

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news June 2015 issue 81

Welcome to the June issue of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit <http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/News> and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for July e-news by 20 July. info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given.

Our Annual Gathering 2015

Gender, Gospel & Global Justice: Where Next?



Saturday 3 October
St Andrew's
Short Street, Waterloo, London
SE1 8LJ

11.00am – 1.00pm AGM
1.00pm – 2.00pm Lunch provided by CWO

Gender, Gospel and Global Justice: Where next?
Sharing the inspiration of the WOW Conference

2.00pm – 4.30pm Speaker - Tina Beattie and one other speaker from the Conference – plus CWO members who took part followed by discussion/questions

4.30pm Closing liturgy

Late News - From Mary Magdalene to Women Bishops: A Conversation

Magdalene College, Cambridge
30 June 6.45pm
<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/tickets>

Third WOW Conference 2015

Gender, The Gospel, and Global Justice.

18 – 20 September 2015

Marriott Hotel

Philadelphia PA



Will you be there?

Registration includes all plenary sessions with inspiring [speakers](#), conference workshops, academic seminars with renowned theologians, special events and receptions, and opportunities to take action.

- **\$300 Registration** (up to July 31, 2015)
- **\$350 Late Registration** (After August 1, 2015)

It is easy to register via the website – they deal with converting sterling to dollars. You can opt to share a room. They will match you up with another delegate. The rooms are large with two double beds in each.

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=WOMA18E&TID=So5TRn5cIhKVIuNtnsPU1g%3d%3d>

Speakers list: Teresa Forcades, Tina Beattie, Christina Rees, Dr. Mary Hunt, Dr. Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza, Barbara Blaine, Kristina Keneally, Ursula King, Sister Genny Dunnay, Sister Christine Fernando, Shannon Dee Williams, Maeve O'Rourke, Mari Steed. Jamie Manson, Theresa Kane RSM, Asra Normani, Kate Kelly, Sr Maureen Fiedler, Patricia Fresen Priest panel includes Tony Flannery, Paul Collins and Roy Bourgeois

Buy WOW merchandise here! <http://www.cafepress.com/wow2015>

If you can't attend you might be able to help someone from the developing world to attend by contributing to the solidarity fund. Any amount is welcome.

You can donate here: -

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WomensOrdinationConferenceInc/wow2015.html>

Or you can send me a cheque made out to WOW. My address is on the merchandise form at the end of this enews. If you know anyone who might be worth approaching for a donation please let me know about that too. We need financial backers for this event but **mostly we need people to attend so please publicise widely!**

Please spread the word via Twitter and Facebook.

Sign up to receive WOW e-news <http://womensordinationworldwide.org/connect/>

Pat Brown

Pope Francis – no words of encouragement

Pope Francis is not considering women for leadership posts in the Vatican

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/francis-again-rejects-women-heads-vatican-offices#.VYb0kw00u9M.facebook>

In his recent encyclical *Laudato Si* there are 172 references at the end: Popes, bishops, male theologians – not one woman has been referenced – no Hildegard of Bingen, no Catherine of Sienna.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Pope Francis is good news in so many ways yet at times he excludes half of humanity. This why we need the WOW conference, to hear feminist theologians and activists



#WHYWOW

"We have a church that's misogynist and it's representing the Gospel. We need freedom, equality, and the peoples capacities to participate in the conversation. I look forward to having this discussion in Philadelphia."

- Sr. Teresa Forcades on why she is looking forward to participating in #WOW2015.

No logical reason

Father Gary Darby, a co-parish priest in Portmarnock, Co Dublin, told his parishioners that he sees "no logical reason" why there can't be women priests.

He said the Church will have to reassess its approach to a wide range of issues following the vote on same sex marriage.

The eucharist dilemma

The major problem of eucharistic theology in our century is not that people do not understand and value the meaning of Eucharist. The problem is that they do.

The Eucharist, every child learns young, is the sign of Christian community, the very heart of it, in fact. And who would deny the bond, the depth, the electrical force that welds us together in it? Here, we know, is the linkage between us and the Christ, between us and the Gospel, between us and the Tradition that links us to Jesus himself and to the world around us. No, what the Eucharist is meant to be is not what's in doubt.

What's in doubt is that the Eucharist is really being allowed to do what it purports to do—to connect us, to unify us, to make us One. The truth is that as much as Eucharist is a sign of community it is also a sign of division. For the sake of some kind of ecclesiastical political fiascos centuries ago between the East and West, we close the table between Orthodox and Uniate—though the faith is the same and the commitments are the same and the vision of life and death are the same.

What's in doubt, too, is that the division between baptized men and baptized women can possibly witness to what we say is the faith: that men and women are equal; that women are fully human beings; that God's grace is indivisible; that discipleship is incumbent on us all; that we are all called to follow Christ.

At the end of one presentation after another, women make it a point to continue the discussion with me. "I used to be Catholic," they begin. "I was a Catholic once," they say. "I'm a recovering Catholic now," they announce. It's a sad litany of disillusionment and abandonment by a Church they once thought promised them fullness of life and then let them know it is their very persons that deny them that.

Call it "holy" communion if you want, they tell me, but it's not. Not like that. Not under those conditions.

So they go away to where Jesus waits for them, arms open, in someone else's Christian church. There's something about it that simply defies the lesson of Mary Magdalene or the Woman at the Well or Mary of Bethany or Mary of Nazareth. They go where every minister of the altar, every bishop, every lawgiver, every homilist, every member of every Synod on the planet is not male. They go where they can see "the image of God" in themselves in another woman. They go where eucharistic theology, which we're told makes us one, is palpable.

—from "Eucharist" by Joan Chittister, *Spirituality Magazine*, Volume 18, March-April 2012, No 101. Dominican Publications: Republic of Ireland.

