

CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news November/December 2013 issue 65

Welcome to edited issue 65 of the e-news. Some contact details are removed. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for January e-news by 20 January. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk



Pope Francis released an 85-page document naming the priorities he has laid out in eight months of homilies, speeches and interviews. In sections 103 and 104 of the document, Pope Francis discusses the role on women in church and society. He clearly reiterates his opposition to women's ordination, stating "The reservation of the priesthood to males, as a sign of Christ the Spouse who gives himself in the Eucharist, is not a question open to discussion..." Read the full document here

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium_en.html

(Scroll down to no 103 and 104)

It's hard not to be disappointed but Pope Francis is trying to making radical changes to the Church structures. Our first aim in CWO has always been to "develop the understanding of priesthood and other ordained ministries in a renewed Roman Catholic Church". He may well help that to happen.

**Meeting with Fr Tony Flannery
St Andrew's Short Street Waterloo
SE1 8LJ**

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Saturday, 22 February 2014

After our next NatCog (national coordinating group meeting) we have invited Fr Tony Flannery to meet with us. This is open to all CWO members (but not non-members). He will share his experiences and we will have time for discussion. It won't be a formal meeting. It is a chance for us to both offer support to and learn from a priest who has been badly treated by the hierarchy.

We're not sure yet if Fr Tony will be heading back to Ireland directly after the meeting but we hope he will have time to share a meal with us at a local café, EV, The Arches, 97-99 Isabella Street, London SE1 8DD (near the Old Vic).

If you don't know about Fr Tony's story you can Google him: there are many references.

Here's one
<http://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/2013/09/26/fr-tony-flannery-further-refuses-vatican-silencing-with-new-book/>

For more details contact Pat

info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

CWO Book

I need your thoughts and experience please! I am writing a chapter for our CWO book about spiritual growth and maturity. Please would you consider the following questions and email your answers as soon as possible to info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Here are my questions.

1. CWO is campaigning for women's priestly ministry in a reformed Roman Catholic Church. What spiritual ideas and practices keep you in CWO?
2. If your spiritual life has matured how do you recognise growth?
3. Have you any spiritual ideas that might help others?

If you email me please can you also say whether, if I quote you I can use your name or would you rather stay anonymous?

Thanks

Pippa B

Pat Regini 1930-2013



This is Pat promoting CWO at St David's Cathedral, Cardiff, during the installation of the, then, Rt Rev. Peter Smith as Archbishop of Cardiff.



Our lasting image of Pat is one of her holding a banner and handing out leaflets at various ecclesiastical extravaganzas, particularly on Maundy Thursday mornings when she could be heard supporting and informing supporters and very often in a firm clear voice, demolishing the arguments of the misogynists. She gained the admiration of the more discerning clergy. One Bishop thanked her for speaking on his behalf!

In her professional life as a psychotherapist, the division between the physical and the spiritual lives of her clients was so blurred as to be non-existent. Her concern was always for the healing of the whole person, particularly women who had been emotionally damaged by their experience of the patriarchal Church.

Her passing has left a big hole in my life and the lives of her family. Her whole being was caught up in a life of deep contemplative prayer.

Even death will not stop her. As I write she will be praying for the Church she loved.

The Curia had better watch out!

Mary A

Madam Bishop a first for these islands as Derry rector becomes 'The Most Rev'

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/madam-bishop-a-first-for-these-islands-as-derry-rector-becomes-the-most-rev-1.1606154>

The Pope and his "double - Hans Küng, translation from Republic, November 27, 2013

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=p&sl=it&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Ftemi.repubblica.it%2Fmicromega-online%2Ffil-papa-e-il-suo-doppio%2F>

Change your words Change your world

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Hzgzim5m7oU&vq=medium

Catholic Scholars' Statement on Marriage and the Family

<http://www.johnwijngaards.org/statement/>

What Pope Francis means for the Church in the modern world by Frank Brennan

<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2013/11/13/3890038.htm>

Pope Francis: Women called to service, not servitude

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2013/10/12/pope_francis_women_called_to_service_not_servitude/en1-736720

