

CWO e-news June 2009 issue 17

Welcome to issue 17 of the e-news. Joint editors Pat Brown and Myra Poole. Please visit CWO's website www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

Previous issues can be seen there.

Pippa shares some interesting thoughts this month. Please send items for July enews by 10 July 2009.

info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

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

Also on first Wednesday

A prayerful presence inside Westminster Cathedral is the logical progression of London CWO's witness outside the cathedral, which London CWO has persevered in for the last 14 years! This we hold in silence beneath the 8th Station with all its significance for us and wearing our purple scarves/stoles. Please join us if you are in London

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

Are we afraid? A few thoughts...

Over the last week I have been struck by the link between the words: fear, petrification and the Church.

Thinking of Christ's words "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church" we are given the link between Peter: Petrus, (the Latin word for stone) and the strength of the foundation that the Church will need to stand, develop and withstand attack. In this sense it is positive. However we also use petrified (being made into stone) as meaning we are scared rigid...

Are we afraid? Is the Church afraid? Certainly people are afraid to speak about women's ordination. We are "forbidden" to discuss women's ordination and most lay people, priests and Bishops do not do so in public. Priests are demoralised and afraid someone in their congregation will report them to their Bishop or Rome – and some do.

We are not encouraged to discuss change. Bishops are not apparently promoting the collegiality that Vatican II envisioned. They rarely consult us, and if they are representing our views to Rome we don't know about it and are not part of a dialogue. The structures of the Church are, I think, becoming literally and metaphorically petrified: rigid, frightened and set in stone. The hierarchy is mostly, not obviously dynamic or responsive to the people of God. Stony places and hierarchical and "fortification thinking" can inhibit growth and life.

In CWO many of us are called to speak out and our words may fall on stone, but, speaking for myself (and maybe all of us?) I hope that I can continue to push against the fear and petrification in me and around me. We are told "Do not be afraid..."

Pippa

Two contrasting items

The first Robert Mickens writing in *The Tablet* 9 May; the second from Richard Rohr's meditation from *Creating Christian Community* 19 May

The Pope urged newly ordained priests to defend themselves against the world. He said that dangers lay in wait for them and said their ministry had to be "totally linked" to prayer to escape being contaminated by the world.

Robert Mickens

What Incarnational Spirituality is saying, what the Christ image is saying, is that there are not two worlds and God breaks into this one every so often. That is mere "theism."

There isn't the natural and the supernatural after Christ. There is one world, and it is the supernatural. That is what the tearing of the Temple veil "from top to bottom" at the death of Jesus surely means (Matthew 27:51).

The body and life of Jesus has told the world we may no longer separate the Temple and the world. There is nothing profane (*pro fanum* = beyond the temple) once we are given eyes to see. All is sacred.

Richard Rohr

Websites to visit!

www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

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

www.womenwordspirit.org

Women, word, Spirit
(formerly Catholic Women's Network)

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.womenandthechurch.org

Women and the Church

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

National Catholic Reporter - Joan Chittester is a regular contributor

www.womenpriests.org.

You can sign up for their regular newsletter

www.spirituschristi.org

An inclusive Catholic Church where all are welcome

www.womensordination.org

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

Blessed are the cracked for they shall let in the light

Marx (Groucho!)

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 for more details and booking form

Let's pray for women priests in the words of the prophet Isaiah

*"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer;
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert."*

Isaiah 35:5 – 6

From prayermail