European Network – Church on the Move

Invitation to the 25th Annual Conference of the European Network Rome 19-20 November 2015

CASA LA SALLE, Roma , Via Aurelia, 472 , 00165 Roma, Italy

Phone: +39.06.666.98.488, Fax: +39.06.660.003.84

E-Mail: backoffice@casalasalle.it, Web: www.casalasalle.com

You are kindly invited to attend the 25th Annual Conference of the European Network Church on the Move that will take place at CasaLaSalle in Rome.

This year the Annual Conference will be shorter than in the other years because it is articulated with the gathering of the delegates of the project Council 50 from the 20th to the 22nd of November that will be the study day of our annual conference. You are kindly invited to attend also this event after the end of the Annual Conference. This is why the attached registration form includes this possibility

You will therefore find attached the draft program of our Annual Conference, the draft program of the Council 50 event with its list of workshops and the registration form.

Furthermore, the project Council 50 will be articulated with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Pact of Catacombs that will take place at the same venue from the 11th to the 17th of November. You are also kindly invited to attend this event. Details will be given later.

More details Simon brydenbrook@talk21.com

I have opened a door in front of you that no-one can close. (Revelation 3.8)

CELEBRATING FEMALE IMAGES OF CHRISTA

10 July-9 August 2015

This art exhibition in the Link Gallery at the University of Winchester brings together women artists from across Europe to celebrate the ongoing heritage of Christa images. Artists include Ulrika Auga (Germany), Silvia Martínez Cano (Spain), Megan Clay (UK), Angie Devereux (UK), Elizaveta Dvorak (presently Russian), Annette Esser (Germany), Sylvia Grevel (Netherlands) and Jess Wood (UK)

The exhibition will also include the Bosnian Christa created by Margaret Argyle in 1993.

To accompany the exhibition, the Institute for Theological Partnerships has organised a series of free lectures as follows:

10th July 2015
Examining the Christa Heritage
Dr Nicola Slee, The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham

17th July 2015
The Bosnian Christa: Motivation and Influence
Lecture from the artist Margaret Argyle

22nd July, 2015
Female Images of Christ through History
The Revd Professor Dr Angela Berlis, University of Bern

Lectures are taking place at West Downs, Room 2
For further information contact Joanna.Wilson@Winchester.ac.uk
Tel: 01962 826 421

Image: 'She is Risen' by Megan Clay, 2004

 THE UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

Institute for Theological Partnerships
Director: Professor Lisa Isherwood, FREA 

CWO members are invited to attend a drinks reception to mark the opening night of the exhibition – this takes place from 6pm on Friday 10th July 2015, before the first lecture

Links

JP sergeant on sectarianism

<http://www.interfaithramadan.com/2015/06/in-age-of-sectarianism-divided-we-fall.html>

Jamie Manson writes about Beth Fowler who is playing a character based on the life of Dominican Sr. Ardeth Platte. In 2002, Platte, along with Dominican Srs. Carol Gilbert and Jackie Hudson, cut through a chain-link fence at a Minuteman III missile silo in Colorado and used baby bottles filled with their own blood to draw signs of the cross on its walls!

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/nun-and-actress-behind-orange-new-black>

16-year-old Muzoon, a champion for education and affectionately known as the “Malala” of Syrian refugees

http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/khaled/?utm_source=Twitter-UNHCRHPSKhaled2&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=WRD2015

Bishop Mark Sowerby bravely goes public about his change of views on women bishops.

<http://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/local/horsham-bishop-will-support-women-bishops-in-shock-shift-in-theology-1-6790051>

One of the WOW team, Therese Koturbash is quoted in this article “YES to Ordaining Women in the Catholic Church!”

<https://feistyredhair.wordpress.com/2012/10/02/yes-to-ordaining-women-in-the-catholic-church/>

Europe's fractious and divided church looks set to play a key role when the synod convenes in October

<http://ncronline.org/news/global/europes-fractious-catholics-set-out-their-views-synod-questionnaire>

Problem in the church is not strong women, but rather weak men who feel threatened by strong women, and have tried various means, even by dubious exegesis to prohibit them from exercising their gifts and graces in the church

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/bibleandculture/2015/06/02/why-arguments-against-women-in-ministry-arent-biblical/>

“Imagine if the Church accepted homosexual relationships. Ultimately, that is what these people want.” Anonymous spokesman

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/confidential-meeting-seeks-to-sway-synod-to-accept-same-sex-unions/#ixzz3e3sczViR>

“I have been constantly told by people working in the Vatican that they can’t say no to women deacons, they just don’t want to say yes” - Dr Phyllis Zagano

<http://www.catholicireland.net/women-deacons/>

CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop
Ruth Norton
John Hatfield
Celia Greenwood
Michael O'Gara
Sheila Houlihan
Mary Daly
Estelle White
Pat McCarron
Marcella Althaus-Reid
Astrid Klemz
Jean Palmer
Elizabeth Rendall
Maureen Brown
Tissa Balasuriya
Jack Sutcliffe
Pat Regini
Mary Ann Schoettly
Pam Skelton
Robert Kaggwa

Pray for us



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 (apologies for smaller print – that’s to fit them in!)

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

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

www.wijngaardsinstitute.org

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/>

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women’s equality in Church of England

<http://ncronline.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

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

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.we-are-church.org.uk

We Are Church in the UK is a call to recognise that all the Baptised, are part of the Church.

<http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk>

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Campaigns against and challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

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

Proclaims the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so as to sustain and increase Christian belief among homosexual men and women. They offer pastoral support for LGBT Catholics friends and families Sign up for quarterly newsletter

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/Easter2015/>

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