

CWO e-news March 2010 issue 25

Welcome to issue 25 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.

Please send items for publication in the next e-news by 10 April 2010. Also for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given - info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Our campaign to prepare for the Pope's visit in September

There is still time to write to politicians. No one has contacted me so please let me know if your MP has replied. I received a supportive reply from my MP, Fabian Hamilton (lab). I am meeting him at 11.00am on Tuesday 30 March at the House of Commons. If you want to come along, please let me know asap but by March at the latest. You might be able to meet your MP at the same time if you contact them.

There was a sample letter on the "no discussion" ruling in last month's e-news. Please don't copy it verbatim but add some of your own words http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/cutenews/data/upimages/Enews_1002ed.pdf.

The campaign will develop as follows:-

April to June: prayer and reflection, contacting clergy, bishops, papal nuncio, cardinal.

July to the actual visit: action including a presence at **Greenbelt festival 27 – 30 August**. We need people to volunteer for our stall. Can you give a day to this? I have had no response from members about this as yet. Please consider giving up a day for CWO. This year is really important for us because of the Pope's visit as there is much interest in us. **We may never get a chance like this again!**

An additional time for prayer and reflection has been set for the weekend

Friday 6 to Sunday 8 August at Noddfa <http://www.noddfa.org.uk/>

This is open to all members. The cost is £80. There is wheelchair accessibility. Places are limited so please send £20 to me to reserve a place by **31 May**. (My address is on the merchandise form at the end of this e-news.) It is really important for us to spend time in reflection to refill our spiritual energy. So far only three people have booked for this weekend. Please don't assume that I know you want to come!

Reflections from a CWO member on the No Pope, No Vatican - London for a Secular Europe event

We went, a bit late, and it was fine, gentle and earnest if a bit innocent!! Some of them were not aware of the somewhat ridiculous reasons for the Vatican position on the UN. (i.e. because they had a Radio Station) That was one of the criteria for being a member just after the war when it was set up. I feel attending this will contribute to our strategy of action about the Popes visit.

"Catholic Voices"

Some of you may know about the setting up of a group of "ordinary Catholics" to be trained to be interviewed at the time of the Pope's visit

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

I applied for this and to my surprise was called to an interview on 26 February. The pre-interview briefing paper was based on the protest the pope petition (see below in this e-news) and the Pope's recent comments to bishops on the equality bill

<http://www.oecumene.radiovaticana.org/EN1/Articolo.asp?c=353550>

They asked me if there was any issue about which I would find it hard to defend the Pope. I told them I was a member of CWO and would therefore find the Pope's position on that issue hard to defend. I also said that I felt this didn't exclude me from a panel of ordinary Catholics, as we believe many Catholic's support the ordination of women!

I wasn't chosen but I think I did a reasonable interview and have asked for feedback as to how I did and why I wasn't chosen. I've not received a reply as yet.

It felt useful to at least be heard by these people. At least they now know that members of CWO are (reasonably!) normal and care about the Catholic Church.

Pat Brown

News from WATCH

On 7 February Revd Griselda Delgado del Carpio was consecrated as co-adjutor bishop of Cuba in Havana!

<http://us1.forward-to-friend.com/forward/show?u=d120aa8efc4112c7cae41108e&id=1ef840385d>

Click on Read more to see the picture!

Cuba already has a suffragan bishop - Rt Revd Nerva Cot Aguilera

This brings the total of women bishops in the Anglican Communion to 26.

Stand up for Vatican II

Myra Poole has written an excellent paper based on her talk at the Stand up for Vatican II meeting. You can find it on

<http://www.standup4vatican2.org.uk/the-news/70-guests-in-their-own-house>

A series of talks by Dr Dorothea McEwan

Supported by filmmaker Brek Taylor and writer Penelope Middelboe

St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
78 Bishopsgate (near Liverpool Street Station)
London
EC2N 4AG

What is liturgy?

An opportunity to review who makes liturgy now and how it could be in the future.

Tuesday March 23rd
6.30-8.30pm

What is equality?

Discussion exploring modern interpretations of social and sexual theology.

Monday June 28th
6.30-8.30pm

What is leadership?

An examination of the existing pyramid structure and ways of moving towards an inclusive Church.

Monday September 20th
6.30-8.30pm

There are half a billion women Catholics. Women are excluded from all decision-making as well as from ordination. The discussion of women's ordination has been banned by the Vatican.

