

**CWO**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news January 2013 issue 55**

# Happy New Year!

Welcome to the edited issue 55 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 February e-news by 15 February. 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)

You will probably have heard about Tony Flannery, a Redemptorist in the Irish Priests group. He has been threatened with excommunication by if he doesn't recant his support for women's ordination, contraception and divorce and remarriage. There is a petition to support him.

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/To\\_have\\_Fr\\_Tony\\_Flannery\\_returned\\_to\\_his\\_priestly\\_ministry/?fNpOCdb](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/To_have_Fr_Tony_Flannery_returned_to_his_priestly_ministry/?fNpOCdb)

Pippa B writes: We are coming to the crunch and it could begin to affect the priests in A Call to Action. If you want to respond to this you will need to subscribe to A Call to Action (no money involved!) and then googlegroups.

People send me many interesting items and rather than reproduce them, I give the links to the original. Please look at the "links" section below. May I particularly draw your attention to

- the piece by Dr James Kottoor, who came to the Dublin WOW conference in 2001 courtesy of the travelling fund
- the "Ordain a Lady" item which will hopefully bring a smile

## 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CWO 24 March 2013

We will hold a prayer vigil on our actual 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Sunday 24 March outside Westminster Cathedral.

Please send me any ideas you have

[info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

### 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*

*It is far more impressive when others discover your good qualities without your help.*

Judith Martin

### Links

Father Roy Bourgeois receives official Vatican letter dismissing him from priesthood

<http://ncronline.org/news/people/bourgeois-receives-official-vatican-letter-dismissing-him-priesthood>

and the Papal decree...

<http://www.womensordination.org/content/view/429/157/>

Roy Bourgeois book *My Journey from Silence to Solidarity*

<http://www.roybourgeoisjourney.org/>

Ordain a lady!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOS2WlvNTU8>

James Kottoor – Silent Church as good as dead

<http://www.indiancurrents.org/indiancrm/upload/9126Page%20%2023,24,25.pdf>

Bishops investigating US nuns have poor records on sex abuse cases

<http://ncronline.org/news/women-religious/bishops-investigating-us-nuns-have-poor-records-sex-abuse-cases>

American Women Religious awarded the Herbert Haag Prize 2013 for Freedom in the Church

[http://www.we-are-church.org/de/files/1832\\_Herbert-Haag-Preis%202013\\_Medienmitteilung\\_en.pdf](http://www.we-are-church.org/de/files/1832_Herbert-Haag-Preis%202013_Medienmitteilung_en.pdf)

Backbench Business — Church of England (Women Bishops)

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/debate/?id=2012-12-12a.376.2>

Cardinal Marx of Munich for "Intensive Further Thinking" about Women's Ordination

<http://www.praytelligblog.com/index.php/2012/12/13/cardinal-marx-of-munich-for-intensive-further-thinking-about-womens-ordination/>

Ordination of women would correct injustice

<http://ncronline.org/news/people/editorial-ordination-women-would-correct-injustice>

## **URGENT!**

You may remember Myra and I put a piece in 2 previous enews about a book we are writing and some of you answered an earlier question for us which was helpful. Thanks to those who replied! Many of your answers are being incorporated in the Book: anonymously or with your first name, whichever you specified or, anonymously, if you didn't specify. We are really trying to finish it by Easter so please could you help with the following by the end of January?

I am really wanting some more answers from CWO members to the following question: "How as CWO members do we cope emotionally with the CWO struggle in the long term?" as I think CWO quotes from individuals are much more powerful than me saying what I think or giving only theoretical answers. If you have sent me something already (as several of you have to this question) please ignore this or write some more!

Please could you help with this chapter by writing a few lines on the following:

What motivates you to keep engaging with the CWO struggle? What feelings, motivations and beliefs do you have about the current situation? Also what strategies do you have for keeping going and coping with the campaign? Have you developed a spiritual way of continuing and sustaining yourself?

This is a qualitative piece of writing, not measuring numbers, but I am trying to get a sense of CWO themes from CWO members.

Please will you email your response by mid February to [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) and also say if you want to be named (first names) if your piece is used or if you wish to be anonymous.

Thanks

Pippa B

### **Angie wrote on our facebook page:**

Galatians 3:28 Gender has nothing to do with it..... we ought to be all one in the Body of Christ - therefore, as women, open to have our vocations tested...as we are all open to Salvation. We also have to be aware of social evolution and the radical nature of the Gospels. The man Jesus I have at the root of my being is a social reactionary, the Mystical Christ far beyond the pomposity of humanity. I have spent nearly a lifetime wondering how so many people in church leadership fail to recognise these wonderful aspects of God. For a long time I gave up even thinking I would catch a glimpse... But I believe the Spirit is at work!