Eight women clergy have been elected to participate in meetings of the House of Bishops

They are: -

The Rev Libby Lane, Dean of Women in Ministry, Chester Diocese

Ven Christine Wilson, Archdeacon of Chesterfield, Derby Diocese (East Midlands region)

Revd Preb. Dr Jane Tillier, Lichfield Diocesan Adviser for Women in Ministry (West Midlands region)

Ven Annette Cooper, Archdeacon of Colchester, Chelmsford Diocese (East Anglia region)

Ven Joanne Grenfell, Archdeacon of Portsdown, Portsmouth Diocese (South and Central region)

Ven Nicola Sullivan, Archdeacon of Wells, Bath & Wells Diocese (South West region)

Very Revd Vivienne Faull, Dean of York (North East region)

Ven Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Hackney, London Diocese (South East region)

WATCH sends congratulations to and prayers for all those elected and looks forward to the day when women take their places as Bishops in the House of Bishops.

National Co-ordinating Group (NatCog)

At the AGM three more people joined NatCog

Katharine Salmon as Leeds rep; Camilla Gilmore, Mary Ring and Elizabeth Maitland as members without specific roles. If you are a member you will receive the minutes of the AGM along with this e-news.

Because NatCog has increased in size, the natcog@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk address can no longer be used. If you wish to contact NatCog please email info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk and mark it "fao NatCog". I will make sure all NatCog members receive it.

NatCog has met once since the AGM on 9 November. We discussed communication with members. A pack will be prepared for people joining to tell them a bit about the background to CWO and some of our sister groups. Other items discussed appear elsewhere in this e-news. The next NatCog will be 22 February in London

(see page 2 above)

CWO Annual Gathering 2014

Saturday 4 October 2014 venue to be confirmed next e-news. Please put the date in your diary



CWO videos

We are aiming to put more videos up on the website soon.

Mary Colwell has finished her work with us. She encourages us to use people we know to video CWO members and CWO events. If you are planning a vigil and have an ipad or iphone you can take videos and send me the links using drop box or similar. Get in touch if you're not sure of the technology. Please send anything you think might be useful.

We want to make the website more informal – lots of clips of people speaking rather than loads of words to read!

Pat B

Some suggestions for winter reading

From Katharine S

In Our Lifetime...: *The Ordination of the First Catholic Woman Priest* by Jeanne Pieper.

This is an imaginative account of what the first woman priest might look like. How does she become the first catholic Woman priest? It is a carefully interwoven story of three people: a nun, a bishop and a suburban housewife and mother. Dealing with oppression by inflexible superiors, they are forced to confront their personal fears, inadequacies and, like many of us in CWO, find they have to take on the hierarchy. Jeanne Pieper is considered a devout Catholic by anyone who knows her; she attends mass regularly, is active in parish activities and contributes regularly to the Sunday collection. What I found interesting was that, although this book was written for an American point of view, it does not take into account the Roman Catholic Womanpriests group but talks about women who are ordained within the Church as we find it.

Living Gospel Equality Now - Loving in the Heart of God - A Roman Catholic Woman Priest Story by Bridget Mary Meehan

Bridget Mary Meehan shares treasured memories from her life story and her journey to priesthood. She writes of her childhood in Ireland, emigration to America and how her calling to the priesthood came about. It is also a book that has imaginative liturgies that could work well within a lay context or a women's group and all kinds of other contexts. She talks about grass roots communities and how Roman Catholic women are moving the Church towards partnership in a Christ centred, spirit empowered community of equals

From Sue W

I recommend buying or borrowing a copy of 'Praying Like a Woman' by Nicola Slee. The book contains many heartfelt and powerful prayers, but with humour thrown in. Nicloa Slee also compiled 'Presiding like a woman' with many interesting contributions from experienced practitioners.

Anything by Edwina Gateley, from 'Psalms of a Laywoman' onwards are well worth getting hold of, although some may be out of print by now.

