

## CWO e-news April 2011 issue 36

Welcome to the edited issue 36 of the e-news. 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 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)

From CWO's facebook page – says it all really <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Womens-Ordination/27311398359>

So women accompanied Jesus in His ministry, were present at the last supper, stood at the foot of the cross and were the first to witness His resurrection. What's the problem?

*Cathy W*

### Father Roy Bourgeois

**If you can afford to, please phone Fr. Edward Dougherty, M.M., Superior General at (001) 914-941-7590 TODAY and urge Maryknoll Leadership to support Fr. Roy and women's equality in the Church. (Thursday is the day WOC have asked us to call.)**

Erin Hanna of WOC writes

Called to serve as priests, some women are obeying God's call, even if it means defying Vatican rules. This obedience comes at a price, and today, one of the allies in the women's ordination movement is under attack. Ordered to recant his support for women's ordination or face dismissal from the priesthood, Fr. Roy Bourgeois has not only refused to recant, but stated that "the exclusion of women from the priesthood is a grave injustice against women, against our Church and against our God who calls both men and women to the priesthood."

The threat to dismiss Fr. Roy is not only a misuse of church discipline, but a betrayal by a community that professes to support social justice.

You can still sign the petition here

[http://www.womensordination.org/index.php?option=com\\_chronocontact&chronoformname=form](http://www.womensordination.org/index.php?option=com_chronocontact&chronoformname=form)

If you do call the Maryknoll Leadership, please email WOC at [woc@womensordination.org](mailto:woc@womensordination.org) to let them know how your call went.



Jesus meets Mary in the Garden

### **Letter from Kirsten S P**

For Christmas I was in Copenhagen, where I was born close to 80 years ago. While I was there the diocese of Elsinore needed one new priest (pastor of the national Church). For this one position the bishop, who is a lady, had 75 candidates ready!

As I see it, God already has given us very many vocations. He is not the one who orders us to reject them. At the same time our catholic parish church in Copenhagen (Soeborg) was closed because of lack of priests. I had to celebrate the Nativity in the nearby Lutheran. church.

Best greetings with wishes of a blessed Holy Week.  
Kirsten Stoffregen Pedersen,  
Jerusalem

### **Letter from Jean W**

I was glad to see your recommendation for us to support Fr Roy Bourgeois in America.

I have been getting emails from WOC for a year or two, and have signed all the petitions for him. I don't know whether you have read the text of his latest statement, but he says he will not recant, and would rather eat at a soup kitchen and live under a bridge, and do that with deep inner peace and a clear conscience. That is really inspirational!

We really need just ONE male priest in this country to do something similar. How can we get this message to our pusillanimous priests who support us with their fingers crossed behind their backs?

### **Comment on CWO's facebook wall**

"Gotta love it. The Church defrocks priests for speaking their truth, speaking against injustice, for wanting to get married/be in a civil partnership. But they'll do anything to keep paedophiles in a cassock. It makes one wonder."

### **Vocations Sunday 15 May**

There will be a CWO presence on the Piazza at Westminster Cathedral on Good Shepherd Sunday (May 15th). CWO London will lead it but they welcome anyone who would like to come along and join them.

The vigil will be from around 11am to 12.30pm (to catch those coming out of 10.30 Mass and those going into 12.00 Mass).



### **The Middle East feminist revolution**

Women are not merely joining protests to topple dictators, they are at the centre of demanding social change. Read full article by Naomi Wolf on Alezeera

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/03/201134111445686926.html>

### **CWO Annual Gathering**

**1 October 2011**

at  
The Salvation Army  
Hill St  
Newport  
Gwent  
NP20 1LZ

10.30am –5.00pm

10.30 registration/refreshments  
11.00 AGM (for members only)

1.00 Lunch open to all

2.00 – 5.00 open to all

Speaker (to be confirmed)  
Reflection

Map showing venue and station

**[Newport, Gwent NP20 1LZ](#)**

### **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 Mary L

## **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. Please send deposit (Chqs payable to **Noddfa**) to Pat Brown, PO Box 183, Leeds, LS8 9EN

More info visit [www.noddfa.org.uk](http://www.noddfa.org.uk)

And why not stay on for....

### **Eucharist, Community and Ministry - 8-15 August (Mon-Mon)**

We will be considering the development of thought around concepts of Eucharist and the interconnections with ministry. The importance of community in the Eucharist will be emphasized. Among the aspects we will be exploring will be Eucharistic space, the Café Church movement, the strong connections of Eucharist with justice and peace.