## **Proposed CWO Videos**

The National Committee of CWO has decided to bring out a series of short videos on CWO. Mary Colwell, who is a freelance writer for the Tablet, has agreed to work with us on the technical side. We have had one initial meeting and were advised by Mary to do five minute short videos on various aspects of CWO. She also suggested that we mainly use our own people.

Our next step is to take our findings so far, to the next National Coordinating group meeting which will be on 23 February. We will then decide on the final topics of this video and invite all CWO members if they feel they could offer something to one of the videos.

As the videos are to be only five minutes long and will need to be well thought through, pithy and rehearsed before any videoing will take place. If these videos go well and attract new members then we will know there is a future in this form of communication for CWO.

Progress will be communicated to all members via e-news. Some members may be contacted individually and asked to take part. Like all things it probably will not be easy as this is our first venture in this field of technology but we cannot let that deter us - nothing ventured nothing gained.

With thanks and watch this space,

Myra P

## **Tweet for CWO**

Many thanks to Kathryn G who has taken responsibility for CWO's tweeting. If you have a twitter account you can tweet us on @CWOcampaign. If you don't know how, we will try to put out a guide soon. If you have some interesting links (brief) thoughts or quotes about our campaign, please tweet them yourself or, if utterly clueless, send them to Kathryn (maximum 140 characters including spaces) and she will put them out into the twittersphere for you.

[info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

## **Review of In God's House by Ray Mouton published by Head of Zeus**

This extraordinary book keeps you mesmerised until the last page – and it's a very long book, but so riveting that it's hard to put down.

Now I thought I knew a bit about the clerical sexual abuse scandal in the US, but this novel showed me just how little I did. The truth being stranger than fiction or vice versa? Mouton claims that it is a work of fiction despite the obvious parallels with his own life – as a young lawyer in Louisiana he represented the first Catholic priest to be charged with sex abuse crimes. The novel is about – yes you've guessed.....

It is not an enjoyable book in the sense of the how the word is normally interpreted, but it is a "must read" book and so gripping you will have difficulty putting it down. Beware, some of the descriptions of abuse are very unpleasant. Not gratuitous and perhaps necessary, as abuse is sometimes whitewashed, as though a little "feeling-up" doesn't really matter. What the young Catholic lawyer, Chattelrault, discovers is far far worse than that.

There are two issues highlighted in the book that I hadn't fully taken on board before and provide an insight into the minds of clerics. Firstly, Pope John XXIII's declaration that bringing scandal to the Church was a sin and must be avoided at all costs and secondly "mental reservation". This latter construct is truly awful – the ability to lie under oath in court while reserving the truth for God – the secular court is unimportant.

The questions the book raises are too vast for here but we in CWO are only too aware that the Church will stop at nothing to protect its status quo.

Amanda R

## ***Cana* - from Rosa Mundi – Lynn Roberts**

*He did not want to use his father's skills;  
to show that he was (beyond expression) differently abled:  
he was human, after all.  
Yet it was her cousin's cousin's son -  
a poor wedding - and the wine ran out.  
She could not help but look at him; just a quick glance, seeing that saving face matters,  
illuminating in a tiny flash skeins of the complex webs which hold us up,  
so that his gaze fell on the water jars  
with their dark liquid circles where he saw her glance again.  
It was only a question of moving a few electrons sideways -  
not a great task –  
and yet there was a great shift of empathy and love.*

## Meeting Wales and West Group, Chepstow 26th January

Our growing group (we warmly welcomed a new member) met as the snow melted. We were planning to look at some of the key documents from Vat 2 but got involved in other matters instead. It appears that there is so much going on at the moment – it is a pivotal time for the Church – a crisis – a which way to go time - and spent a while discussing the treatment that Fr Tony Flannery is experiencing. Our worries are the same as everyone else's - that this is an ominous foretaste of what might happen to dissenters. Does it make us more determined? The answer is yes. We are not living in the Middle Ages during an Inquisition – even if it feels like it.

We talked about the Call to Action meeting some of us went to in December in Cardiff and how we could progress – perhaps being part of any meeting with the Archbishop (if he agreed?). But we are aware that promulgating CWO views would be unhelpful. If crunch came to crunch, we agreed we would put CWO first, rather than Call to Action.

Some of us are not free to attend the Chrism Mass to have a visible witness outside the Cathedral, so we agreed that this year our energies would be put into supporting the 20th anniversary of CWO. We will make this our focus for action and if anyone else from the area would like to join us in travelling to Westminster Cathedral on the 24th March, please let us know. There is a grand plan to make a banner but none of us are needlewomen – *so* – if anyone could help.....?

Our next local meeting is on Saturday April 20th in Chepstow. We would love to welcome others, please contact us for details. We plan to look at *Guadium et Spes* and *Lumen Gentium* and plan some actions for the next year – we want to be a visible group.

