

CWO e-news September 2011 issue 41

Welcome to issue 41 of the edited e-news for non-members. 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 info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

The CWO Annual Gathering is fast approaching. Poster is below. It would be good to know if you are coming to get numbers for lunch which we provide. Also, if you are only coming to lunch and the afternoon session with Owen Hardwicke, please let me know. Also please get in touch if you need accommodation. It may be possible to arrange this with local members.

The extract from a member's parish magazine in last month's e-news has provoked two responses. You can find the original article in the news section of the website.

Late item

An event to mark the centenary of St Joan's Alliance
Saturday 8 October 10am to 4 pm St Andrew's Waterloo

Key note speaker Professor Ursula King
Gender and Spirituality: Women's vision and empowerment across the faith and cultures
of the world

Input from Myra Poole and Ianthe Pratt

Shared lunch

Liturgy

Info from lumen@globalnet.co.uk

Press on.

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not. Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Calvin Coolidge

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>

Contacts on the day Mary 07769738619; Amanda 07974894008

Making sense of the riots (apologies for short notice)

A conversation event @ the kitchen table cafe in International Peace Week
Monday 19th September 7-9pm

Be prepared for an evening with a difference! The conversation will be facilitated by Conflict & Change plus their Truce young people and will be an opportunity to understand the 3 days of mayhem on our streets.

Moving tables between courses we will meet new people & will aim to hear each person's reactions to the riots. We will put heads together on what brings peace and stability & have a chance to graffiti our cafe walls!

Everyone WELCOME - MEAL included

FREE event

booking essential for catering purposes and to help us bring in a wide mix of people. We expect it to be an intergenerational and inter cultural event.

Book now: anne@thekitchentable.eu / 02085867979

Response to parish magazine article August e-news 1.

Thank you for the news and for the article from someone's parish magazine. Two thoughts occur to me. The first is that it is generally believed by the more Catholic churches, i.e. Roman, orthodox and Catholic Anglicans that there is such a thing as the 'sensus fidelium' that is that the Spirit moves among the faithful people of the Church and is not the possession of the Hierarchy. If the Spirit seems to be moving among the majority of laypeople to want women priests, can we not accept that and act accordingly? Newman is very powerful on this in his 'On consulting the laity etc.' Secondly, as I have repeatedly said. This is not a matter of justice or keeping up with the world, It is not that some women want to be priests (or bishops), very often those men who most want to become priests are those who would be most unsuitable, although they seem to get through! It is rather that the Spirit seems to be moving among the faithful to want women as their priests (and bishops). We ought always to listen to the Spirit. The ecumenical argument is not valid. I have not heard anyone say that, since the Papacy is the big stumbling block, we ought to abandon it in order to be united with the Orthodox churches.

I am not convinced about the papacy myself but this is not usually used as an argument for changing things in order to be re-united with the great churches of the East.

Vocation to the ministry comes not from within but from the Church who calls people to serve in the ministry. When the Church has arrived at the stage where she (that is the faithful) feel that they wish to call women then we must follow that prompting of the Spirit. This principle is still present, though only as a gesture, in the present ordination of priests and bishops. The people are asked their opinion of the candidate and, presumably, though it has never happened recently, if they saw an objection, the ordination could not go forward.

Just a few thoughts to counteract the very cogent arguments of your friend's Vicar.

Derek R

Response to parish magazine article August e-news 2.

The article tells us "The Bible teaches that men and women equally are made in the image of God" (Genesis 1.27) and that we are equally redeemed in Christ (Gal.3.28). – Furthermore, St Paul taught, that "there is neither male nor female: because ye are all one in Christ Jesus". Even so St Paul does not allow about half of these, namely the women to be leaders in the Church. He thus seems to be contradicting himself - how can they be equal, when only half of them can be leaders? And what about the relationship between Christ and His Church = a man and his wife. Are only women Christians the "spouse of Christ", or are the male Christians, too? - Christ chose 12 apostles, and they were all male. He never said to one of them, or to any other man "Thou art a priest". When he instituted the Eucharist, who are the ye, he is speaking to? Is it only the Apostles, or is it all his disciples? One of my pupils, a son of an Ethiopian orthodox priest and himself a priest-monk, once told me, that no woman was ever allowed to touch the body of Christ. My reaction was, that not only have women always been allowed to receive Holy Communion, but the first human being who touched Him must necessarily have been his mother, the Holy Virgin Mary.

