

CWO
Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church
E-news January 2014 issue 66

Welcome to issue 66 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. This edition is edited to remove information which is only for CWO members; e.g. personal email addresses and some surnames. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk News and previous issues can be seen there. Please send items for February e-news by 20 February. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Come and meet Fr Tony Flannery

This is open to all CWO members. We will have refreshments at 3pm and then Fr Tony will speak for 30 minutes about Pope Francis and his stance on women. The rest of the time will be spent in discussion. It won't be a formal meeting. It is a chance for us to both offer support to and learn from a priest who has been very badly treated by the hierarchy.

Here's a link to Fr Tony's article in the Irish times

<http://www.catholicireland.net/mary-mcaleese-stirs-debate-churchs-teaching-gays/>

The article he's supporting by Mary McAleese is at

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/priests-activists-welcome-mcaleese-s-criticism-of-church-stance-on-gay-people-1.1648210>

He's a brave man.

For more information, please contact Pat info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Very exciting news!

The CWO Annual Gathering will be at St Nicholas of Tolentino, Bristol <http://www.tolentino.org.uk/> For the first time we will be welcomed in a Catholic Church!!

This will be on Saturday 4 October, 11.00am – 5pm. The theme will probably be around the Diaconate but more about that later. Please put the date in your diary.

This is historic! Congratulations to the South West group for arranging it.

Report from Wales and South West group

Meeting 30.11.13

For details of the Annual Gathering, the planning of which this group has taken on, see above.

It has been suggested that the afternoon session of the Annual Gathering could focus on the Diaconate. This appears to be a subject in the air at present and poses the question: could it be opened to women in the future and if so would members of CWO support the idea? There is a rumour that it could be two-tier, i.e. ordained and non-ordained, and guess who would be in the non-ordained group?! Perhaps we will know more by October. We agreed that it would be good to have two people to present the issue, for and against, and will explore possibilities.

We went on to look at the three questions posed by Pippa for her and Myra's book. (*see last e-news*) We all contributed thoughts, which were sent on to Pippa.

The meeting also produced lively discussion on a number of subjects, including some amused sharing of our thoughts and contributions to the Synod Questionnaire on The Family. We wondered where CWO could have a presence over the coming year, maybe at Chrism Masses, as in the past, possibly at the RC Pilgrimage at Glastonbury on 13th July. We thought it would be good to be at the ceremony for the first women bishops in Britain, to be able to congratulate them and show our support.

Anna M

WOW 2015

The third WOW International Conference will be held in Philadelphia PA, USA in September 2015. The conference title is Gospel, Gender and Globalization

For those who don't know, Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) was founded in 1996 and is an international network of groups whose current mission is the inclusion of Roman Catholic women in all ordained ministries. Founded on the principle of equality, WOW opposes all discrimination. 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'(Galatians 3:28)

WOW currently includes representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Malta, Poland, and the United States.

As the new CWO rep on the WOW Steering committee, I need your help. Firstly, I would be grateful for suggestions for speakers. These can be from anywhere in the world. (Travel costs may prove proscriptive for those a long way from the USA but we can see how fundraising develops))

Some of our longer serving members will remember being instrumental in setting up a travelling fund for previous WOW Conferences to help people from the developing world attend. We need to do this again so I am asking for anything you can spare for this fund. All contributions will be very welcome.

Santander, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB
Sort code 09-01-55 Ac no 40457809

Please quote reference: **CWO/ your surname**. It's a good idea to email when you pay online to say that you've done that and what it's for. Email info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

The conference itself also needs seed money so CWO will be donating to that from its own funds.

As you will have seen above, the CWO Annual Gathering will have the diaconate as its theme. I would be grateful for people's views on this as it's something WOW is deliberating and I would like to be able to communicate your views. These may change as we become more informed but it would be good to have an idea of what your thinking is on this issue right now. It might suddenly be offered to women and we need to prepare a response.

Pat Brown info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Press Release From Wow 27.11 13 - Pope Francis – Priesthood is a Call to Service And Women Are Called

In his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis explicitly challenges global leaders to act against poverty and inequality. While Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) applauds this message as a breath of fresh air, we are troubled by the document's context on women and equation of priesthood with pursuit of power.

