

**CWO**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news August 2015 issue 83**

Welcome to the August issue of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit <http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm> - previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for October e-news by 21 October. Because I am involved with the WOW conference, I will be in the US from 25 August so there won't be an e-news in September. If you have any comments about the forthcoming Annual Gathering please email [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

## Gender, Gospel and Global Justice *Where next?*

*Sharing the inspiration of the WOW Conference in Philadelphia*

**Saturday 3rd October 2015**

11.00am – 5.00pm, St Andrew's Church, Short Street, Waterloo, SE1 8LJ



11.00am - 1.00pm :  
1.00pm - 2.00pm :  
2.00pm - 4.30pm :

AGM  
Lunch provided by CWO  
Tina Beattie  
One other speaker from the Conference  
CWO members who took part  
Followed by discussion/questions  
Closing liturgy

4.30pm :



**CWO**

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church

## Advance notice of CWO book publication

Awakening: Catholic Women's Ordination from the Public Square  
Myra Poole and Pippa Bonner. Publisher Fisher- King (pages 230)

The book includes direct experiences of CWO and WOW. It is divided into two parts.

Part 1 on psychological and spiritual reflections and Part 2 historical and theological reflections, including Mary and the Church.

## Corpus Christi Mass in Salisbury



Group at the altar



Dean June with Fr. Michael

Because Catholics have only one permanent priest in Salisbury, but five Mass centres with seven different, scattered Mass communities, we decided to gather together for one Corpus Christi Mass to express our solidarity, increase our confidence and get to know one another. 500 Catholics processed through the streets from the Guildhall to the City Hall, where approximately 800 Catholics took part in the Mass. It was the first time that Catholics had processed through Salisbury since the 16<sup>th</sup> century but an extra special occasion because of the participation of a woman priest. The Very Reverend June Osborne, Dean of Salisbury Cathedral, led the procession behind the monstrance alongside the Catholic priests. When she was warmly welcomed by Canon Michael Fitzpatrick and Bishop Declan Lang in the City Hall and positioned beside the altar, the congregation erupted in applause. Many Catholics came up to the Dean afterwards to thank her for her participation. It was a hugely refreshing and deeply emotional experience to see this demonstration of how refreshing and renewing women's ordination would be for our Church.

Pamela Perry

**Third WOW Conference 2015**  
*Gender, Gospel, and Global Justice*  
18 – 20 September 2015  
Marriott Hotel  
Philadelphia PA



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The reason some questions cannot be suppressed, do not go away--regardless how many people think they should--is because the human heart knows they must be asked or have yet to be clearly answered. When that question concerns the quality of the discipleship of half the Catholics in the world, it cries out for attention. And will continue to cry out until the church itself attends to it. Why? Because the model of Jesus with women demands it.

The Women's Ordination Conference honors this question for all our sakes. Thanks to WOC, as church we are able to pursue the question together so that the Church may grow in "wisdom, age--and grace." At Gender, Gospel, and Global Justice support the search. Enable this life-giving conversation to go on.

JOAN CHITTISTER & MARTIN SHEEN

Sr. Joan Chittister and Martin Sheen have just written a powerful endorsement of the upcoming WOW conference. To celebrate this, WOW has held the registration fee of \$300. Just type in ref JOAN when you register

It is easy to register via the website – they deal with converting sterling to dollars. You can opt to share a room. They will match you up with another delegate. The rooms are large with two double beds in each.

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=WOMA18E&TID=So5TRn5clhKVIuNtnsPU1g%3d%3d>

**See the schedule here**

<https://womensordinationworldwide.squarespace.com/schedule/>

**Buy WOW merchandise here!** <http://www.cafepress.com/wow2015>

**Please spread the word via Twitter and Facebook.**

Pat Brown

## St Clare blessed the bread for Pope Innocent IV - who will bless the bread for Pope Francis? Feast day of St Clare of Assisi (11 August)



St Clare of Assisi blessing the bread before Pope Innocent IV by Giovanni di Paolo (now in the Yale University Art Gallery)



St Clare Fresco in Refectory of San Damiano, Assisi

Around AD 1455 in Siena, Tuscany, the painter Giovanni di Paolo created a small panel titled "St Clare of Assisi blessing the bread before Pope Innocent IV" (now in the Yale University Art Gallery). He represented a well-known story which has Clare ask the pope on the occasion of his visit to her community to bless bread.