Various forms of community and ministry will be explored by members of the team as well as some members of the Noddfa community, along with our chaplain, Fr. Charles Ramsay from Rhyl. We hope to have contributions from Fr. Owen Hardwicke and Ianthe Pratt. Katharine Salmon, who is researching for a Ph.D. on Ministry, will be giving some input, as well as Anne and Malcolm Dixon who will speak on Eucharistic space. Anne Cross and Mike Bold will be showing us how "The Kitchen Table", their initiative in East London, works. We are also hoping to invite some local residents for a session on how they view community.

Different aspects of liturgy, using the wonderful spaces available to us at Noddfa, will be tried out, although we intend to have a Mass on most days. The aim is to make the week as participatory and multi-sensory as possible while also providing space and quiet for reflection, alongside the general conviviality of a CPW week.

Chair: Sue Williamson

Organisers: Howard & Mary Sherman

Chaplain: Fr Charles Ramsay

*The Noddfa Spirituality Centre is run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary and is set in a Victorian mansion in lovely grounds overlooking the sea. The coastal resorts and mountains of North Wales are close by. Accommodation is mainly in single or twin-bedded rooms, with a few on the ground floor. There is a stair lift to the first floor.*

Please contact Howard and Mary Sherman on [hshermans@chester-uk.co.uk](mailto:hshermans@chester-uk.co.uk) for further information and a booking form. Phone 07985052651 Bursaries are available on request.

## **St Thérèse of Lisieux and the Little Way** - from Gareth M

Vatican City, 6. 4. 11 - In his general audience in St. Peter's Square, Benedict XVI dedicated his catechesis to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, or St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, "who lived in this world for only twenty-four years at the end of the nineteenth century, leading a very simple and hidden life, but who, after her death and the publication of her writings, became one of the best-known and loved saints".

"Little Thérèse", the Pope continued, "never failed to help the most simple souls, the little ones, the poor and the suffering who prayed to her, but also illuminated all the Church with her profound spiritual doctrine, to the point that the Venerable John Paul II, in 1997, granted her the title of Doctor of the Church ... and described her as an 'expert in scientia amoris'. Thérèse expressed this science, in which all the truth of the faith is revealed in love, in her autobiography 'The Story of a Soul', published a year after her death".

Thérèse was born in 1873. She suffered from a serious nervous disorder from which she recovered in 1886 thanks to what she later described as "the smile of the Virgin". In 1887 she made a pilgrimage to Rome with her father and sister, where she asked Leo XIII for permission to enter Carmel of Lisieux, at just fifteen years of age. Her wish was granted a year later; however, at the same time her father began to suffer from a serious mental illness, which led Thérèse to the contemplation of the Holy Face of Christ in his Passion. In 1890 she took her vows. 1896 marked the beginning of a period of great physical and spiritual suffering, which accompanied her until her death.

In those moments, "she lived the faith at its most heroic, as the light in the shadows that invade the soul" the Pope said. In this context of suffering, living the greatest love in the littlest things of daily life, the Saint realised her vocation of becoming the love at the heart of the Church". She died in the afternoon of 30 September, 1897, uttering the simple words, "My Lord, I love You!". "These last words are the key to all her doctrine, to her interpretation of the Gospel", the Pope emphasised. "The act of love, expressed in her final breath, was like the continued breathing of the soul ... The words 'Jesus, I love You' are at the centre of all her writings".

St. Thérèse is "one of the 'little ones' of the Gospel who allow themselves to be guided by God, in the depth of His mystery. A guide for all, especially for... theologians. With humility and faith, Thérèse continually entered the heart of the Scriptures which contain the Mystery of Christ. This reading of the Bible, enriched by the science of love, does not oppose academic science. The 'science of the saints', to which she refers on the final page of 'The Story of a Soul', is the highest form of science".

"In the Gospel, Thérèse discovers above all the Mercy of Jesus .. and 'Trust and Love' are therefore the end point of her account of her life, two words that, like beacons, illuminated her saintly path, in order to guide others along the same 'little way of trust and love', of spiritual childhood. Her trust is like that of a child, entrusting herself to the hands of God, and inseparable from her strong, radical commitment to the true love that is the full giving of oneself", the Holy Father concluded.

***The Secret Life of Bees.***  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:enquiries@holyroodhouse.org.uk)

01845 522580

*What actions are most excellent?*

*To gladden the heart of a human being. to feed the hungry.*

*To help the afflicted. to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful.*

*To remove the wrongs of the injured.*

*That person is the most beloved of God who does the most good to God's creatures.*

The Prophet Muhammed

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

You can sign up for their regular newsletter

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

An inclusive Catholic Church where all are welcome

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

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

### Events @ the kitchen table

*catering for community conversation*

Friday April 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Royal Wedding Party @ the kitchen table</b>	TBA
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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 this event & to book please call or email

[anne@thekitchentable.eu](mailto:anne@thekitchentable.eu) / 0208 586 7979

## 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