As Francis knows from personal experience, a call to priesthood is a call from God to a vocation of service. Like Mary who freely gave her *yes* to God to bear Christ for the world, women who are called to priesthood yearn to respond with a *yes* to sacramental ministry to the people of our Church.

Pope Francis points out that the Church should not be afraid to re-examine customs – even those with deep historical roots – when they no longer serve as a means of communicating the Gospel. A male only priesthood does not communicate Gospel. It jars against the message that there is neither male nor female in Christ. It jars against the proof of women's leadership in the early Church.

Fitting it is then that as we enter season of Advent we ponder: 2,000 years ago, the question was asked: 'How can it be that God would choose a peasant girl -- Mary-- to bring the Christ child into the world?' And later on, 'how can it be that Jesus would choose a woman --Mary Magdalene -- to preach the Good News of resurrection to the Apostles?' Among today's Vatican leadership, the same sort of question persists: 'How can it be that God would choose women to sacramentally bring Christ to the world?'

As Mary knew, with God all things are possible. We pray for our Pope, we pray for our Church, we pray that the will of God be done. Be not afraid, Pope Francis. The Gospel calls.

Congratulations to Erin Saiz Hanna from WOW (and WOC).

Her article about *Evangelii Gaudium* was published in the New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/11/27/the-new-popes-new-direction/why-would-pope-francis-keep-women-out-of-the-priesthood>

Facebook report

We currently have 400 followers/likes on the Facebook page.

I paid £19 over the Christmas period to promote our Christmas status which was the first verse of "When a child is born" as much to evangelise as to promote the page. We increased our following by about 50 with that promotion and reached over 4,600 people.

The majority of our likes are from people in USA with the UK people as the next biggest cohort, people from Germany, France, Spain, Hungary, Philippines and Poland also regularly join us in debates. 72% are women with 60% coming from the 35+ age range.

You can go and view the page without joining. It is a very visual medium. We post lots of articles; the latest is from Sr Joan Chittister. We do have some great debates with young traditionalist and Olly D is a great advocate but we could do with more people contributing and also any photographs.

We got a great response from the AGM pictures and some vigil pictures from Liverpool. I did put a picture on with the Catholic Women's Ordination card in front of a church in Spain and asked people to guess where we were, that was a bit of fun. So if anyone can take a picture of their local church or Cathedral with Catholic Women's Ordination card strategically placed it does draw more people to the page and take a look.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Womens-Ordination/27311398359>

Catherine W

Christian feminist network

Two events coming up

Sat 1st March - 'Reclaiming the F word', an event exploring feminism and Christianity in Manchester, including speaker(s), workshops, discussion and feminist liturgy, and an opportunity to meet and talk with like-minded others. Further details will be provided when available.

Sat 8th March - Million Women Rise march in London, to raise awareness of violence against women. We will be taking the CFN banner so please come and march with us!

More information will be sent nearer the time.

CWO in Yellow Pages

Some years ago members were asked to have an entry in their local yellow Pages for CWO.

This is unnecessary now so if anyone still has such an entry please feel free to cancel it.

Thank you for doing it when it was needed.

Pat Brown

A CWO New Year Resolution

– to read the Tablet and share with those who cannot afford it.

Hopefully, among CWO members many of you read The Tablet on a regular basis. It is really the only WEEKLY PUBLICATION with decent articles and news re- the Church worldwide. If you do not get your own copy you can always ask your local library to get weekly copies or share the cost with others. CWO groups could share the cost among themselves. I now believe that by not reading the Tablet it is well-nigh impossible to keep up to date with what is going on in the Church. For example in this week's copy I have just read that the Muslim Government in Somalia have now forbidden any mention of Christmas in that country and the Bishops of Poland have said that any reference to gender is equivalent to Marxist politics!!!!