According to the story in the Fioretti Innocent IV insisted that Clare herself bless the bread. As she did so, miraculously, the sign of the cross appeared on the bread.

The painter depicts a woman with her right hand authoritatively stretched out in priestly blessing over the three small round loaves on the table. The miraculously transformed bread with the cross now imprinted resembles the large Eucharistic hosts reserved for priests. The painting frames these three host-like breads: on the right stands the pope, bowing both to the blessed bread and to Clare, with the remainder of that side filled with the papal entourage who exude power.

The left side of the painting is filled with Clare, alone, with the bread she has transformed. Her hand is outstretched in blessing over the bread. Clare's head is surrounded by a large halo. The pope, on the other side wears his tiara and the cardinals their red hats. The painter has chosen to display the power of female sanctity in the face of male clerical power and God's authentication of this female power over bread, to which a pope can only bow. (See Gender Differences and the Making of Liturgical History by Teresa Berger).

There is a large fresco representing that same event on the wall of the convent refectory in San Damiano, where it actually happened. In that painting the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove is also present....a strong reminder of the epiclesis during the Eucharist. For some strange reason, that fresco is normally kept hidden from sight to the general public, with no reproductions available. When queried as to why this invisibility, the reply from the Poor Clare sister in charge was: "It is not yet time". Eight centuries later!...

Thanks to Colm Holmes

## Why are we in CWO?



**"The misrepresentation of God as strictly male has wounded women in every area of their lives.**

Females are raped, abused, molested, trafficked and prostituted because the desires of men (AKA God) are prioritized over the emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual needs of women and girls. The exclusive image of God as male ensures that women and girls will always be considered last."

-Trista Hendren

[www.thegirlgod.com](http://www.thegirlgod.com)

Please pray for Dr Alexandra Dyer. It is not clear yet whether this attack is due to her ordination as a Roman Catholic Women Priest, as the assailant remains at large.



<http://nypost.com/2015/08/20/woman-priest-burned-in-liquid-attack-was-ambushed/>

## Noddfa Retreat

CWO held its annual retreat at Noddfa in North Wales at the end of July. As always we had a wonderful welcome, tasty vegetarian and non-vegetarian food, lovely gardens to walk in and the beach, sea and mountains near at hand. We offered sessions for our weekend retreat which were optional to attend. This year we studied some of the lesser known women in the bible, reflected on the spirituality of ageing, walked around the garden with a meditation based on trees and scripture, heard about a woman peace activist, visited a local church and had some free time.

We also visited Shalom, a house that sleeps 8-10 people in the corner of the Noddfa grounds. This has recently been redecorated, has a large refurbished kitchen/dining area, two sitting rooms, several bedrooms on the ground floor and a bathroom recently adapted with a walk in shower: particularly useful for people with a disability and a small, new car park right by its door. We discussed perhaps using it for a CWO Retreat next year (24-26 June) and made a provisional booking before all the dates went. Shalom has the advantages of a self-contained place for a retreat with breakfast, day time and evening gatherings; main meals in the main house at lunch and supper and ready access to the gardens: the best of both worlds. We will be discussing it at Nat Cog but will probably have a minimum number policy. (If there are more than 10 people we can have additional rooms in the house.) Please express provisional interest as soon as possible and bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

Pippa Bonner



Please pray for Peter Tatchell who has had a major eye operation to correct the serious damage caused when he was attacked by Mugabe's minders and Moscow neo-Nazis.

Peter has supported CWO, especially during the Pope's visit and has publicised WOW on his twitter feed.

