

**CWO**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news April 2012 issue 47**

Welcome to the edited issue 47 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 May e-news by 15 May. 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)

This is the last e-news before our meeting to mark the anniversary of Vatican II. **Please let me know if you are planning to attend this event.** (See programme below)

Please read the documents on our website which will inform this day.

<http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm> Scroll down the page to

"Whatever Happened to Vatican II." Also see

<http://www.womenpriests.org/authority/index.asp>

Please join us at the beginning of the process of reflection and planning. Further meetings will follow as we take ideas forward.

### **CWO Saints**

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White  
Marcella Althaus-Reid  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown

*Pray for us*

*There's no real story of the Last Supper in the Gospel of John as we find it in the other Gospels. There is no passing of the bread or passing of the cup. Instead we come upon the story of Jesus on his knees washing the Apostles' feet. Really quite amazing, and even more amazing that we never made the foot washing into a Sacrament! It is much more explicit in the Scriptures than many other actions we made into sacraments. Perhaps John realized that after seventy years the other Gospels had been read. He wanted to give a theology of the Eucharist that revealed the meaning behind the breaking of the bread. He made it into an active ritual of servanthood and solidarity, instead of the priestly cult that it has largely become.*

*Peter symbolizes all of us as he protests, "You will never wash my feet!" (John 13:8). But Jesus answers, "If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me." That is strong! We all find it hard to receive undeserved love from another. For some reason it is very humiliating to the ego. We all want to think we have earned any love that we get by our worthiness or attractiveness. So Jesus has to insist on being the servant lover. Thank God, Peter surrenders, but it probably takes him the rest of his life to understand.*

Richard Rohr

## **Whatever Happened to Vatican II?**

A day of reflection and planning

Saturday 12 May At Andrew's Short Street Waterloo  
10.30am – 4.00pm

All welcome

### Programme

10.30 – 11.00	Registration and refreshments
11.00 – 12.15	Kathleen Walsh introduces the day followed by questions from the floor
12.15 – 12.45	Liturgy
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 2.30	Discussion in groups
2.30 – 3.00	Feed back from groups
3.00 – 4.00	Plan action

### **From CWO's facebook page**

It was a Seder meal for Passover. Complete families were there, including children. This is why I firmly believe that Communion is not just something a priest can consecrate. I firmly believe Jesus showed that Communion is a matter of faith, love, and sharing regardless of gender or age.

### **London CWO**

The group will meet on the Piazza at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday 29th April (Good Shepherd Sunday) between 11am and 12.15pm. Please join them if you can.

### **CWO member Jean Mayland in the Times 2.4.12**

This is a great article by Ruth Gledhill. I can't reproduce it but you can see it online, though you have to subscribe.

Asked what would happen if the Church [of England] did not move towards a full acceptance of homosexuals, she said, "The church we have at the moment will die... Christianity won't die. It will be reborn in new ways."

## **On holiest of days, Pope slams women's ordination supporters**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, Roman Catholics globally joined together for the feast of Holy Thursday, to commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus the Christ and welcome the Easter Triduum, the holiest days for Catholics. It was during the Last Supper that Jesus gave those gathered a new commandment -- to "love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

While during these holy days we would presume to hear Pope Benedict XVI echoing Jesus' call for love and inclusion, instead the Pope put forth a message of fear, intimidation, and oppression. In his homily earlier today, he denounced "disobedience" within the church and strongly reprimanded priests who support women's ordination.

The Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) is discouraged that the Pope would use this sacred time in our religious tradition to attack his fellow priests, who in good conscience, support women's full inclusion in the Roman Catholic Church. It is not these priests who are disobedient, it is the hierarchy who has lost touch with the people of God.

Out of fear of the growing numbers of ordained women and the overwhelming support they receive, the Vatican is trying to preserve what little power they have left by attempting to extinguish the widespread call for women's equality in the church. It will not work.

More than 63 percent of U.S. Catholics, and millions of Catholics worldwide, support the ordination of women. The Vatican's own Pontifical Biblical Commission found in 1976 that there is no scriptural reason to prohibit the ordination of women. The Bible describes how women were prominent leaders in Jesus' ministry and early Christianity. In all four gospels, Mary Magdalene was the primary witness to the central event of Christianity-Christ's resurrection.