"Catholicism and tradition subjugate women to 'second class citizens'. It's extraordinarily important religious leaders understand they must change and there must be equal status in the home, in religious expression and in the political sphere."
Mary Robinson, Irish President 1990-97, Former UN Commissioner for Human Rights

Dr Dorothea McEwan is a well-travelled lecturer and academic and editor of *An A-Z of Feminist Theology* (with Lisa Isherwood), *Cymbals and Silences: Echoes from the First European Women's Synod. Women for Change in the 21st Century* (with Fanny Martin and Lucy Tatman) and *Making All Things New* (with Myra Poole).

There is no fee to attend this workshop, though contributions will be welcomed. Refreshments will be served.

To book your place now or for more information please email Brek Taylor at cwolondon@gmail.com

The Lisieux Trust Training Day

This was held on Saturday, 27 Feb at St Andrew's, Waterloo.

The theme of the day was 'Making Liturgy' based on the experiences of some of those who had been involved in contributing to the book of the same name in 2003.

The day was chaired by Dorothea McEwan, a co-editor of the book with Pat Pinsent, Ianthe Pratt and Veronica Seddon.

The leaders of the workshops were Pat Pinsent (words in liturgy), Ianthe Pratt (inclusive language) and Myra Poole (history of women and liturgy).

The day was very successful. About 35 people attended, many of them Church of England women priests. Lala Winkley and Hilary Thompson led the liturgy. All found the day very helpful and they went away with ideas to implement in future liturgies.

I can highly recommend the book on liturgy. Ianthe has a few copies to sell. So please contact her if you would like a copy books@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

If anyone is interested, Myra based her talk on 'Women's Ways of Worship: Gender Analysis and Liturgical History' by Teresa Berger, 1999: Liturgical Press.

Myra Poole

WOW Press Conference – CWO representative needed

The WOW press conference for the Year of the Priest will take place at Adista on 8 June. This is where they held their press conference in October 2008. IMWAC will co-sponsor the press conference.

As at the Bishops' Synod, they would like to have one representative from each organization to speak at the event. Our WOW rep, Sue Williamson is unable to attend because of work commitments so if anyone else is free to go, please contact Sue

Following the press conference, they will walk to St. Peter's with signs, banners, and pamphlets. They will also hold visibility events at St. Peter's on the 9th and 10th of June.

Sue has details of reasonable accommodation so please get in touch if you wish to know more.

Erotic comes from the Greek word "eros," the personification of love in all its aspects and personifying creative power and harmony. When I speak of the erotic, then, I speak of it as an assertion of the life force of women, of that creative energy empowered, the knowledge and use of which we are now reclaiming in our language, our history, our dancing, our loving, our work, our lives.

Audre Lorde

Articles urgently needed for inclusion in the next CWO Newsletter

We are trying to revive the newsletter but a major problem is the lack of articles or indeed any material that in general terms could be of interest to our membership.

I am not asking for deeply theological or researched items as you will see from my own writing, but anything including your own experiences which would provide interesting even amusing reading.

If you have any photographs please also include them although at this stage we are looking at black and white reproduction.

Please let me have the articles **by 25 March latest**

Thank you

Diana Edwards

Websites

www.womenwordspirit.org

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

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.womenandthechurch.org

<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

*All loving God, remember us,
your people who have been hurt and betrayed today by the leaders of our church,
just as nations and organisations are betrayed today by their warring leaders.
We hold tight to our healing hope.
We seek a reformed church where
all are respected,
all are loved
and all are honoured.
Such a church would give an example
to peoples, societies and nations in conflict.
Empower us with your gifts to move our world forwards
towards Peace with Justice,
where there is no use for violence and oppression.*

From Prayermail

Digby Stuart Lecture

This year, the Digby Stuart lecture will be given by David Bintley, Director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

These annual lectures are given by well-known Catholics from across the cultural, political and academic spectrum, as a forum for exploring the relationship between the Catholic faith and public life, and for recognising the diverse ways in which Catholics contribute towards British society.

Date and time: 18 May at 6.30 pm (followed by a reception)

Venue: Digby Stuart Chapel, Digby Stuart College, Roehampton

University, London SW15 5PH

For further information, please contact Tina Beattie:

t.beattie@roehampton.ac.uk

Some members may want to visit this site to consider signing this petition.