Amanda R

*It has been said by others that religion is largely filled with people who are afraid of hell, and spirituality is for people who have gone through hell. Jesus is always on the side of the crucified ones. He is not loyal to one religion, or this or that group, or the "worthy" ones—Jesus is loyal to suffering itself, wherever it is. He is just as loyal to the suffering of Iraqis or Afghanis as he is to the suffering of Americans. He is just as loyal to an oppressed gay man as he is to an oppressed married woman. He grabs all of our self-created boundaries away from us, and suddenly all we have is a free fall into the arms of God, who is our only and solid security. This seems to be God's very surprising agenda, if I am to believe the Bible.*

Richard Rohr

## Help wanted

As part of my PhD research at the University of Glasgow on *'The Participation of Women in the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council'* I am now undertaking some empirical research to provide quantitative and qualitative evidence of the lived experiences of Catholic women - and men. Although focusing on Scotland, responses from elsewhere – particularly in the 4 nations – will be very useful in providing contrasts and comparisons. A multiple choice questionnaire will collect quantitative evidence and the qualitative evidence will arise from responses to four key questions:

- 1. What are the ways in which women participate in the Catholic Church in your country?**
- 2. What assistance and support are currently offered to women to participate in the Church?**
- 3. What are barriers to women's participation in the Church?**
- 4. What are some ways in which women's participation in the Church can be increased?**

I have set up a website which explains the purpose and methods of the project - <http://mariecooke.wix.com/participationofwomen> - and which has links to online survey pages which you can complete if you wish. There is both an online questionnaire (click on the following link) – <http://www.thesistools.com/web/?id=304125> - multiple choice and a written submission form (click on the following link) - [www.thesistools.com/web/?id=310070](http://www.thesistools.com/web/?id=310070) - where you can jot your responses to the four questions.

Please complete either or even better both anytime over the next few months when you have a spare moment. Be assured that all comments will be kept totally anonymous – background information is used only for validating the data for academic purposes.

I'm also happy to interview individuals or groups – face-to-face or via phone or Skype/Facetime – just let me know if you would be interested in this - or you can send comments or questionnaires to me directly by email. I've attached some papers here in case hard copies are helpful.

The wider the response the better so please feel free to forward this on to anyone you know who might be willing to get involved – male/female – clergy/laity –Catholic/other - in any diocese or country – all responses are very welcome!

Thank you in anticipation

Marie Cooke  
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[mariecooke@onetel.com](mailto:mariecooke@onetel.com) 07876787713  
<http://mariecooke.wix.com/participationofwomen>

## Letter from IMWAC

The Austrian group of IMWAC (International Movement We Are Church) are planning the 50th anniversary of the opening and the promulgation of the Vatican Council II (Dec. 7th 1965) as a "Nuovo Aggiornamento – Vaticanum III: Voice of the People", the Austrian contribution to "Council 50". As many international church reform groups as possible should write the documents of Vat II new or in complements, on a real "Nouvo aggiornamento". In the attachment I send you the information about the procedure of groups with the bold " Method XXa ", an example of the "Method XXa" of the group Bica from Vienna , and other information.

I would, therefore, once again urgently ask you and your friends of a church reform, to assume responsibility for taking over one of the Vatican II documents that have not been covered so far. The more international our project will be organized, the greater our reform pressure will be on Rome . I appeal on your sense of responsibility to credibly walk the talk on the reform of our church... and not only to talk. When should it happen, if not now, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vaticanum II?

It would be also helpful for us if you would associate yourself with one of the already existing groups – also and particularly if you do not come from Austria , Germany or Switzerland , in order to contribute to a broader internationalization of our project. The communication between you and the group can occur electronically via internet.

It would be also very helpful for us if you could draw up an profound theological analysis of one Vatican II documents not yet covered, till September 2014. Please, contact me or Hans Peter Hurka!

Please join our cause in any way. We want to make the "Vaticanum III: Voice of the People". a truly international affair, to exert pressure on the church leadership in Rome . In the following countries consider groups / individuals to take one Vat II document: Germany , France , Netherlands , Belgium , Spain , Portugal , England , USA , Canada , Brazil , Chile , India , South Africa , Australia ecc.

Please let me know the email adresses of potential reform-minded individuals or groups that you know so I can write to them.

With warm regards and in expectation of your answer:

Dr. theol. Paul Weitzer  
(and Hans Peter Hurka also in the name of the Austrian Platform We Are Church))  
[paul.weitzer@aon.at](mailto:paul.weitzer@aon.at)

## Websites

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

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

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

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

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

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

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

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

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

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

Sign up for their regular newsletter

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

National Catholic Reporter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

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

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

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

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.

## 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*