

Welcome to the edited issue 42 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website [www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) News and previous issues can be seen there.

Please send items for November e-news by 15 November. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

Many thanks to Mary A who has stepped down from NatCog. The Annual Gathering was a great swansong!

### October 17, 2011

This afternoon, an international delegation of women's ordination leaders including Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, marched to the Vatican with a [petition](#) signed by 15,000 supporters. Fr. Bourgeois has been threatened by church officials for his public support of women's ordination.



Members of the delegation including Fr. Bourgeois, Erin Saiz Hanna, Executive Director of Women's Ordination Conference, and Miriam Duignan of Womenpriest.org were detained and then released by local police authorities.

The delegation of fifteen leaders was met by local police at the gate of St. Peter's and was denied entry. Plain-clothes policemen apprehended the delegation's banners stating "Ordain Catholic Women," "God is calling women to be priests" and "Call To Action." The banners have been withheld as evidence for a pending hearing. Those who were detained were not officially arrested but their case will be heard by a judiciary court.

**View photos [here](#).**

#### **Read more:**

Reuters: [Catholics campaigning for women priests detained at Vatican](#)

Associated Press: [Roy Bourgeois, U.S. Catholic priest who backs women's ordination, detained](#)

## **CWO Annual Gathering**

Many thanks to Mary A and Amanda R who spearheaded the organisation of a great Annual Gathering in Newport. Numbers were swelled in the afternoon as people came to hear Owen Hardwicke speak very inspirationally. Hopefully there will be some reflections in subsequent e-news's.

## **Vatican II 50 Years On: The New Evangelization**

Leeds Trinity University College, in conjunction with the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University, calls for papers for presentation at the conference Vatican II 50 Years On: The New Evangelization on 26-29 June 2012.

The Second Vatican Council was a seminal event which had a profound impact on the life of the Catholic Church and believers, on her relations with other Christians and other faiths, and on the world at large through the renewed sense of mission which it generated. In particular, the Council began an engagement with the modern and secularized world through a renewed proclamation of the Gospel. Blessed John Paul II described this as the 'new evangelization', and in 2010, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed this priority by creating the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

From the first Constitution promulgated by the Council, *Sacrosanctum concilium* (1963) on the Sacred Liturgy to the last, *Gaudium et spes* (1965) the documents produced by the Council signalled a concern to re-express the Good News of Jesus Christ in dialogue with the modern world. This was to be through revivification of people's participation in Communion (*Lumen gentium*, 1963) and growing reverence for the word of God (*Dei verbum*, 1965). Pope Paul VI carried forward the stress on proclaiming the Gospel in the modern world when he defined the meaning of evangelization today (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, 1975), and in the encyclical *Redemptoris missio* (1990), Blessed John Paul II stressed that evangelization is the responsibility of all Christians and churches. John Paul II repeatedly called attention to the need for re-evangelization or 'New Evangelization', especially in countries with Christian roots but where many 'live a life far removed from Christ'. His successor Pope Benedict XVI has a particular concern for the crisis of faith in secularized societies and in 2010 established the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization to 're-propose the perennial truth of the Gospel'.

The fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Council provides a unique occasion to revisit it and consider its outcomes from different perspectives. The international Catholic theological conference at Leeds Trinity University College on 26-29 June 2012 will provide an opportunity to engage with the history and documents of Vatican II and its impact and legacy. Focus on 'the New Evangelization' is especially appropriate ahead of the Synod on 'The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith' to be held in October 2012.

## **Vatican II 50 Years On: The New Evangelization(continued)**

The theme of the Leeds Trinity conference 'Vatican II 50 Years On: The New Evangelization' suggests consideration of the interpretation and impact of the Council, and the impetus to the new evangelization in particular, in the following ways:

- Analysis of Council documents and their significance for understanding the Council and/or for application in church and society today.
- The interpretation and historiography of Vatican II, especially with respect to the New Evangelization.
- The nature of the New Evangelization, its links with Vatican II, and the challenges and opportunities for a 're-proposal of the perennial truth of the Gospel' today.
- Contemporary theological issues in light of the Council such as education, inculturation, social ethics, marriage and family, ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- External perceptions of the Roman Catholic Church, its agenda of evangelization, and its role in local and global affairs since Vatican II.

Papers are invited which relate to the themes of the conference as outlined above, and especially on the topics identified. Paper presenters should be active researchers, whether new or established scholars, who have an interest in the topic and are planning to attend the conference. It is not necessary to be a Catholic or to speak from the perspective of Catholic theology; any scholarly paper related to the themes will be considered.

Papers presented in parallel sessions should be delivered in a maximum of 20 minutes and should be no more than 2000 words in length.

To apply to present a paper, the following information is needed:

- Your name and institution (if applicable)
- Title of the proposed paper
- Brief abstract (about 200 words)

Applications should be sent to Professor Kirsteen Kim [k.kim@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:k.kim@leedstrinity.ac.uk) by 30 November 2011. Successful contributors will be notified by 31 January 2012.