But I want to draw your attention to two very important articles from the Tablet last year: **'Theology that hears the poor'** by Professor Tina Beattie – 12th Oct. 2013 and **'Listen to half the world'** by Professor Janet Martin Soskice. Both articles are written in response to Pope Francis' call to develop the theology of women and his call to make the 'poor of the world' the central focus of the Church. Tina's article is a challenge to the *Pontifical Council of the Laity*. She writes 'this year marks the twentieth anniversary of *Mulieres Dignitatem*, and the women's section of this Council is organising a symposium to mark the event. The report on the last symposium, 2008, suggests that participants were selected on the basis of their support for the theology of the body in MD, ('women are equal but special' syndrome) and their condemnation of feminism and gender theory. There has been no attempt by the women's section to engage with women theologians who might offer a different perspective' (p. 20 Tablet).

Tina continues: 'A deep theology of women must be a theology by and for women, which learns from women's visions and struggles in terms of justice and ethics, sexuality and motherhood... The Women's Section of the Pontifical Council for the Laity would be an ideal forum for such discussions. In this age of reform, might we yet see such a space opening up? This would allow the official Church to engage with the resources it needs to develop that deep theology of woman which Francis says is currently lacks'. (p21 Tablet, Oct. 12th). (*Note: How can CWO help this change to take place?*)

The second article of 14th Nov. develops this thought further. This article contains some very good 'sound bites' and is written in a very pithy fashion. For example church quotes from history on women – 'Women's votes unnecessary... Our Lady had no vote and did not want one'. Janet then re-iterates Tina's thought that we need women theologians to talk about women not men, but she adds we do not yet know the result but we are already in receipt of this developing thought.

Continued on page 7

A CWO New Year Resolution (continued)

Janet continues that not all female thought is based on biology but some clearly are for example: 'One of my male professorial colleagues searching for a universal human experience, hit on the following: 'For all of us our skin is the outside of our body'. 'Not', I thought, when you are pregnant'. At that time the inside of your body is the outside of someone else's. And why shouldn't the fact that human beings begin inside the body of another-so that one person's insides, are for the period of gestation, another's outsides- be of philosophical moment and even affect Christian anthropology?

Philosophers have not considered such matters, so far, because they have for the most part been men. And again, how many major philosophers have written on childhood? This one sidedness is not simply because philosophers and theologians have been men but because they have been men of a certain world...insulated from the day to day palaver of family kitchens, nappies changed and clothes washes'.

She concludes with the suggestion that St Peter in all his denials is the 'patron saint' for 'listening to women'. He got so much wrong until a servant girl remarked 'you also were with the Galilean'. Peter was now trapped into his denials by a servant girl and then the 'cock crowed'. If only he had listened to the women. His successor now has that opportunity. (p.23 Tablet Nov. 14th 2013).

Myra P

CWO videos

There are now a number of videos on the CWO website video page.

I am in the process of getting links set up at various parts of the website to take the visitor directly to a particular video.

In the meantime, you can watch any or all of these at

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

Pat Brown

Links

This picture has gone wild on the internet

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/01/17/church-ritual-shared-between-cardinal-sean-malley-and-methodist-minister-stokes-internet-buzz/6qQ1j6Fv4pHLHv0IlaDAwL/story.html>

Good news and bad news Pope Francis condemns income inequality but sanctions gender inequality

<http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2013/11/30/killing-them-softly-pope-francis-condemns-income-inequality-sanctions-gender-inequality>

Sorry about this one. What we're up against

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgQ_YQCZRFM&feature=youtu.be

This is a long video but if you fast forward about 20 minutes you'll get to the nasty bit –the reason why women can't be priests!

Women at Crossroads – Joan Chittester

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/where-i-stand/we-are-crossroads-women-church>

Letter from some Catholic LGBT groups in Brazil to our Bishops in response to the consultation on "The Pastoral challenges to the Family in the context of Evangelization"

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://www.scribd.com/doc/191371037/Letter-From-Some-Catholic-LGBT-Groups-in-Brazil-to-Our-Bishops-in-Response-to-the-Consultation-On>

Peter Stansford assess the first 9 months of Pope' Francis papacy

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/the-pope/10549217/Pope-Francis-must-follow-fervour-with-reform.html>

WATCH (LONDON) INVITATION

THE KATE ADIE LECTURE "CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR" WATCH (London) Invites you to an "Evening with Kate Adie"

to be held at

St Martin-in-the-Fields on Monday 10 February at 7.00pm.

