

CWO e-news September 2010 issue 30

This is an edited version of issue 30 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 October e-news by 15 October. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given
Contact info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Please put www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk in your favourites/bookmarks

The campaign around the Pope's visit

Many members have been interviewed and seen on television, heard on radio and found their names in print. We thank all those in the media who took an interest in us and helped to raise awareness of our campaign all over the world.

We also thank the police who gave us wonderful prime sights and looked after us with care and respect.

People will have many different memories and reflections on the Pope's visit and the events leading up to it. You might have been involved in London, Birmingham or Scotland or you may have watched and prayed at home.

Please write while it's fresh in your mind and send these to me for a special Pope visit edition of e-news which I hope will come out in early October. Please could I have your contributions by the end of this month if possible?

t info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to change often."

"We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe."

"If we are intended for great ends, we are called to great hazards."

"Let us act on what we have, since we have not what we wish."

"Ability is sexless."

We thank Blessed Henry Newman for inspiring us.

CWO Annual Gathering Saturday, 2 October 2010

St Andrew's Church
Short Street
Waterloo
London
SE1 8LJ

10.30 - 11.00 arrive, refreshments

11.00 - 1.00 AGM

The AGM is for members only but all are welcome to lunch and the afternoon sessions.

1.00 - 1.45 lunch (provided by CWO)

1.45 - 3.15 In view of recent activities we will take time to reflect.

3.15 - 3.30 liturgy

3.30 – 3.45 short break

3.45 – 4.45 Lisa Wright

Lisa was one of the first ordained Anglican priests and was a member of MOW. She remembers CWO members handing them flowers.

Lisa will be giving us her performance based on her book "Spilling the Beans - Letters from East Ham Vicarage 1953-1956", lately seen at the Edinburgh festival

The letters were written to Lisa by her mother Margot, a Rector's wife in the East End, when Lisa set off to teach in Connecticut in her first job. For nearly three years the letters give a racy, vivid picture of East End parish life 50 years ago - a social scene now gone for ever. The letters lay in shoe boxes for decades until Lisa edited them and brought them to life in her one woman shows and her books.

4.45 – 5.00 Questions and winding up.

Solidarity Walk for Survivors of Abuse

On her way to Santiago from west Cork and carrying a harp above her rucksack was Anya Bakker who is walking in solidarity with all who have been abused by clergy and others sponsored by the Church. Her website is www.fromheretosantiago.org

As well as being a well known musician she has a background in journalism. So she has gone very public about what she is doing. She has met with a great deal of hostility from those who would like to return to 'business as usual' in the Church.

From BBC2 on Monday – The Pope's Visit (5 days left to watch)

"I wait to see the long term effect. I can't help but wonder if it's a Princess Diana funeral type moment...There are long term questions that remain... they're not going to go away."

"There is still to be an acknowledgement that the main problem for most Catholics, never mind anyone else, is that this is a problem that was perpetuated and generated by the institutional hierarchy failures. Someone said to me the other day, 'it's not just a few bad apples it's the applecart that's rotten' "

Tina Beattie

"The Pope said nothing terminally tactless"

"The Pope did not say the normal contentious things that he does and they remain on the table. Polls lately have shown that the Catholic hierarchy is radically out of step with the Catholic laity.....Official Catholic social moral teaching is not fit for purpose any more. It is not actually addressing the realities of modern society"

Diarmaid MacCulloch

When Christianity aligns itself with power (and the mindset of power) there's simply very little room for the darkness of faith; that spacious place where God is actually able to form us.

So when we speak of paradox, I'm trying to open up that space where you can "fall into the hands of the living God" ([Hebrews 10:31](#)), because YOU are not in control. That is always the space of powerlessness, vulnerability, and letting go. Faith happens in that wonderful place, and hardly ever when we have all the power and can hold no paradoxes. Thus you see why faith will invariably be a minority and suspect position.

Richard Rohr

Take Action on Sunday, September 26, 2010

Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) stands in solidarity with Catholic women in Ireland who call for a widespread boycott of Mass on Sunday, September 26, 2010.