I am buying my friends for Christmas a new book by Jean Vanier, translated from the French and entitled 'The Signs of the Times'. He deals with the horrors of the recent paedophile scandals head on while offering signs of hope in another way. He considers the witness of the mystic, Ettie Hillesum, which sells the book to me anyway. This book is published by Darton Longman and Todd and its ISBN is 978-0-232-53015-5.

Please spare a little extra cash for CWO

We need some more money for the following reasons: -

The videos we have made, and are continuing to make, cost a lot of money. Changes to the website to incorporate these will also be expensive.

The next WOW! (Women's ordination Worldwide) International Conference will be 22 – 27 September, 2015 in Philadelphia. Some of our longer serving members will remember being instrumental in setting up a travelling fund for previous WOW! Conferences to help people from the developing world attend. We need to do this again. All WOW member groups need to do their bit.

The conference itself also needs seed money so CWO will be donating to that.

Anything you can spare will be very welcome. You can earmark your donation to a specific area or just give a bit extra to CWO.

pay online to

Catholic Women's Ordination, Santander, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB

Sort code 09-01-55 Ac no 40457809

quoting reference: CWO/ *your surname*.

It's a good idea to email when you pay online to say that you've done that and what it's for. Email info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Prayer for Syria

O God of peace, You are peace itself;

Your ways cannot be understood when we are caught up in violence or engaged in conflict.

Grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

Thanks to CAFOD

Some reflections on a Panel Discussion set up by Southwark Feminists in September 2013

Several members of CWO attended a panel discussion in late September on the subject of **women re-envisioning the Church**. Two of us regularly attend meetings of the Southwark Feminists which is a very ecumenical group containing several women vicars and an Anglican nun as well as a few battling Catholics.

It was decided to have a panel discussion to which four speakers were invited to get as wide a perspective as possible. Lucy Winkett and Jo Ind were the two women speakers and there was an RC priest who is a member of CWO and an Anglican male priest to balance up the group.

As all the speakers had such different experiences and perspectives it was hard to say there was a consensus, but there was a general acceptance that women brought a crucial and different perspective to the patriarchal church. Our own RC priest expressed the weariness of many RC priests who support women's ordination in that they themselves feel the burden of always having to perform liturgically. This particular priest once got delayed getting to a convent to say mass to find that on his arrival the nuns had been waiting for him for two hours to get there. "Why could they not have got on with it themselves?" he asked. The RC Church seems particularly inert and immovable in this respect and badly needs the ministry of women.

Lucy Winkett said many wise things but my abiding memory of her comments was that they had held performances of 'Pope Joan' in her church, St. James' Piccadilly where at one point a topless woman was borne shoulder high down the nave at great speed. She said she would never feel the same about the building again, but in a good way.

Jo Ind was the daughter and granddaughter and a wife of Anglican vicars although she herself was not a vicar. She saw the Church as being more Christlike outside the buildings altogether, which resonated with some of us who have held many prayer vigils **outside** the cathedral. In fact, some of those who have been alienated by the church meet in a square in a suburb of Birmingham to recreate a sacred space there. The Anglican male priest, called Chris, seemed to have a good sense of the church being a place of welcome and hospitality which many would see as feminine qualities. He is a very successful university chaplain.

The general feeling from this evening was that different voices, but especially women's and those of sympathetic men, are vital if the church is going to survive into the next generations and show the message of Christ in a much more humane and compassionate way. Desiccated voices of the patriarchy will not be heard by the generations to come, it was felt. A new enthusiasm and vision is certainly necessary.

Sue W

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.

Please secure your place by sending cheque for £50 deposit (non-returnable) made out to Noddfa to Pippa Bonner 50 Dragon Parade, Harrogate HG1 5DQ.

Enquiries to info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

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

Please contact me as soon as possible to book a place. 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

Although the Retreat is in June Pippa wants to hear from CWO members who are interested NOW please! She doesn't need your money until March but so far she knows some people are interested but not many have emailed yet to say they wish to go! Please email her now to express an interest and your name is on the list. If there are too many she'll take the names of those who emailed first! Please email info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

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
Pat Regini

Pray for us

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

<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

We Are Church in the UK is a call to recognise that all the Baptised, are part of the Church.

<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

<http://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.