It is long overdue for the Vatican to listen to its own research, its own theologians and its own people who say that women are equally created in the image of God and are called to serve as priests in a renewed and inclusive Roman Catholic Church.

*Erin Saiz Hanna, Executive Director Women's Ordination Conference*

*Our task and our joy is to find or simply recognise God sitting amongst us, at any time, in any gay bar or in the home of a camp friend who decorates her living room as a chapel and doesn't leave her rosary at home when going to a salsa bar.*

Marcella Althaus-Reid

## **CWO Retreat 3-5 August**

Once again we are holding a retreat for all CWO members at Noddfa. Cost £88. To reserve a place, please send deposit (non refundable) of £50 to Noddfa, Conwy Old Road, Penmaenmawr, North Wales, LL34 6YF . Please book by 31 May and state any dietary or other needs.

### **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*

### **More inspirational stuff from Joan Chittester**

[http://www.benetvision.org/Ideas\\_In\\_Passing/03\\_26\\_12.html](http://www.benetvision.org/Ideas_In_Passing/03_26_12.html)

If you visit our website you will see that as well as our face book page

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

CWO is now on *linked in* and *Twitter*.

Please join us on linked in

[http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Catholic-Womens-Ordination-4336317?goback=.gna\\_4336317](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Catholic-Womens-Ordination-4336317?goback=.gna_4336317)

and follow us on twitter  
@CWOcampaign

Just click on the links on the web page

I'd also welcome pithy CWO statements to tweet (max. 140 characters including spaces)

## **Peace, the root value of the Olympic Games**

You might like to write to your MP and/or distribute this; an open letter to the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games signed by Barbara Kentish, Westminster Justice and Peace Commission and Pat Gaffney, Pax Christi, who are among the founding members of 'The 100 Days of Peace' (the Olympic Sacred Truce). This is an initiative of a network of Christian groups who believe that London's hosting of the Olympic Games provides an excellent opportunity to promote and reassert, a commitment to peace and reconciliation, unity, internationalism and cooperation.

The letter continues...

This initiative is inspired by the Olympic Truce tradition and vision. Indeed, Lord Coe, the chairman of London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) and representing the British Government, presented a resolution at the UN last October calling for a truce to be observed in all the world's conflicts throughout the duration of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sport helps to mend broken communities. Some visitors to London this summer will be from countries in conflict, perhaps even facing internal repression. All the more important then that the message of peace and the creation of a community of ordinary people who can live, work and solve problems together should be central to this uniting of nations under the Olympic ideals. Lord Coe affirmed this at the UN saying that sport "can and does help to mend broken communities, rebuild trust, rediscover self-respect, and foster the values at the core of our common humanity". It is therefore with some dismay that we hear of the central role being allocated to the Armed Forces during the Games in the Welcome and Victory ceremonies.

We find it difficult to equate this prominent role with the ideal of the Olympic Truce. Engaging our armed services in this manner could give a militaristic message at what is arguably the greatest of all international gatherings that Britain will host, and might not be conducive to creating a welcoming atmosphere for those attending. It could also be perceived as insensitive to visitors from countries still experiencing violence and repression, and likewise to those of our London citizens who are sanctuary-seekers themselves from war-torn countries.

This engagement could appear imbalanced, moreover, beside other 'services' within the UK which make a vital contribution to society, and which witness to the values outlined above by Lord Coe. We suggest that the role of flag bearing and so on be extended to inspirational people and volunteers in other services, such as nurses, doctors, teachers, community organisers, social workers, ambulance, fire-service and coastguard workers, and even older competitors or referees from the 1948 Olympics. Then to emphasise unity of purpose, one might have Paralympians for the Olympic ceremonies and Olympians for the Paralympian ceremonies). All of these people, as well as the Forces personnel, are inspirational for our society.

## Websites

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

Women Word Spirit

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

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

## Dates for your diary

### CWO Annual Gathering

29 September at St Andrew's Waterloo.

More details later

### National meeting in Leeds

27 October venue tbc.

Continuing work on the "Whatever happened to Vatican II" theme and in the light of the recent survey about support for women's' ordination. When will they listen?

### Holy Rood House Thirsk

There are many interesting days and residential courses and retreats.

You may wish to book overnight accommodation, or stay for the whole weekend at Holy Rood and take advantage of their provision of complimentary therapies, creative arts and spiritual accompaniment.

