

CWO e-news October 2010 issue 31

Welcome to an edited issue 31 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. To enquire about any item, please contact info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Please send items for November e-news by 15 November. Things have quietened down since the Pope's visit but we hope to use the many contacts we made to put forward CWO issues. We hope to be asked to speak on the issue of the Ordinariate and hope to have a briefing paper ready soon about that. I also hope to receive more contributions for the Pope's visit special e-news. Please send reflections or experiences whether or not you attended any of the events.

One of our members wrote a great letter to Archbishop Nicholls - see below. She received a reply saying that the issue was misrepresented. He also said that the understanding of the term "priesthood" is crucial and has a direct bearing on the issue of women's ordination. She replied and her response will be in the next e-news!

Dear Archbishop,

I had intended to enclose a small donation in support of the Pope's visit, since I had missed doing so on the specified Sunday. I was still about to do so, in spite of the Pope's invitation to Anglican clergy and impolite treatment of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Unhappily, I cannot do so after the Pope's recent bracketing of the ordination of women with the fallen paedophile clergy. It is ironic that there is indeed a link between the two, in that the absence of women in ecclesiastical structure in our church is part of the problem of the scandalous sexual behaviour of a small percentage of clergy. This bracketing itself is a further cause of scandal.

We need to express in our church, as we do not, our belief that men and women are both in the image of God and both are mediators of grace. This needs new theological, anthropological and liturgical development. It needs to be given structural expression.

The status of women in religion is linked to the status and conditions of women's lives world-wide, and so to social justice.

I am sending my donation to Catholic Women's Ordination, in support of the buses which will carry posters calling for women's ordination.

Father John Crothers

Father Crothers has been in the news about various issues including women's ordination. Here's a letter from The Sydney Morning Herald 22.10.10

"No good deed goes unpunished, it seems. According to Father John George, Father John Crothers, by advocating the ordination of women in the Catholic Church, is spreading "dissent and scandalous confusion". Some said Our Lord spread a bit of dissent in his time, too."

I hope to be in contact with father John Crothers very soon.

Pat Brown

The Ordinariate

According to the Catholic herald a new idea of the ordinariate is emerging.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2010/10/02/a-new-idea-of-the-ordinariate-is-emerging/>

In an article in the Daily Telegraph one of the bishops considering this path says, "I don't feel I have any choice but to leave the Church and take up the Pope's offer. The General Synod has become vindictive and vicious. It has been fascist in its behaviour, marginalising those who have been opposed to women's ordination. We have not been given any space."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopping/religion/8068694/Church-of-England-is-fascist-and-vindictive-says-bishop-defecting-to-Rome.html>

Sister Irene Mc Cormack

An interesting story coming from Peru about the push for canonisation of Sister Irene McCormack.

As a missionary in Peru, she basically served as priest to the community she lived in. Discussion about her candidacy for sainthood will therefore open opportunities for discussion about the question of women priests.

Housetop

Nun challenges Church to ordain women

Sister Louvenagh Hefferna has challenged the Catholic Church to ordain women, accusing the hierarchy of discrimination and double standards in excluding females from the priesthood.

Read more:
<http://www.irisht Examiner.ie/ireland/nun-challenges-church-to-ordain-women-132429.html#ixzz12zVWp8Ty>

After Momma gave birth to twelve of us kids, we put her up on a pedestal. It was mostly to keep Daddy away from her.

Dolly Parton

Mary MacKillop

Those working for women's ordination may take heart from the recent canonisation of Mary MacKillop. She was excommunicated after clashing with high clergy in 1871. Her order had exposed a paedophile priest. Read about Mary <http://www.marymackillop.org.au/>

God of the prophets you gifted Mary MacKillop with vision and courage. In her we see one who was not afraid to speak fearlessly your gospel of love. We pray for the sensitivity and imagination to read the signs of our times, and to articulate new possibilities for our own day. Like Mary, may we learn to confront all that is oppressive and unjust, and empower others towards true freedom and integrity. Spirit of wisdom, be with us as we face new horizons. Amen

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

www.womenwordspirit.org

Women, word, Spirit
(formerly Catholic Women's Network)

<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

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

National Catholic Reporter –
Joan Chittester is a regular contributor

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

www.womenpriests.org.

You can sign up for their regular newsletter

www.spirituschristi.org

An inclusive Catholic Church where all are welcome

www.womensordination.org

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