesdays and for WOW! at midday on Saturdays. Please could you get in touch if you do this?

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 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.

More details soon so watch this space and please put the date in your diary



Mary
of
The
Magnificat

Mother
of
the
Poor

Woman of the magnificat, servant-singer, lowly and lovely Lady, coming in haste with the compassion of God surging beneath your flesh, gather us under your cloak. Remind us that there is room for all of us and there is welcome abundance of Mercy. Let us rejoice with you, tell of the deeds of God again and again and cry out with you of the honour of God, the care of the poor and the coming of justice. You, Mary are the music of God. Your presence moves on all the roads and you step first over the thresholds of the homes of the poor. In your dark countenance and strong hands God's flesh is exposed and we know we are loved, saved and embraced by God in the light that dawns upon us in your great "Yes." In imitation of your stance before God, may we stand open hearted with arms extended towards one another. May we who are born of grace be the beloved children of God and your children who walk to every corner of the earth. We ask this in the name of the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the gracious Spirit.

Amen Amen Alleluia.

Megan McKenna

Parachurch As a New Kind of Reformation - Adapted from the webcast - *What is the Emerging Church?* Pippa B asks us to consider this piece by Richard Rohr and comment on it for next e-news. Her comments are at the end of the piece.

What some call "Emerging Christianity" has four common elements, in my opinion, even if they might be described in different ways:

- There is a new honest, broad, and ecumenical Jesus scholarship. We are reading what theologians of all denominations are saying. And the amazing thing is that, at this level of scholarship at least, there is a strong consensus emerging about what Jesus really taught and emphasized.
- There is a re-emergence of a contemplative mind in all of the churches. It's not content with the dualistic mind which has dominated for the last five hundred years. Contemplation receives the whole field of the moment and lets such an open lens teach us—both what we understand along with what we don't understand. Finally there is room for mystery and the acceptance of even being wrong or just partially right.
- This consensus (both at the scholarly and experiential levels) is revealing that Jesus tended to emphasize very different things than present organized Christianity tends to emphasize. Present organized Christianity (in all denominations) tends to be preoccupied with things that Jesus never talked about *ever*, and sometimes even disagreed with.
- New community structures and new parallel church organizations are often emerging and flourishing to make this possible. (The CAC would be an example of such a "parachurch" group, as well as Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, various social service ministries, contemplative prayer groups, and volunteer and mission work, etc.) None of these are in competition with Sunday religion, but they give us ways to actually do what we are told to do on Sunday. The emphasis is often orthopraxy (practice) instead of just repeating the orthodox creeds every Sunday.

As a CWO member I think it is interesting but I would want women (and lay men) being mentioned somewhere as 50% of us as women have been largely excluded from the institutional take on Jesus' message. He has written extensively on emerging church and these daily meditations are a distillation of his writings but yet again women are left out of the headlines.

I like the emphasis on Jesus: both ecumenically and how the institution emphasises particular and apparently unexpressed aspects of his message

I think mention of the re-emergence of the contemplative mind is key.

I think CWO is an example of praxis/practice mentioned in point 4. I struggle with the idea of being a parallel church organisation as parallel lines never meet. I think all of the groups he mentions (and CWO) should not be seen as parallel but an integral part of emerging church.

I prefer RR's original description of this as emerging church rather than para church and would actually describe it as **re-emerging church** as it seems to me he describes what might have been happening in the earliest days of the church.

CWO Weekend Retreat at Noddfa, Penmaenmawr 27-29 June 2014

- All CWO members welcome – female and male.
- Come and recharge your spiritual batteries...
- As Participants we arrange the informal programme ourselves and choose to take part in all or some of the sessions.
- All sessions aim to help us in CWO to enrich our lives through reflection, prayer, liturgy, song, creative activity and fun!
- Enjoy the companionship, delicious food, beautiful gardens, sea and mountains of Noddfa on the North Wales Coast.
- Share the group retreat and enjoy the space too...
- Noddfa can be reached by road or rail. We arrive during Friday afternoon or early evening (27th) for supper at 6.30pm. We finish Sunday (29th) after lunch.

If space permits, it may be possible to book extra days on an individual basis before or after our weekend.

The full cost is £100. The remaining £50 (cheque or cash) is required by Noddfa during our weekend.

Please contact info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk for more information. You must book by 31st March at the latest.