Please put this date in your diaries and support this great event that Kate Adie is giving in aid of National WATCH. Her book:

"Fighting on the Home Front - the legacy of women in World War I"

has just been published. Copies of which will be on sale at the venue.
Please pass the invitation below around in your churches and to friends.

Volunteers Needed to Help

As we are joining with St Martin-in-the-Fields to host this evening we would appreciate volunteers who will be able to come earlier to help with preparing the event; showing people to their seats, serving drinks and nibbles afterwards, collecting donations Please let me know if you are able to do this. Email sally.barnes3@btopenworld.com

Many thanks.
Sally on behalf of the WATCH (London) Committee

Nelson Mandela RIP

"The day he was released from prison it gave me a sense of what human beings can do when they're guided by their hopes and not by their fears" – Barack Obama

<http://za.news.yahoo.com/watch--the-most-touching-mandela-tribute-came-from-the-least-expected-place-070947330.html>

York Pilgrimage Group - A Quiet Day led by

The Very Revd Keith Jones O Carm

31st May 2014

at Thicket Priory, Carmelite Monastery, Thorganby York YO19 6DE



"The Story of a Soul" - not just the title of the Autobiography of St Therese, but your soul and mine.

The Very Revd Keith Jones

Keith was ordained in the Southwark Diocese and served in a number of parishes. He was appointed Dean of Exeter in 1995 and then Dean of York in 2004, from which post he recently announced his retirement in May 2012. He now lives in Ipswich.

He is married to Viola and they have 3 daughters and 1 granddaughter. His hobbies include gardening, reading, and playing the piano.

Cost - £15 per person. Please bring a picnic lunch

Registration form next page

REGISTRATION FORM

Please reserveplace(s) on the Thicket Priory Quiet Day 2014.

I enclose a cheque for(£15 per person) made payable to **York Pilgrimage Group**

Please send this form with your cheque **to :-** C. J. Holland, 5 The Rowans, Skelton, York. YO30 1YX

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post code.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Please tell us if you have any accessibility issues

For further information contact:

Jo Holland 01904 470519 or 07761223023

Katharine Salmon 0114 2671733

Catholic Church Reform

The third letter from Catholics Church Reform to Pope Francis is now ready to sign. Please read the letter and sign it if you agree and support its message.

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.com/letterNew3.html>

Some thoughts about the Eucharist and Priesthood from St Mary's in Exile

I regularly read the church magazine *St. Mary's Matters* from St Mary's in Exile (SMX) in Australia. I have permission to describe an article written by Peter Kennedy (PK), one of the two priests of this church community. He wrote in the latest SMX magazine about Michael Morwood's book "From Sand to Solid Ground" and his own thoughts, which he shared with the community to consider. I think they are interesting for CWO too.

We are reminded Jesus was always sharing meals with outsiders. Also, the doctrine of transubstantiation was introduced much later in the 5th and 6th centuries. Morwood says Jesus identified himself with the gesture of breaking bread. He wanted his friends to see his willingness to give all, as someone broken and given. At the Last Supper, a Passover Meal, the issue was not about what they were actually eating in the bread, but what they were committing themselves to by eating it. Jesus "was asking if they too were willing to be broken and given for the world, for humanity, for his dream... (and his ministry)." (PK's words.) He also says it is not about a priestly class, and "not intended to be about the priest with special powers to bring a Presence that was not already with the people...Not to be dependent on a clerical middle management for the celebration of the Eucharist. It was and always should be about serious commitment on our part to the dream of Jesus. " (PK)

Peter Kennedy is asking St Mary's Community if it is time for the community to celebrate Eucharist without an ordained person being present. Women have been co-celebrants of Eucharist for some time, as well as ex-priests and a minister from another denomination. P.K. is now asking the Community if it is time to move back to how it was in the early church, saying Hans Kung asked at Vatican II "What happened at Corinth, when there was no Presbyter and there was no Bishop there? Who was responsible for the Eucharist? If the people celebrated the Eucharist then why can they not celebrate it now?" P.K. asked the SMX Community to decide and a straw poll was in favour of change at a 20 to 1 ratio. One couple have since celebrated the Eucharist and discussion is ongoing.