Jewish priests are never ordained; they are born priests. They are always male, but they must be born by a mother belonging to the family of Aaron. No other men can ever become Jewish priests - Kohanim in Hebrew. A rabbi is not a priest (unless he is born one). A French Catholic priest once said to me, "But surely, you cannot imagine, there will ever be women rabbis". "No, I said, I do not have to imagine that, for there already are several women rabbis. The first of them, rabbi Regina Yonas, died in Auschwitz." Only later has it become possible for women to study Jewish theology, in as far as Judaism has a theology. In Christianity it should long ago have been a very normal thing. It was not "the Church" which instituted such a thing. It was Jesus Himself, who taught women about God. What was Mary, sister of Martha, doing at the feet of Jesus? Exactly the same as her male co-disciples were doing there. And when Martha asked Him to send her to the kitchen, He refused to do so, saying that "Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her." When I look at Church history, it seems to me that the male disciples of Jesus have not been following Him in that, but rather have continued preaching, that the place of women is in the kitchen rather than in the school of theology.

In Judaism it was not better, but rather worse for the women. Yeshivoth, higher theological schools were for men only. I had the privilege in the Hebrew University to be a companion of a lady who later founded the first yeshiva for women, Professor Dr.Hanna Safrai, professor (after our graduation) both in Jerusalem and in Amsterdam.

Response to parish magazine article August e-news 2. (continued)

Some faithful traditional rabbis were horrified. "What are you doing, Hanna, they asked. Why establish a yeshiva for women? Your mother did not need a yeshiva, nor did your grandmother!" I would have answered them that her Mother was never asked. But Hanna, instead, said "Well in the case of my grandmother it was rather impossible. She was illiterate". Hardly, I must add, because she wanted to be illiterate. Rather because certain rabbis needed her to bear them too many children and prepare food for a huge family, and often also to earn enough money, they all could live from, while their husbands were busy in the yeshiva.

And we have absolutely no reason to think we are any better than the Jews. My dear grandmother very much wanted to be a teacher, but her father had got it fixed in his head, that girls should not go to school any longer than till they were 14. My heart still aches when I remember her trying in her seventies to learn a little English with the help of the radio. Her oldest son became a priest – a Lutheran pastor in the Danish State Church – and it was from his books I began to learn Hebrew at the age of 13. At that time there were no women priests in that same Danish Church. Three years later there were three, and today half of the Danish priests are women. Three of them have become bishops. For the time being, the one and only bishop of Greenland is a lady.

Concerning Church unity, our Anglican writer wonders, if having women bishops would help or hinder the quest for reunion with other parts of God's Church. The answer is, that of course it would make it more difficult to unite with the Orthodox and the Roman Catholics. Of other groups only the Methodists are mentioned. What about Lutherans – Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greenland, and many others. Are they not Christians?
Jerusalem, September 2nd, 2011

Dr. Kirsten P, Jerusalem

St Mary's Community in Exile South Brisbane

I have exchanged emails from a member of this community and signed up for their weekly newsletter. You can receive this too. Go to

<http://stmaryssouthbrisbane.com/>

I am sending them our e-news. It feels good to have links with this inspiring community.

Invitation to a Presentation at the Houses of Parliament, Tuesday, 1 November 2011

We would like to invite you to an open meeting hosted by Siobhain McDonagh MP in the UK Houses of Parliament on Tuesday 1st November 2011, the Feast of All Saints, 7.00 - 8.00pm

THE CASE FOR WOMEN PRIESTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Speakers: Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Dr John Wijngaards and the "Women Can Be Priests" Team.

Venue: The House of Commons, Committee Room 14, London, SW1A 0PW, UK.

Politicians, leading Catholics and supporters of women's ordination are all invited to join us for a presentation of the work of the internationally acclaimed campaign, "Women Can Be Priests" and support our appeal for a free and open discussion in the Catholic Church.

Will women ever be ordained in the Catholic Church? Why despite widespread support for women's ordination, are there no women priests in the Catholic Church? Since 1999 the "Women Can Be Priests" Team at Husetop has been running the website www.womencanbepriests.org, the largest online internet library dedicated to women's ordination. We are convinced there are no valid arguments against women's ordination from Scripture or tradition. We are faithful Catholics who aim to promote the ordination of women as part of the life-giving mission Christ intended for his Church. We believe it is time to speak out with courage. At this meeting we will be calling upon Catholics in public life to give their encouragement to this call for a free debate in the Catholic Church.

Admission to the Presentation is free but pre-booking is essential.

Please contact Jos Rickman on 01923 779 446 or josrickman@btconnect.com to order a ticket.

