

CWO e-news March 2011 issue 35

Welcome to the edited issue 35 of the 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 April e-news by 15 April. Also please contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Calling all members of CWO –

I am very much at the beginning of writing a book based on 20 years experience of members of CWO. At the moment it is only a working title – Piazza Theology - . This book will include all different experiences throughout the country and elsewhere such as Rome.

I would be grateful if members could send brief and pithy answers to the following questions as a basis for the experiences on which this book will be based. Positive as well as negative experiences gratefully received. Not everyone has had a chance to do a public vigil on the issue of women's ordination that does not matter. It is your experiences that count. I know I will not be able to include everyone's experiences and I will not name people unless you want your name to come after your quote. It will also be possible to put most of your experiences as a part of our website, so no words of wisdom need be lost.

Please give short answers only – 'sound bites' and pithy points

1. What circumstance was the final straw that made you join CWO ?
 2. Give examples of positive responses from women and men.
 3. Do you find women more negative than men?
 4. What kind of negative responses have you received from women?
 5. What kind of negative responses have you received from men?
 6. On what occasions have you been confronted by these negative responses?
- These are the questions. I would welcome a fairly quick response to. They will either go in the first chapter or be scattered through the book when appropriate. Thank you for giving your time to considering these questions. They will be gratefully received. I am finding that the book is taking shape almost organically. There are two points I want to concentrate on in this book – Women's experiences and history of oppression in the Church and the effect of women's experience on the evolving male ecclesiology.

Many , many thanks for all your help,

Myra

We stand in solidarity with the people of Japan in their hour of need

As we watch images of their suffering in the face of this huge natural disaster, we mourn and lament with our brothers and sisters, even at a distance, because our lives are interconnected with theirs as human beings living on this planet.

This disaster also has a more ominous dimension that is still unfolding----that of a potential nuclear crisis. Because of their experience of nuclear devastation after WWII, it can only be horrifying for them to contemplate the aftereffects of radiation. It gives us pause to reflect also, during this time, about the preciousness of life and the burden of this nuclear legacy that we continue to carry.

We live in a time of rapid fire change and continuing catastrophes, which are overwhelming to contemplate. But we are not left alone. We serve a living God, and we are part of a web of life. These times we live in only call us to walk more deeply into our interconnectedness with one another and with the planet. We are invited to expand our capacity for compassion and hold the suffering, with the guidance and comfort of the Holy Spirit and Christ's Love within us.

PRAYER FOR JAPAN

Mysterious God,
Creator of atoms, earth, fire, water, and air,
We do not understand all that surrounds us,
We are only a part and a moment,
You are the All in All.

Surround, protect, and give ground
To our sisters and brothers in Japan.
They feel so afraid and so abandoned.
Yet we know You abandon nothing
That you have created,
Nor will you abandon them.

Love us all into the Larger Life
That Jesus revealed while being crucified.

With him and for them,
We pray in hope.
Amen.

With Prayers for Christ's Mercy,
Richard Rohr and the Staff of the Centre for Action and Contemplation



International Women's Day - Westminster Cathedral

CWO weekend of Reflection at Noddfa

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 August

Open to all CWO members.

Accessible venue.

Cost £85. Deposit £50 required by 31 May. No bookings after that date.

To join CWO please see our website

www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Interesting links

Women are also victims of clergy sex abuse – the Church in Asia

Please click on link to read article by Virginia Saldanha, the former executive secretary of the FABC Office of Laity and Family

<http://www.religiousindia.org/2010/06/23/women-are-also-victims-of-clergy-sex-abuse/>

Lesley-Anne Knight, a Zimbabwe-born lay woman was recently denied Vatican approval to stand for another four-year term as secretary general of Caritas

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/embattled-caritas-head-insists-dialogue-two-way-street>

John Allen's Interpretation of the Pope's Commentary on Women in the Church

<http://www.denvercatholicnetwork.org/uncategorized/john-allens-interpretation-of-the-popes-commentary-on-women-in-the-church/>

The CWO Annual Gathering will be held on 1 October 2011

It will almost certainly be in Newport, South Wales, which is easy to get to by train and the venue is hoped to be very near the station.

Confirmation and details in next e-news. Please mark the date in your diary.

***The Secret Life of Bees:* Friday 6th – Sunday 8th May 2011**

A weekend event at Holy Rood House, Thirsk, North Yorkshire exploring and using Sue Monk Kidd's bestselling novel – led by Rosie Miles

Since its publication in 2002 Sue Monk Kidd's first novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, has become an international bestseller. It has sold more than four million copies and been translated into more than twenty languages. Set in South Carolina, USA, in 1964, amidst growing racial tensions and the emergent Civil Rights Movement, the novel is a powerful and moving story of one young woman's 'becoming' – in both personal and spiritual terms – which is absolutely grounded in the feminine and the maternal.

This weekend event for women aims to use *The Secret Life of Bees* as a starting point for our own personal and spiritual exploration. The weekend will offer a number of sessions which will explore the novel and its themes in a variety of different ways. These will include:

- Discussion of the novel and its main themes.
- An introduction to Sue Monk Kidd's own writings about her spiritual journey and her move from Christian tradition to a spirituality that embraces the feminine divine.
- The opportunity to reflect on how any of the themes of the book resonate in your own life.
- Some creative responses to the novel.
- Reflection upon women and ritual making ... and the opportunity to participate in creating some of our own.

It will hopefully be a warm sunny weekend and there will also be free time on the Saturday afternoon to allow you to sit in the gardens of Holy Rood, go for a walk, explore the area, have a sleep, etc.

The only requirement of those who are intending to come is that you **read the novel in advance of the weekend** and are willing to learn more about the novel and yourself, and are open to working creatively with the other people who attend.

enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk

01845 522580

Letter from Liz C-H after hearing Myra on Radio 4's "*Beyond Belief*"

I thought Myra did wonderfully and kept her cool despite provocation from the intemperate Roseann Reddy.

Lama Zangmo proposed that Christ's disciples were chosen from men because of cultural issues which were determined by the customs and manners of the times in 1st century Palestine. Roseann countered this by saying that as Christ was the Son of God he ' could have done anything '. It seems that she meant that if he'd wanted to choose women disciples he would have done so. This is a faulty view, although I've heard it before from other traditionalists. We cannot know what roles the men and women followers of Jesus held during his lifetime, because we receive the New Testament through the filter of the writers and fathers of the early church, who were not famous for their support of women and had an interest in promoting the development of a church where power was gender specific. It is certain that Christ did indeed do ' whatever he wanted ', and entrusted some of his women followers with important roles in the early church.

Events @ the kitchen table

catering for community conversation

Fri 1 April	Lets have some East End fun @ the kitchen table!	£8
7pm Mon 11 April	How do we mobilise <i>our</i> big society @ the kitchen table? A conversation led by Paul Regan	£6.50 including supper
Friday April 29 th	Royal Wedding Party @ the kitchen table	TBA

If you have any ideas for conversation events, community nights or anything else that we could do @ the kitchen table please come along to our

Kitchen Cabinet
Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm
Everyone welcome!

For more information about these events & to book please call or email
anne@thekitchentable.eu / 0208 586 7979

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

Women Word Spirit
(formerly Catholic Women's Network)

<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 –
Joan Chittester is a regular contributor

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

www.womenpriests.org.

You can sign up for their regular newsletter

www.spirituschristi.org

An inclusive Catholic Church where all are welcome

www.womensordination.org

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

If you can't be a good example -- then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.

Catherine Aird