I think when parish communities are being closed or grouped because of a shortage of male, clerical, celibate ordained priests this is an interesting idea. For us in CWO it seems a key concept to consider. The article raises thoughts about transubstantiation and the role of the ordained priest in the Eucharist. For me, it is important because it recognises women as celebrants at the Eucharist and asks whether an ordained person is necessary for every Eucharist? This article feeds into our discussion about women priests. What would priesthood look like for women and men in a renewed RC church? Already many of us hold Eucharistic Liturgies where we each decide for ourselves what is happening. Peter Kennedy's article has raised many thoughts for me and I share his ideas for you to consider too.

Pippa B

Daphne Wormell and the first Irish Woman Bishop

A cross which was left as a gift by one of Ireland's foremost campaigners for the ordination of women will be presented to the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, the Most Revd Pat Storey, in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, next Monday, 9 December at 6.00 pm.

Daphne Wormell left the cross in her will in 2001 with the request that it be presented to the first woman bishop in the Church of Ireland. Bishop Storey will receive the cross on Monday when she will also launch Daphne's biography *With Dignity and Grace* by Daphne Wormell and her daughter Julia Turner.

Daphne Wormell first made the case for women priests in 1970 when she wrote that "bishops may yet be bringing their husbands to Lambeth". In 1996 she was awarded an honorary MA degree by Dublin University for her work in this area and for her contribution to Trinity College Dublin. In November 2000 she and four other women celebrated the 25th anniversary of their commissioning as the first female lay readers in the Church of Ireland. She was also chair of the Women's Ministry Group.

Daphne Wormell, was born into an Irish family living in Canada. She came to Trinity College Dublin in 1937 where she studied History and Political Science and went on to become a Scholar and Gold Medallist.

She married Donald Wormell, then a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin in 1941 and subsequently they moved to England, where Donald worked on translating secret documents from German at Bletchley Park. Returning to Dublin in 1944 Donald resumed his post at Trinity College. In 1949 the Wormells moved to Sandymount where they were known for their generous hospitality. In the 60s Daphne taught History & Art Appreciation in a number of Dublin schools, including Park House, The High School and Hillcourt School.

Throughout her life spiritual matters were of central importance to her and her interest in the ordination of women increased in the early 1970s when Archbishop Simms asked her to write on the ordination of women as she was familiar with developments in this area in the United States and Canada.

In 1975 she and four other women were invited by Archbishop Buchanan to train as the first female lay readers in the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough. Later she started the Women in Ministry group and was chairperson of the planning group which organised a seminal conference on Women's Ministry in Trinity College in 1986.

(continued page 14)

Daphne Wormell (continued)

She died in November 2001 and is survived by three sons, Richard, Robin and Stephen and her daughter Julia. Her biography, written partly by herself and partly by her daughter, Julia, was published by Hinds in 2013.

In her will **she** left a silver cross to be presented to the first woman bishop of the Church of Ireland. Bishop Storey was consecrated Bishop of Meath and Kildare on Saturday 30 November.



Julia Turner presents her mother's silver cross to Bishop Pat Storey, the first woman to be consecrated as a Church of Ireland bishop

CWO Saints

Mary MacKillop
Ruth Norton
John Hatfield
Celia Greenwood
Michael O’Gara
Sheila Houlihan
Mary Daly
Estelle White
Pat McGarron
Marcella Althaus-Reid
Astrid Klemz
Jean Palmer
Elizabeth Rendall
Maureen Brown
Tissa Balasuriya
Jack Sutcliffe
Pat Regini

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

<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://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women's equality in Church of England

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

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

www.churchauthority.org

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

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

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Lesbian and Gay Christians

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://www.womenpriests.org/index.asp>

Sign up for their regular newsletter

<http://ncronline3.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

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

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