A limited number of partial bursaries is available.

For further information about the event and to book a place, see [www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/VaticanIIConference](http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/VaticanIIConference).

email [k.stenton@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:k.stenton@leedstrinity.ac.uk)

phone +44 (0)113 2837102 +44 (0)113 2837102

## **Women's Spirituality Course**

Wednesday evenings 7-9, October—June 2011/12 at Thorpe House, 12 Sowerby Road Thirsk

A creative course for women who wish to explore their own spiritual journeys within a challenging and life-changing space.

Keeping within the Christian tradition this course looks at radical and creative changes to support personal flourishing.

25 Evening Sessions and 3 Saturdays provide ample opportunity for building friendships and trust, having fun and delighting in the wisdom of other women.

On completion each woman will be presented with an attendance certificate of hours and modules.

The Women's Spirituality Course is led by Rev Elizabeth Baxter, Executive Director of Holy Rood House with The Centre for the Study of Theology and Health and Thorpe House Community Education Centre

Holy Rood House  
Centre for Health and Pastoral Care  
10 Sowerby Road  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire  
YO7 1HX

Tel: 01845 522580

enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk

*You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.*

Anne Lamott

## **News from Australia - courtesy of Therese Koturbash CNWE**

Father Greg Reynolds, a priest who has spoken out in support of women's ordination, has been told to 'stop talking or resign' on account of this view. He stands by conscience and has now resigned. See page 3 of the following link:

[http://issuu.com/westernportnews/docs/wpn\\_current](http://issuu.com/westernportnews/docs/wpn_current)

An earlier article chronicling some of the news regarding this here:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/catholic-priest-risks-his-future-by-calling-for-women-clergy-20101118-17zb3.html>

*Though you cannot return to the past to make a brand new start, you can always make a brand new start now, and a brand new ending.*

Anon

## **Invitation to a Presentation at the Houses of Parliament, Tuesday, 1 November 2011**

We would like to invite you to an open meeting hosted by Siobhain McDonagh MP in the UK Houses of Parliament on Tuesday 1st November 2011, the Feast of All Saints, 7.00 - 8.00pm

### **THE CASE FOR WOMEN PRIESTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Speakers: Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Dr John Wijngaards and the "Women Can Be Priests" Team.

Venue: The House of Commons, Committee Room 14, London, SW1A 0PW, UK.

Politicians, leading Catholics and supporters of women's ordination are all invited to join us for a presentation of the work of the internationally acclaimed campaign, "Women Can Be Priests" and support our appeal for a free and open discussion in the Catholic Church.

Will women ever be ordained in the Catholic Church? Why despite widespread support for women's ordination, are there no women priests in the Catholic Church? Since 1999 the "Women Can Be Priests" Team at Husetop has been running the website [www.womencanbepriests.org](http://www.womencanbepriests.org), the largest online internet library dedicated to women's ordination. We are convinced there are no valid arguments against women's ordination from Scripture or tradition. We are faithful Catholics who aim to promote the ordination of women as part of the life-giving mission Christ intended for his Church. We believe it is time to speak out with courage. At this meeting we will be calling upon Catholics in public life to give their encouragement to this call for a free debate in the Catholic Church.

Admission to the Presentation is free but pre-booking is essential.

Please contact Jos Rickman on 01923 779 446 or [josrickman@btconnect.com](mailto:josrickman@btconnect.com) to order a ticket.

If you live in the UK and your MP is a Catholic, please encourage him or her to attend this event.

Donations towards the cost of putting on this event will be greatly appreciated,

Barbara Paskins MA, Husetop Trustee

## 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](http://www.womenwordspirit.org)

Women Word Spirit

[www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/cc](http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/cc)

Catholics for a Changing Church

<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 –

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

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

Sign up for their regular newsletter

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

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

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

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

## Religious Life as a Prophetic Life Form

Extracts from a five-part essay by Immaculate Heart of Mary Sr. Sandra Schneiders on the meaning of religious life today. In this part Schneiders, professor of New Testament Studies and Christian Spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, sets the context for "Religious Life as Prophetic Life Form."

<http://www.ursulines-ur.org/media/files/propheticlifeform.pdf>

see also <http://ncronline.org/news/women/religious-life-prophetic-life-form>

## CWO Merchandise

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker! You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet.

The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME Prayer mail is a collection of prayers sent in by members, some written by them. This CWO initiative is an inspirational collection.

		Quantity	Unit cost	Cost
Very smart biro with CWO logo, website and `phone no	Purple/silver lettering		£0.80	
Car stickers with CWO logo, website and `phone no	Purple on cream		£1.50	
CWO badge	Purple/white lettering <u>R</u> enewed <u>O</u> rdained <u>M</u> inistry for <u>E</u> veryone		£1.00	
Postage and packing				£1.00
Donation to CWO (optional)				
Total - Cheques to CWO				

Delivery address

Contact email or phone number  
Send order to CWO, PO Box 183, Leeds, LS8 9EN