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/ProtectthePope/>

Just to re-iterate - this is for your information - so we know what's going on out there in the secular world, which is our world too!

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

Kathryn Bigelow – 1st woman to win Oscar for best director

"There should be more women directing; I think there's just not the awareness that it's really possible. It is....

If you hold a mirror up to society and you don't like what you see, you can't fault the mirror....

I don't like violence. I am very interested, however, in truth. And violence is a fact of our lives, a part of the social context in which we live....

This is a war that cannot be won, why are we sending troops over there? Well, the only medium I have, the only opportunity I have, is to use film. There will always be issues I care about....

War's dirty little secret is that some men love it. I'm trying to unpack why."

Media Training

At the end of January some of us spent the day with Christina and Chris Rees. Christina is Chair of WATCH (Women and the Church) and has vast experience with the media and Chris worked as a producer with the BBC and trains interviewers. It was a very useful and stimulating day.

We have an amazing opportunity to raise the profile of CWO and campaigning for women's ministry in a reformed RC Church before, during and after the Pope's visit and responding to some wider issues with a CWO perspective.

1. Myra Poole is coordinating media for CWO and would like to know who is willing to write or speak to local and national media.
2. Christina and Chris worked with us doing and critiquing our radio interviews in the studio on the day and gave us some very useful advice:
 - With radio and TV ask who is the audience for this particular programme?
 - What will be the first question?
 - Have 3 points you wish to get across to the audience
 - Learn how to bridge from the question asked to what you want to say
 - Avoid jargon, or if you use it explain it.
 - Practise answers to difficult questions in advance.
 - Join our email discussion group where we are practising difficult questions in our own styles and sharing with and learning from each other.

If you wish to join us please contact Myra Poole

Many thanks to Christina and Chris Rees.

Pippa Bonner and Myra Poole (CWO Media Representatives on NatCog.)

Suffering is the necessary feeling of evil. If we don't feel evil we stand antiseptically apart from it, numb. We can't understand evil by thinking about it. The sin of much of our world is that we stand apart from pain; we buy our way out of the necessary pain of being human.

Jesus did not numb himself or withhold from pain, as we see even in his refusal of the numbing wine on the cross. Some forms of suffering are necessary so that we know evil, so that we can name evil and confront it. Otherwise we somehow dance through this world and never really feel what is happening.

Brothers and sisters, the irony is not that God should feel so fiercely; it's that his creatures feel so feebly. If there is nothing in your life to cry about, if there is nothing in your life to yell about, you must be out of touch. We must all feel and know the immense pain of humanity. The free space that God leads us into is to be able to feel the full spectrum, from great exaltation and joy, to the pain of mourning and dying and suffering. Then we are no longer isolated, but a true member of the universal Body of Christ.

Richard Rohr

Catholic Women's Ordination is on Facebook.

Catherine Wareing is administering our site and requests you to become a fan if you are on facebook. Numbers have increased from 23 to 30 during February.

If you take a look at the site, you can see we are encouraging dialogue from different people, some supporters some not. It would be excellent if we could get 100 members by the time the Pope arrives. Also it would help us gain some hits at the Greenbelt festival if we could populate it a bit more. Please join and get your friends to support the site.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Womens-Ordination/27311398359>

Many thanks

Catherine Wareing

Westminster Cathedral Vigil

London CWO continues to pray on the first Wednesday of the month. Their next vigil will be on the Cathedral Piazza on Sunday 25 April 11 to 12.30, Vocations Sunday. This will catch those coming out of 10.30 Mass and those going into 12 Mass. They stand with banners, hand out CWO leaflets and attempt to engage people in discussion - response has been increasingly encouraging.

Think Tank

We are hoping to set up a Think Tank of prominent Catholics in various fields to help us publicise the issue of women's ordination within the Roman Catholic Church. We have compiled a list of possible people and drafted a letter to send to these people, which is now being finalised. To cover the youth angle, some CWOLO members will be attending the Youth Mass at Mount Street.

Jillian Dempsey

Advance Notice of Richard Rohr weekend

Richard Rohr is leading a weekend at St James' Piccadilly on 3-4 Sept "The greatest vocation is not the contemplative, nor is it the active, but the utter art form of putting the two together." Some of the input will come from his Franciscan Tradition, and the event is sponsored by the Society of St Francis.

Price £40

Bookings as follows:
www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

Phone 01865 305305