*You shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.* Leviticus 25.10

(Thanks to Rev. Peter Dodson who sends monthly texts which I have been including in e-news and thought it's about time I credited him. Here's this month's and it could easily be used about the Peter Tatchell mentioned above!)

## A Mighty Girl



The world's first all-female anti-poaching patrol unit is fighting to save endangered rhinos in South Africa! The Black Mamba squad is made up of 26 local women who patrol the Balule Nature Reserve, an area rich in wildlife due at risk to the poaching crisis in the country. And, reports show that the Black Mambas are making a huge difference -- in the past ten months, the reserve has not lost a single rhino while a neighboring reserve lost 23 endangered rhinos during the same period.

The Black Mambas are the brainchild of Craig Spencer, Balule's head warden. "We are not going to police the problem away," he explained. "The problem really is that there is this perception that has developed in the communities outside the park, they see a uniformed official and think we are the sheriff of Nottingham; they see the poachers as Robin Hood." By hiring women from the local community, he hoped to win the trust of local communities and help residents feel invested in protecting wildlife.

For their part, the women are proud of their roles in protecting the rhinos and scoff at those who think women aren't up for the job: "Lots of people said, how can you work in the bush when you are a lady? But I can do anything I want," said Leitah Michabela, a Black Mamba for the last two years. "I am a lady, I am going to have a baby. I want my baby to see a rhino, that's why I am protecting it."

South Africa is home to more than 80% of Africa's rhino populations where they are under constant threat. Working in conjunction with the reserve's armed guards, the Black Mambas set up listening posts as well as search for and destroy poacher's camps, wire snares, and bush-meat kitchens every day. Due to such efforts, snare poaching has dropped in the park by 90%.

And, of course, they serve as a visual reminder of the connection between the community and the park. As Black Mamba member Collette Ngobeni asserts, "If we work together as a community we can work this out. People need to open their minds, their hearts. It's not about money, it's about our culture, our future."

To learn more about how you can help support the efforts of these incredible women, visit the [Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit](http://on.fb.me/1Ev7NXH) Facebook page at <http://on.fb.me/1Ev7NXH>

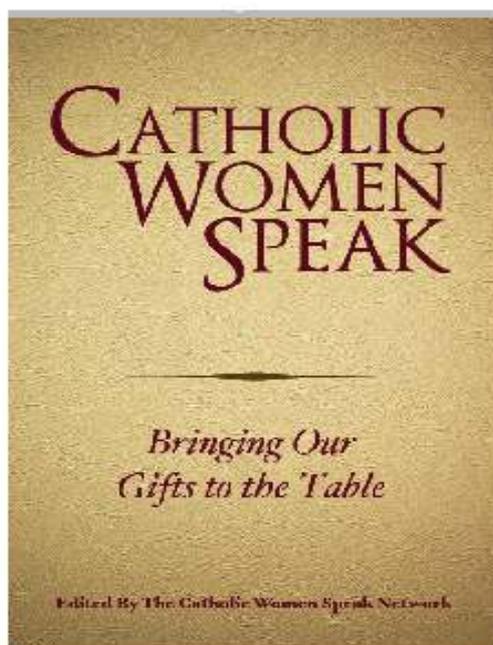
## Book Launch: Catholic Women Speak: Bringing Our Gifts to the Table

(apologies for the quality of print in this article)



### *CATHOLIC WOMEN SPEAK: BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO THE TABLE*

An anthology of Catholic women's writings edited by  
The Catholic Women Speak Network and published by Paulist Press, Mahwah NJ (2015)



The Catholic Women Speak Network is an online forum for theological dialogue and collaboration, administered by the [Digby Stuart Research Centre for Religion, Society and Human Flourishing](#) at the University of Roehampton in London.

This unique anthology brings together 44 contributors from around the world, including well-known Catholic women theologians, up and coming theological voices from the global South, and reflections from women telling their personal stories of faith and struggle. Contributors include Anne Arabome, Tina Beattie, Agnes Brazal, Lisa Sowle Cahill, Margaret Farley, Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, Cristina Lledo Gomez, Nontando Hadebe, Elizabeth Johnson, Ursula King, Sara Maitland, Cettina Militello, Jean Porter, Carolina del Río, Lucetta Scaraffia, Janet Martin Soskice, Ana Lourdes Suárez, and many more.