If we don't have enough people, the event will be cancelled and we need to give Noddfa this much notice.

Noddfa means refuge, a place of welcome and peace. www.noddfa.org.uk



Thanks to Patrick Harrison



CWO members at Noddfa this year

Links

Nun justice project – support the sisters!

http://nunjustice.org/?utm_source=CTPTourLaunch&utm_campaign=catholic tippingpoint&utm_medium=email

Fr. Helmut Schüller kicks off 'Catholic Tipping Point' tour of U.S.

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/fr-helmut-schuller-kicks-catholic-tipping-point-tour>

Stand with Malala – end the education emergency

https://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/stand-with-malala-end-the-education-emergency-3?utm_source=action_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=28218&alert_id=HfPdhRezbA_NjaURHddEV

Sister Teresa Forcades, a strong voice for equality of women and against patriarchal systems -- talks about her new book *La Teologica Feminista En La Historia*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2594lQJ8YJo> Spanish with English subtitles) and interview by *The Guardian* <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/video/2013/may/17/teresa-forcades-radical-catalan-nun-video>

Those who know they have rights must claim them

John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* 36:17



Malala Yousafzai, gives her first speech since the Taliban in Pakistan tried to kill her for advocating education for girls, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, July 12, 2013

I am the same Malala. My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the same. My dreams are the same...I am here to speak up for the right of education of every child. I want education for the sons and the daughters of all the extremists, especially the Taliban. ...One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world.

We now have 126 followers on Twitter. Thanks to Kathryn G who looks after our Tweets. See @CWOcampaign

Extracts from a letter Thomas Merton wrote to Jim Forest on 21 February 1966.

Known as "Letter to a Young Activist" quoted by Paul Bodenham in Green Christian, the magazine of the Christian Ecology Link, in summer 2013. The immediate context was calling for the end of the Vietnam War.

Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, essentially an apostolic work, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the truth of the work itself. And there, too, a great deal has to be gone through, as gradually as you struggle less and less for an idea, and more and more for specific people. The range tends to narrow down, but it gets much more real. In the end, it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything.

You are fed up with words, and I don't blame you. I am nauseated by them sometimes. I am also, to tell you the truth, nauseated by ideals and with causes. This sounds like heresy, but I think you will understand what I mean. It is so easy to get engrossed with ideas and slogans and myths that in the end one is left holding the bag, empty, with no trace of meaning left in it. And then the temptation is to yell louder than ever in order to make the meaning be there again by magic. Going through this kind of reaction helps you to guard against this. Your system is complaining of too much verbalizing, and it is right. ...The big results are not in your hands or mine, but they suddenly happen, and we can share in them, but there is no point in building our lives on this personal satisfaction, which may be denied us and which after all is not that important.

The next step in the process is for you to see that your even thinking about what you are doing is crucially important. You are probably striving to build yourself an identity in your work, out of your work and witness. You are using it, so to speak, to protect yourself against nothingness, annihilation. That is not the right use of your work. All the good that you will do will come, not from you but from the fact that you have allowed yourself, in the obedience of faith, to be used by God's love. Think of this more and gradually you will be free from the need to prove yourself, and you can be more open to the power that will work through you without your knowing it.

The great thing after all is to live, not to pour out your life in the service of a myth; and we turn the best things into myths. If you can get free from the domination of causes and just serve Christ's truth, you will be able to do more and will be less crushed by the inevitable disappointments. Because I see nothing whatever in sight but much disappointment, frustration, and confusion.

The real hope, then, is not in something we think we can do, but in God who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see. If we can do His will, we will be helping in this process. But we will not necessarily know all about it beforehand . . .

If I Had My Life To Live Over

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandparents ramble about their youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been done

I would have sat on the lawn even with the possibility of getting grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would have never always bought things just because they were practical;

I wouldn't have sown soil that was guaranteed to last a life time.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, 'Later...'

Now go get washed up for dinner.'

There would have been more 'I love you's, more 'I'm sorry's.'

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute; look at it and really see it; live it and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff!

Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us...

Erma Bombeck (written after she found out she was dying from cancer)

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

Websites

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

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.we-are-church.org.uk

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women's equality in Church of England

<http://www.womensordination.org/>

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

www.churchauthority.org

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

www.ccc4vat2.org.uk

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://www.womenpriests.org/index.asp>

Sign up for their regular newsletter

<http://ncronline3.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

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

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