

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news September 2012 issue 52

Welcome to the edited issue 52 of the CWO 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 October e-news by 15 October. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

More details below about the meeting in Leeds to take forward our ideas on Vatican II. This is on 27 October in Leeds 1.00pm to 5.00pm at Mill Hill Church (2 mins from Leeds station*). Speakers Father Kevin Kelly and Sr Catherine Houlihan. **All welcome.**

There is a flier with this e-news. Please send to anyone who you feel might be interested.

* You come out of the front entrance of the station turn left and you'll come to City Square. Mill Hill Chapel, also known as Sanctuary, is on that square.

Should Religion Move with the times?

CWO member Pippa Bonner's appearance on Channel 4's *4thought* can be viewed online at <http://www.4thought.tv/themes/should-religion-move-with-the-times/pippa-bonner?autoplay=true>

Here are some members' comments

"Excellent and theologically cutting presentation. I pray that Benedict and the Catholic hierarchy generally, may come to realise the gross error of their ways. I also prayer that those *Anglican* priests and others who continue to resist the ordination and/or consecration of women, may also change their thinking (repent?!)"

"what I'd like to do, am doing, is exactly what Pippa describes, so gently, so reasonably and so unthreateningly."

"Everything that Pippa said rings a bell. It is the truth."

RECEIVING VATICAN II AND US

How does Vatican II affect us in 2012?

Saturday 27 October 2012

Mill Hill Chapel City Square Leeds LS1 5EB

1.00 pm – 5.00 pm

1.00 pm Gathering, refreshments and opening liturgy

1.15 – 1.45 pm Receiving Vatican II and Us - Rev. Kevin T. Kelly, author of "50 Years of Receiving Vatican II".

1.45 – 2.00 pm Questions/discussion.

2.00 – 2.30 pm The influence of Vatican II on a Religious Sister - Sr. Catherine Houlihan, Sister of Charity of St. Paul. Sr Catherine has been involved in education for 60 years at every level.

2.30 – 2.45 pm Questions/discussion.

2.45 – 3.00 pm Refreshment break

3.15- – 4.15 pm Group discussion: How do I receive Vatican II and what do I do next?

4.15 – 4.45 pm Plenary session

4.45 – 5.00 pm Closing Liturgy

Followed by a meal and/or a drink at Brewery Tap (at front of Leeds Station) for those who wish.

CWO Saints

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

Pray for us

Jess Gold and the Animated Earth Concert Tour

Live cartoonist Danny Fenster

St John's Waterloo
Waterloo Road
London
SE1 8TY

23 September 2012 - 7.30 pm

Tickets £10/£8 concessions

Contact Sheila 02076339819
frontofhouse@stjohnswaterloo.org

From the CWO facebook page

"I am a Canadian Anglican deacon & I can say that since the Anglican Church of Canada approved the ordination of women bishops priests & deacons the ministry of the church has been enriched immensely. Women bring a new perspective that men cannot bring. I remember a woman priest in Salisbury Cathedral in England preaching about the three men in the Prodigal Son (father & two brothers) story. I whispered to my wife that no man could have given her perspective to the story."

British Theologian Tina Beattie's Lecture Is Cancelled Because of Marriage Equality Stand

<http://newwaysministryblog.wordpress.com/2012/09/13/british-theologians-lecture-is-cancelled-because-of-marriage-equality-stand/>

1. *Star of Ocean*

Sometimes a child is born who doesn't cry - or not much; who sleeps calmly through the night; eats sprouts without more than a cat's face grimace of disgust, and shares its toys; a child who's good, but not disliked; who's born without the selfish gene. If you have ever thought of Mary (Virgin, mother of Christ) perhaps it was as someone just like that. I think you're wrong.

I think that Mary was a Boadicea, a Katy in What Katy did, Elizabeth of Hungary, Lady Godiva, or one of Shakespeare's feistier heroines. If you were God, choosing a mother to bring up your Son, your Self, who would you pick? a characterless white mouse, a nullity? Little Dorrit? Nell? or someone with the steel to bear the weight of hope and love and death? Someone unformed, as rough as carborundum; someone who would be polished by her choice into a sapphire with a perfect star.

From Rosa Mundi: a sequence of poems by Lynn Roberts



Year of Faith

The Catholic Church is marking the Year of Faith from October 2012- November 2013 and it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. In a spirit of being open minded, I have read "Porta Fidei" (Door of Faith) the booklet written by Pope Benedict and the CDF. Our Parish are planning some sessions. We have been asked for ideas and I have suggested a number of interactive sessions based on an overview of Vatican II (page 8), Mary (page 33), our Saint that the Parish is named after (page 37) and some sessions on the Bible (which is referred to throughout the booklet.) These are some of the themes I would be interested and feel comfortable to study with my local Parish.

However, there is much in the Booklet I find far more difficult:

Pope Benedict asks us to study Vatican II "if we interpret and implement it guided by a right hermeneutic..." page 8 (from an address to the Curia in 2005.) That word "right" is the key word and I expect his and my definition of "right" may be different. However he has ensured I can't discuss it with him as there is a ban on discussing women's ordination so he is hardly likely to dialogue with CWO...Study suggests being free to explore. The current Curia would not, I think, encourage this freedom. But let us study it freely within CWO.

The language throughout is exclusive, people are "he." CWO will continue to value and use inclusive language.

We are constantly asked to use the Catechism alongside the Vatican Documents. I interpret this as implying we mustn't stray from Catholic orthodoxy. As adults we are, within CWO, trying to engage with our faith with our brains, knowledge, experience and inspiration from the Spirit that is available to all.

It is very hierarchical: the levels at which the CDF recommends different subjects be addressed. Hierarchical thinking from the CDF is hardly surprising. Our vision is more inclusive and democratic within CWO.

CWO would write a very different booklet. Perhaps we can respond when we have studied, worked and prayed together through the Year of Faith.

Perhaps we can rediscover the notion of collegiality and other reforms the late Cardinal Martini never forgot. Cardinal Schonborn wrote "Cardinal Martini's views on the role of women in the Church, on contraception, and on collegiality, among other issues, all challenged the status quo." (Interview in the Tablet 15 September.) Who knows where we and the Church will be in November 2013 when the Year of Faith ends?

Pippa B

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

*If You Don't Stand For Something
You Will Fall For Anything.*

Attributed to many

Websites

www.womenwordspirit.org
Women Word Spirit

<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

www.womensordination.org
More news of Rome Petition, Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

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

Rachel is a professed hermit of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham. She sent this link to an experimentally inclusive version of the new liturgy. This is an (unauthorised) work in progress and she would welcome any feedback or ideas to improve it.

www.womenpriests.org.
Sign up for their regular newsletter

www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/ccc
Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/>
National Catholic Reporter

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>
Lesbian and Gay Christians

www.spirituschristi.org
A truly inclusive Catholic Church