"Women make up 60% of Mass-goers and 80% of lay ministers. If each one of us took action on one single day, there is no doubt that this would be a powerful and significant event," stated Erin Saiz Hanna, Executive Director of the Women's Ordination Conference (WOC). "The practical, financial, and political implications would be substantial to say the least," Hanna continued.

Jennifer Sleeman, an active Catholic from Cork, Ireland initiated this movement when she urged women of Ireland to send a message to the Vatican that "women are tired of being treated as second-class citizens in the Church." This call which began with one woman is now spreading beyond the shores of Ireland as women around the world link arms together for participation in the day of action.

In solidarity with Sleeman, WOW supports her call for justice for women in the Catholic Church. Recognizing the many different ways of bearing witness to the institutional sin of sexism that marginalizes women in the Church, **on September 26th, 2010 WOW encourages people of Catholic faith to consider organizing one of the following options for their parish communities:**

- **Withhold Funds:** Instead of making a donation at collection time, place a note in the collection basket that expresses your support for women's ordination. (Print a postcard [here](#).)
- **Wear green armbands to Mass**
- **Boycott Mass:** Grieving the Church's sin of sexism, participate in a prayerful fast from mass. Gather together in one of the many other meaningful ways in which the Eucharist can be celebrated, including women-led or community led communities.

This is just a message of support from all of us in Cumbria who are ordained priests within the church of God. As a senior Anglican Priest who is also a Franciscan nun may I join with so many others in support and prayer for our Roman sisters who remain the victims of misogyny and those who do not know enough about the theology and equality present within the Patristic era.

With every best wish,

Sr. Annmarie. Cumbria

ESSAY COMPETITION FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

CO-SPONSORED BY THE TABLET
AND THE DIGBY STUART RESEARCH CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC STUDIES,
ROEHAMPTON UNIVERSITY, LONDON

'Catholic Social Teaching for the Twenty First Century'

Entrants are invited to write a 1500 word essay, of a style and standard suitable for publication in The Tablet, on the above topic. First prize: £500 plus a one year subscription to The Tablet. Five runners-up will also receive a one year subscription to The Tablet. The winning essay will be considered for publication in The Tablet, and a selection of the best essays will be published on The Tablet website.

The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate university students. Essays must be in English and typed in double-line spacing (handwritten essays will not be considered.) Each essay should be accompanied by an entry form (see below, or download from The Tablet website.) Entrants may submit one essay per person. Entries should be submitted by post or as e-mail attachments to the address below, to arrive not later than Monday, 10th January, 2011. Competition results will be published in The Tablet and on The Tablet website by the end of March 2011.

Name:
Address:
E-mail address and telephone number:
University:
Name of degree course:

I confirm that this essay is my own original work and that it has not been previously published.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

THE
TABLET

To be submitted to: Professor Tina Beattie
'Essay Competition'
Digby Stuart Research Centre for Catholic Studies, Roehampton University,
Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PH.
E-mail: essaycompetition@thetablet.co.uk

Roehampton
University 
London

Sheila Houlihan

We are sorry to report that our long time member Sheila Houlihan died in July 2010. She had been ill for some time but always kept CWO in her prayers.

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Some useful and inspiring links

The Pink Smoke - A thought provoking video

http://alisonclarke.typepad.com/womens_news/2010/08/women-and-children-the-two-greatest-problems-facing-the-catholic-church.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WomensViewsOnNews+%28Women%27s+Views+on+News%29

An article by Soline Vatinel about her call to priesthood

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/weekend/2010/0731/1224275874936.html>

The Pope's Woman

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJWh6A_Aots

This is the link to part one; you will see links to parts two and three when you find this. It shows Monica Weld-Richards a member in the North West. You'll see it is quite old. This campaign has been going a long time!

In the wake of the Belgian abuse scandals, Roger de Borger, Honorary Secretary General of the Belgian federal government, has written an open letter to the Pope. He mentions women's ordination. See it here

<http://www.womenpriests.org/interact/borger.asp>

The Lost Gospels - BBC four programme

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0074t48>

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

AND –Ours!

<http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/>

Don't forget to put it in your favourites