The book is being published in advance of the October 2015 Synod on the Family on the theme "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World." The contributors believe that women have a vital

## **Book Launch: Catholic Women Speak: Bringing Our Gifts to the Table (continued)**

contribution to make to these discussions. We offer our theological insights and personal reflections as a resource for the bishops who will be gathering in Rome. While dealing with complex and contested issues concerning relationships, marriage and divorce, family life, motherhood, sexuality and reproduction, poverty and marginalisation, all the essays in the book are relatively short and written with a general readership in mind. They will be of interest to anybody who seeks to understand more about the faith of Catholic women in the modern world, and the many perspectives, questions and insights that women bring to the Church from our diverse cultures and contexts.

To celebrate the publication of *Catholic Women Speak*, a symposium and reception will be held at the Pontifical University Antonianum, Via Merulana 124, 00185 Rome, on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, from 2.30 to 7.30 pm. In the afternoon, a series of informal roundtable discussions will address issues of relevance to questions that women bring to the Church today. Guest participants include Orobator Agbonkhanmeghe SJ (Principal of Hekima College, Nairobi), Nigel Baker (British ambassador to the Holy See), Mónica Jiménez de la Jara (Chilean ambassador to the Holy See), Mary McAleese (former President of Ireland), Catherine Pepinster (editor of *The Tablet*), and Lars-Hjalmar Wide (Swedish ambassador to the Holy See). Contributors to the book from Argentina, Britain, Canada, Chile, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa and the United States will participate in the symposium, thanks to generous funding from individuals, trusts and religious congregations. This will be followed by a wine reception from 6.00 to 7.30 pm, sponsored by the British Embassy to the Holy See with a performance of music and dance sponsored by the University of Roehampton. Performers include pianist Gulliver Ralston, soprano Kristy Swift, and contemporary dancer Katja Vaghi.

For further information, or to request an invitation to the launch, please contact the Catholic Women Speak Network at [catholicwomenspeak@gmail.com](mailto:catholicwomenspeak@gmail.com). A website is currently under construction where you can access more information about the Network, as well as links to a range of resources, information about contributors to the book and recommendations for further reading: [www.catholicwomenspeak.com](http://www.catholicwomenspeak.com).

### **CWO has had a request to participate in research on the Sociology of Religion from a PhD student of Sociology at the University of Paris.**

His thesis is about progressive catholic organisations: "I am interested in understanding the particular way members of these organisations profess the Catholic faith, what is their conception of Catholicism and their opinion towards controversial subjects like homosexuality, women's ordination, abortion and celibacy. I am carrying out this research in Mexico, France and the United Kingdom. I am writing you because I would like to interview some members of Catholic Women's Ordination for my thesis. Would your organisation be willing to participate in my research?" If you would like to participate please contact [saulsanchezlopez@hotmail.com](mailto:saulsanchezlopez@hotmail.com)

## European Network – Church on the Move

### Invitation to the 25th Annual Conference of the European Network Rome 19-20 November 2015

**CASA LA SALLE**, Roma , Via Aurelia, 472 , 00165 Roma, Italy

Phone: +39.06.666.98.488, Fax: +39.06.660.003.84

E-Mail: [backoffice@casalasalles.it](mailto:backoffice@casalasalles.it) , Web: [www.casalasalles.com](http://www.casalasalles.com)