Please visit their website or email with enquiries.

[enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)

[www.holyroodhouse.org.uk](http://www.holyroodhouse.org.uk)

Holy Rood House  
10 Sowerby Road  
Thirsk  
North Yorkshire  
YO7 1HX

## New website

We have the pleasure to announce the creation of a new web site

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

Raphaël Jacquerye

## **Saint Hildegard Doctor of the Church - International Conference Bingen - Disibodenberg - Eibingen – October 25-28 2012**

Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) - seer, mystic woman, healer, composer, politician and soon also to be a Doctor of the Church!? Her elevation into this position, and, also connected to this, her official sanctification might be declared in October 2012 by the Pope in Rome.

In order to reflect on and celebrate this event properly, the newly-founded *Scivias Institute for Art & Spirituality* (in co-operation with the city of Bingen & other partners) invites you to an international conference in Bingen and to the "Land of Hildegard".

Qualified teachers from Germany, America, England and Spain give lectures and hold workshops in the German and/or English language. The question as to what we can learn from Hildegard as a teacher shall be asked and answered earnestly in the fields of theology, literature, music, art, medicine and politics. The results of the workshops shall be presented at the end of the conference and end in a celebration of Saint Hildegard's life and work.

Conference locations are in Bingen at the *Rupertsberger Gewölbe* (the remains of Hildegard's original convent!), at the *Museum am Strom*, at the *Hildegardisforum* on the Rochusberg; and, in the „Land of Hildegard“ at the site of the ruins of *Disibodenberg*, at St. Hildegard's Abbey and at the old Parish Church in *Eibingen*.

Accommodation for conference participants is reserved in different price-classes at *NH-Hotel Bingen* (20), *Hotel Krone Bingen* (20), in the Guest House of the *Kreuzschwester* (10) and in *Bingen Youth Hostel* (10 Plätze).

The Conference fee is € 150,00. It includes entrances, a buffet with Hildegard-food and a concert with Hildegard's music.

Application is necessary till August 30, 2012 at the latest. Early bird bookings are most welcome!

Scivias Institute for Art & Spirituality

[www.scivias-Institut.de](http://www.scivias-Institut.de) – [annette.esser@scivias-institut.de](mailto:annette.esser@scivias-institut.de)

Dr. Annette Esser – Winzenheimer Str. 23 – 55545 Bad Kreuznach,  
GERMANY



## Call for Papers - Liturgy as muse

Religious institutes as protagonists in renewing liturgy, sacred art and music and church material culture (1903-1962)

International conference of the European Forum on the History of Religious Institutes in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries (RELINS-Europe) Leuven, Belgium, 8-9 November 2012

The intended focus of the 2012 Relins conference is the role – to which still too little attention has been paid – played by religious and religious institutes in the reform and renewal of religious art and the material culture of church architecture and of worship between 1903 and 1962, along three main themes.

1. Religious Institutes and national/international networks
2. Motives, ideas and significance of the religious protagonists
3. Conflicts and public perception

All these questions and themes will be discussed at the 2012 RELINS-Europe conference. RELINS-Europe ([www.relins.eu](http://www.relins.eu)) is an international forum that aims to foster international, comparative research on religious institutes in (Western) Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. Previous conferences were organized in 2001 (Rome – Historiography of Religious Institutes), 2002 (Vallendar – Legal Position of Religious Institutes), 2004 (Rome – Religious Institutes and the Roman Factor), 2005 (Fribourg – Religious Institutes and Catholic Culture), 2006 (Rome – Missiology, Science and Modernity), 2008 (Leuven – Patrimony, Business and Management of Religious Institutes) and 2009 (Ravenstein – Educating a Catholic Elite).

The conference is scheduled to take place in Leuven (Belgium) on 8 and 9 November 2012 and will be hosted by KADOC-KU Leuven ([www.kadoc.be](http://www.kadoc.be)). Proposals for papers (max. 500 words, including a title), together with a curriculum vitae and a list of publications, should be addressed to Kristien Suenens ([kristien.suenens@kadoc.kuleuven.be](mailto:kristien.suenens@kadoc.kuleuven.be)) before March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Replies will follow no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

*Ambition's a scam, designed to make sure you keep your head down, be an obedient little consumer*

Frank Gallagher, Shameless