

## CWO e-news May 2009 issue 16

Welcome to issue 16 of the e-news. Joint editors Pat Brown and Myra Poole. Please visit CWO's website [www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)  
Previous issues can be seen there.

No new articles this month but you'll find some responses to Gareth's article last month. Please respond to these or anything in the e-news for publication next month.

Please contact me with items for next e-news by 10 June 2009.  
[info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

I'm off to the WOW steering committee meeting which meets 14 – 17 May. We will be seeing some of you when you join us on Saturday 16 May.

I hope to bring you a report on this meeting next month.

### **CWO Annual Gathering 2009**

Please put this date in your diary now!

**Saturday 10 October 2009**  
**10.3am to 4.00pm**  
**St Olave's Church York**

Morning - AGM  
Lunch provided  
Afternoon - On the occasion of her relics being in Yorkshire, we will be looking at the spirituality of St Therese especially her vocation to ordained ministry and understanding of the need for a reformed priesthood

### **Fourth Plinth Trafalgar Square**

There's still time to register for this project mentioned last month. You can read about it and watch Anthony Gormley's video on <http://oneandother.co.uk>

### **Prayer Link**

Every Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm, please pray for CWO, its members and its mission.

*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*

## **Responses to article in last month's enews - Is the Pope preparing to join CWO?**

I think that the article by Gareth Morgan is very interesting but I don't think any of his conclusions is the right one.

It seems to me that the present Pope often says things without any consultation e.g. the lifting of the excommunications on the Lefevrist bishops, but I don't think he has any real idea of the situation within the church. The only good result from all this confusion that I can see is that it will gradually de-value Papal statements and help people to realise that the Pope is human like everyone else and so makes mistakes and gets things wrong. Maybe people will then start to think for themselves a bit more and follow their conscience. If only the Pope or anyone in Rome were big enough to echo the words of Barack Obama "I screwed up". That might make people begin to believe in what they're saying but that will be a long wait and we must just start thinking for ourselves.

*Derek Reeve*

I was pleased to read an article by Gareth Morgan, 'Is the Pope Preparing to Join CWO?' featured in the latest issue of e-news (April 2009). Gareth set out to interpret and analyse papal statements made on the trip of Benedict XVI to Angola. Whilst this is a notoriously difficult undertaking, like reading tea leaves, it is important to scrutinize papal utterances. Whilst I leave it to the CWO membership to detect a shift or not in the pontiff's thinking, I wish to point out the dangers inherent in the use of one word, 'complementarity', much beloved by Rome.

Men and women are always exhorted to 'live in profound communion', recognizing each other's gifts and more, 'working together for the common good through the complementarity aspects of masculinity and femininity.' Whilst this is a biologicistic view of the role of men and women, each created for living for the other, no regard to the individual qua individual, it is nowhere to be found in Canon Law. It does feature in 'Mulieris dignitatem' (21) - in the paragraphs of spousal love and marriage, physical motherhood and spiritual motherhood we read of the profound complementarity and 'even a profound union within a person's being'.

So, whilst MD stresses the 'complementarity' of a woman in her dual role of being a spiritual and physical mother, whatever that might mean, the 'complementarity aspects of masculinity and femininity' as quoted above tell us something very different: men and women have to live for each other, not for themselves as individuals. And this from a church which exalts single life and prescribes it for its clerical class. Do we conclude therefore that this class, which gives everybody else rules and regulations, does not live according to the 'complementarity aspects'?

*Dorothea McEwan*

## **Responses continued**

I feel hopeful and positive having read Gareth's article concerning Pope Benedict's acknowledgement of the God given equality of all humanity. When Glasgow Archdiocese invited and sponsored me to undertake a four year Masters in Pastoral Studies 2002-2006 on the Ignatian Limex course I was well aware that some years ago this could not have happened. One of the books I was required to read by Loyola University was "Beyond Patching" by Sandra M Schneiders. With the passing of Pope John Paul II and recent application of Pope Benedict's intense theological and philosophical analysis of our current situation it is my view that "Beyond Patching" is no more the case.

One document I would cite which has been further unpacked for development is "Mulieris Dignitatem", which when written was limited in understanding, perspective and issues regarding power. Pope Benedict is increasingly opening to the Spirit of Wisdom in the signs of the times as notably in his recent acknowledgement and apologies on a number of fronts well exploited, often mercilessly so, by media and others.

Pope Benedict stresses equality in diversity not because of an "ism"; be it Marxism, capitalism or feminism but because of the clear announcement of Jesus Christ of our equality as children of God in all our diversity across race, gender, colour and ability.

When it came to praxis in my thesis I used the development of our L'Arche Glasgow project in the dissertation required for the pastoral studies. Jean Vanier's vision is 'ecumenical' open to people of all faiths or none. Those people who assisted me in the study were many' not least those core members of our L'Arche group with whom I share a relationship of mutuality, respect and reciprocity.

Pope Benedict's continued opening to listening to the voices of women is shown in his recent discussions and his commitment to the egalitarian nature of partner relations. He spoke of this matter recently during the attendance at the Institute for Marriage and the Family.

I therefore rejoice in these indications of light in what has admittedly been a dark place!

## **This might be of interest to CWO members!**

On the 3rd April 2009 the Catholic Church in Scotland announced that Scotus College, the last remaining seminary in Scotland, is to close this summer. In 2009 the College only had 11 students. Beginning with the academic year 2009/2010 all students for the priesthood will train in the Scots College in Rome.

*Morag Liebert*

*Come Holy Spirit , you power of thinking,  
Come Holy Spirit, you power of linking!  
Give courage and strength to those who can hear,  
Give vision and language to those who don't fear!*

*Let everyone listen and hear and speak,  
Let everyone turn to justice and seek  
A new way of friendship, a new way so great:  
In Christ are no longer divisions of hate.*

From Prayermail

### **Websites to visit!**

[www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

Ours! Don't forget to click on it every so often

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/>  
National Catholic Reporter - Joan Chittester is a regular contributor

[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

### **Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women**

London Forum Day  
The Church of our Lady  
Lodge Road NW8 8LA  
(opposite Lord's Cricket Ground)

Wed 1 July 2009

11.00 am to 4 pm (Coffee from 10.30 am)

Yes we can!  
What future for Christian Women across Europe?

Keynote Address  
Martina Heinrichs  
Co- President EFECW

Also Sharing News from the Forum and other women present

Coffee & Tea provided. Please bring packed lunch  
Bring and Buy in aid of Ruth Epting Fund (bursaries)

[info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) for more details and booking form