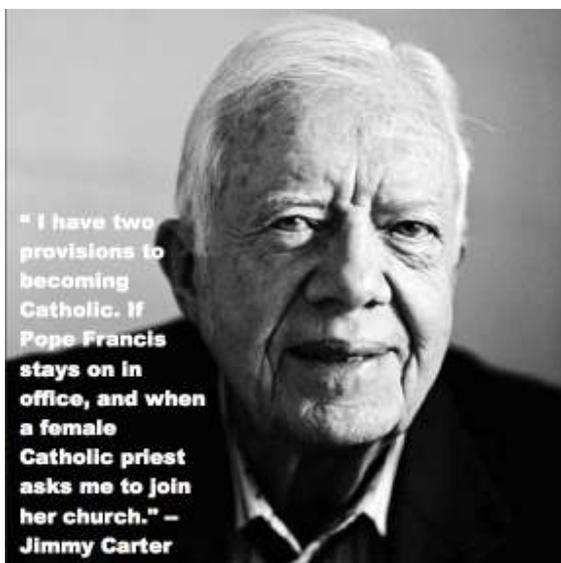
You are kindly invited to attend the 25th Annual Conference of the European Network Church on the Move that will take place at CasaLaSalle in Rome.

This year the Annual Conference will be shorter than in the other years because it is articulated with the gathering of the delegates of the project Council 50 from the 20th to the 22nd of November that will be the study day of our annual conference. You are kindly invited to attend also this event after the end of the Annual Conference. This is why the attached registration form includes this possibility

You will therefore find attached the draft program of our Annual Conference, the draft program of the Council 50 event with its list of workshops and the registration form.

Furthermore, the project Council 50 will be articulated with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Pact of Catacombs that will take place at the same venue from the 11th to the 17th of November. You are also kindly invited to attend this event. Details will be given later.

More details Simon [brydenbrook@talk21.com](mailto:brydenbrook@talk21.com)



Please pray for Jimmy Carter. It has recently been made public that he is seriously ill.

He is a great man who has supported our campaign for many years

## Links

Philadelphia Archdiocese cancels LGBT program ahead of Pope Francis' visit

<https://www.opposingviews.com/i/religion/philadelphia-archdiocese-cancels-lgbt-program-ahead-pope-visit>

Kate McAlwee speaking about WOW on US radio (about 21 minutes in)

<http://reasonablycatholic.com/2015/08/18/grab-bag-episode-ct-death-penalty-repeal-haiti-walk-womens-ordination-conference-links-between-cecil-the-lion-and-planned-parenthood/>

Hoping that Pope Francis will pay attention to women's calling to ordination

<http://www.irishmirror.ie/news/news-opinion/paddy-clancy-hope-pope-francis-6272221>

Article about Tony Flannery speaking at WOW 2015

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/tony-flannery-to-speak-at-conference-on-women-s-ordination-1.2320146>

Married by a woman: a quiet Palestinian revolution

<https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=766932>

To understand Pope Francis look to the Jesuits

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/understand-pope-francis-look-jesuits>

Pope Francis a feminist? No! "What does he have to do to erase the asterisk I put on virtually every sentence he speaks-- \*except for women?" Kate McElwee

<http://www.fsrinc.org/node/1731>

Turkish couple spend their wedding day feeding 4000 Syrian refugees

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/turkey/11783353/Meet-the-Turkish-couple-who-spent-their-wedding-day-feeding-4000-Syrian-refugees.html>

Joan Chittester – pro life

<http://m.dailykos.com/story/2015/07/30/1407166/-Catholic-Nun-Explains-Pro-Life-In-A-Way-That-May-Stun-The-Masses>

Brave nun rips down Isis flag

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/aug/08/islamist-black-flag-taken-down-tower-hamlet-london>

and <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/who-sister-christine-brave-nun-77-rips-down-isis-flag-tower-hamlets-1460417>

## **CWO Saints**

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White  
Pat McCarron  
Marcella Althaus-Reid  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown  
Tissa Balasuriya  
Jack Sutcliffe  
Pat Regini  
Mary Ann Schoettly  
Pam Skelton  
Robert Kaggwa

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 (apologies for smaller print – that’s to fit them in!)

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

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

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

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/>

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women’s equality in Church of England

<http://ncronline.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<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://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://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk>

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Campaigns against and challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

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

Proclaims the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so as to sustain and increase Christian belief among homosexual men and women. They offer pastoral support for LGBT Catholics friends and families Sign up for quarterly newsletter

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/Easter2015/>

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