If you live in the UK and your MP is a Catholic, please encourage him or her to attend this event.

Donations towards the cost of putting on this event will be greatly appreciated,

Barbara Paskins MA, Husetop Trustee

Vatican Recognises Female Role in Convincing Pope about the Eucharist

The following comes from the Vatican press e-mail of 13 September 2011.

"The first Eucharistic congress was held in the French city of Lille in 1881 under the emblematic title of 'The Eucharist saves the world'. ... It is not widely known that the idea to hold these congresses came from a woman, a French woman called Emilie-Marie Tamisier, one of the many lay people to dedicate their lives to the defence of the Church at a time in which anti-Catholic polemics were particularly fierce.

Tamisier, who had shown particular devotion to the Eucharist since her earliest childhood, had the idea of organising religious revival activities focused on Eucharistic worship, in an increasingly secularised world.Tamisier felt that Eucharistic congresses were a modern way to involve a large public, to redirect attention to religious culture and its proposals for solving the problems of the time.

However Tamisier had to work hard before seeing her project fulfilled.. ... Only later [after more than 10 years] did she manage to convince Pope Leo XIII of the importance of her project. She spared no efforts to this end, making journeys, collecting funds and dedicating her entire life to the promotion of what she saw as a new and effective way to draw public attention to the Church.

Her efforts were tenacious and successful, but hidden (her name was never officially mentioned) and therefore largely forgotten, as has often been the case of work done by women in the Church".

The announcement says that an article about Emilie-Marie Tamisie has now been issued. "A woman's intuition" by Lucetta Scaraffia was published recently by "L'Osservatore Romano" (the official Vatican newspaper) to coincide with the Pope's visit to Ancona for the closure of the twenty-fifth Italian National Eucharistic Congress.

One can, of course, view all such announcements with cynicism, but perhaps it is a positive sign that the Vatican is looking to put out announcements of this kind recognising the contribution of women to the Church's appreciation of the Eucharist.

Gareth M

Big egos are big shields for lots of empty space

Diana Black

Volunteer Needed: Database Assistant

www.womenpriests.org are looking for a Volunteer Database Assistant to join our small, friendly team and help at our Rickmansworth office one or two days a week.

We are looking for someone with good IT skills and the ability to record information accurately. Previous experience using databases is not necessary as training will be given.

You will need to have sympathy for the cause of women's ordination in the Catholic Church and appreciate the sensitive and confidential nature of the data.

For further information please email Colette at colette@womenpriests.org

Women's Ordination Conference Decries Ban on Altar Girls in Phoenix Diocese

WASHINGTON, DC - August 22, 2011 - Girls will no longer be allowed to serve as altar servers during Mass at the cathedral of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, SS. Simon and Jude. In response, Women's Ordination Conference has issued an action alert calling on the Diocese to immediately reinstate female altar servers in that parish.

"If young women in the Phoenix diocese want to grow up to work for the Church - or even aspire to the priesthood - I, and the vast majority of U.S. Catholics, don't see the harm in that, said Erin Saiz Hanna, executive director of the Women's Ordination Conference. "Around the country, young women have been lawfully serving at the altar for well over a decade."

Reportedly, Rev. Lankeit [banned girls from the altar because he wants only boys to prepare for priesthood in this way](#). Since 1994, the Vatican and the U.S. Bishops have allowed female altar servers. There is no restriction in Canon Law for women to help at the altar during the liturgy.

"This is not only disgraceful, it is impractical. Women comprise at least 80 per cent of church lay ministers, and they are backbone of most parishes around the world," continued Hanna.

"The Vatican's stance on the ordination of women is based on arguments that have been refuted time and again. In 1976, the Vatican's own Pontifical Biblical Commission determined that there is no scriptural reason to prohibit women's ordination. Jesus included women as full and equal partners in his ministry, and the hierarchy would do well to follow suit," Hanna concluded.

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

www.ccc4vat2.org.uk/ccc

Catholics for a Changing Church

<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.

Sign up for their regular newsletter

www.spirituschristi.org

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

www.womensordination.org

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

British Museum Exhibition - Treasures of Heaven 23 June - 9 October 2011

This may be of interest or provide opportunity for comment. Some 150 objects will be on display from collections around the world including the Vatican.

There will be a Conference: Matter of Faith, at the British Museum, on Friday 7th October and Saturday 8th October. The Museum says that people in Britain have had little opportunity to see sacred art since the destruction of shrines and ending of pilgrimages at the Reformation.

Thanks to Marv L

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