

## CWO e-news July 2011 issue 39

Welcome to issue 39 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 August e-news by 15 August. 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)

### CWO Annual Gathering

#### 1 October 2011 at The Salvation Army

Hill St Newport Gwent NP20 1LZ

10.30am – 5.00pm

10.30am - 11.00am Registration/refreshments

11.00am – 1.00pm AGM (for members only)

#### The afternoon is open to all

1.00pm – 2.00pm **Lunch**

2.00pm – 4.45pm **Afternoon session**

#### **The Spirit of Vatican 2. How far has it been realised?**

*"The fresh air of Vatican Two was already more like a nasty draught for some people"*

*"The Anglican Church, by ordaining women, is performing a valid act of witness."*

Owen Hardwicke will speak with particular reference to the role and ministry of women. This will be an interactive session followed by questions and discussion.

4.45pm – 5.00pm Closing reflection

Link for map – <http://www.bing.com/maps/?v=2&cp=51.587735017694435~-2.995692864060382&lvl=15&dir=0&sty=r&ts=1v1603&eo=0&where1=NP20%201LZ%2C%20Newport&form=LMLTCC>

## Question about law and religion and National Justice and Peace Network

A Coventry supporter has suggested that women's ordination in the Catholic Church should be pursued as a matter of justice, and a quote from Bangladesh tells us that lack of authority of women in the church perpetuates a civil culture in which women are silenced and submissive. Following these leads, Colette J helped me formulate this question for the panel of experts chaired by Bishop Kenney, auxiliary in Birmingham, at the recent National Justice and Peace Network Conference in Swanwick on the theme of Justice at Work:

Can the church talk credibly about justice at work when half of humanity is excluded from ordained leadership roles on the basis of a biological difference?

The question was met with applause and cheers from the large audience, and smiles from the panel, as was the short answer of "No."

Roughly what the panel said:

- theologically, this is the only issue where tradition is invoked in a negative way, to take something away, rather than to add something, e.g. as with the Assumption of Mary; the tradition is always in ongoing development as human society changes and evolves, and the new testament witnesses to women's contributions; and not to forget that the council of Chalcedon reduced the minimum age for women deacons to 40!

- but as to church organization: the bishop would be unable to say anything as bishops had to promise not to advocate on this issue. The bishop smiled and said nothing.

There were many informal discussions on the issue over the weekend, including with one woman who has recognised a personal calling to ordination for 6 years and never met another woman who felt the same until now.

*Cathy W*

*Old age aint no place for sissies!*

Bette Davis

## **Message of Support**

I've been looking at your website with interest and felt that I should send you a message.

I was brought up within the RC church, and am now training to be a Methodist local preacher.

I currently live in Stockport, Greater Manchester. Bishop Terrance Brain, the Bishop of Salford, came to our circuit service. I asked him a question. I said, "There are Catholic women who have gifts for preaching, ministry and leadership. Some have found their way towards the Methodist church where they feel their gifts are better recognised and nurtured. What should the Catholic church's response be to these women?" His answer was a totally inadequate re-stating of the position. He quoted Matthew 16 and kept saying "Peter has spoken", referring to JP2's statement on the issue.

It was shortly after that that I took the decision to formally become a Methodist (I had been attending a Methodist church for some time with my Methodist husband, but still liked to call myself Catholic) In a sense nothing changed. I remain a member of the church in which I was baptised, the church of Jesus Christ. I feel that my future path of discipleship lies within the Methodist part of that church. For me, I cannot in all conscience, be part of an organisation that does not regard me as an equal.

One of my reasons for writing is to applaud and encourage those of you who feel called to maintain the struggle from within the RC church. Yours is a path that must requires much courage. I pray that you may have it.

My other reason is to have it known that for all the vocal, objectionable people who are moving into the Catholic Church because they don't support women's ministry, there must be perhaps a greater amount of traffic moving the other way. Many of us end up in other denominations, and others outside the church altogether. We don't have ecclesiastical titles. We don't demand our own sections, or take our church's money with us, but our stories are important.

I pray for a future church, where divisions of man/woman, catholic/protestant are unimportant.

May we be one in Christ.

*Liz D*

## **Pippa and Myra's book**

As you will have read in previous editions of e-news Myra Poole and Pippa Bonner are writing a book about CWO and the historical and current struggle of women and the RC Church. We have been asking you to be part of the process of writing this book.

Pippa is writing a chapter on public square prophetic theology and how as CWO members we cope emotionally with the CWO struggle. 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 do you have about the current situation? E.g. Do you feel sad or angry or energised to keep going with CWO aims, believe your campaigning is furthering the cause, indifferent, impatient or are there other emotions you have? I don't want to pre-empt what your feelings might be, but giving you examples of the kinds of feelings, motivations, beliefs that feeds your reasons for being in CWO.

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

Please will you email your response to [pippabonner@gmail.com](mailto:pippabonner@gmail.com) and also say if you want to be named if your piece is used or if you wish to be anonymous.

Thanks

*Pippa B*

## **From an (ex) member**

I have decided to leave the RC Church. There are too many things that the official church teaches that I do not agree with. For many years I felt it my duty to fight from within.

Recently I attended a Mass with the 'new' translation. The emphasis seems to be put on our sinfulness and from the sharing of the Eucharist to the Sacrifice. Included are words like 'oblation' and 'consubstantial' I admire all of you who fight but I no longer have the will! Please take my name from the membership list.

*Tieleke W*

## **Posted on CWO's Facebook wall**

"38 priest's 351 incidents of sexual abuse in England and Wales. Who thinks the priesthood needs renewal?"

"and they have the cheek to call gay people or not allow gay people to adopt, seems to me that kids are safer with gay adoptive parents than they are going to church."

"we believe in a just, inclusive, loving Church where the equality of all is respected"

## 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](http://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

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

National Catholic Reporter –

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

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

Sign up for their regular newsletter

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

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

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

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

## Seeking a better catholic Church by Ken Trainor

Read the article here

[http://www.oakpark.com/News/Articles/06-21-2011/Seeking\\_a\\_better\\_Catholic\\_Church](http://www.oakpark.com/News/Articles/06-21-2011/Seeking_a_better_Catholic_Church)

*Most of us have lived our whole life with a steady stream of consciousness, with a continual flow of ideas, images, and feelings. We think this is who we are.*

*At every moment of our lives we cling to such ideas or feelings: Soon I don't have the idea; the idea has me. I don't have a feeling; the feeling has me.*

*We have to discover who this "I" really is, the one who has these feelings or these thoughts? Who am I—behind my thoughts and feelings?*

Richard Rohr

## CWO Merchandise

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker! You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet.

The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME Prayer mail is a collection of prayers sent in by members, some written by them. This CWO initiative is an inspirational collection.

		Quantity	Unit cost	Cost
Very smart biro with CWO logo, website and `phone no	Purple/silver lettering		£0.80	
Car stickers with CWO logo, website and `phone no	Purple on cream		£1.50	
CWO badge	Purple/white lettering <u>R</u> enewed <u>O</u> rdained <u>M</u> inistry for <u>E</u> veryone		£1.00	
Postage and packing				£1.00
Donation to CWO (optional)				
Total - Cheques to CWO				

Delivery address

Contact email or phone number

Send order to CWO, PO Box 183, Leeds, LS8 9EN