

CWO e-news July 2009 issue 18

Welcome to issue 18 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.

Please send items for August enews by 10 August 2009.
info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

CWO Annual Gathering Vocation to Love - Vocation to Priesthood

Saturday 10 October 2009 10.00am - 4.30pm

St Olave's Church Hall
Marygate lane
off Marygate
York
YO30 7BJ

10.00am arrive, refreshments

10.30am -1.00pm AGM

1.00pm - 2.0pm lunch

2.00pm - 4.30pm Talk and discussion followed by
liturgy

On the occasion of her relics being in Yorkshire, we will be looking at the spirituality of St Therese with special reference to her call to priesthood and her wish for a renewed model of ordained ministry

The CWO Newsletter

(That's the physical one with the purple cover.)

The newsletter editor welcomes articles, book reviews etc, perhaps developing some of the shorter items you've seen in or written for enews. The deadline for the CWO Newsletter is 16th August.

Please submit items for the newsletter to info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

If you haven't already done so, please let me know if you would like to receive the Newsletter in electronic form.

info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

This saves printing and postage costs (and trees) but there will always be a physical newsletter for those who want it.

God, you gave us our sister Thérèse, whose life, too short for us, was long enough to prove that no life, however brief, is without meaning.

Thérèse showed us a path to sanctity yet untrodden - her Little Way of life as a signpost to its fullness and completion. Through her we learned that in every moment of our lives the glory of the infinite is offered and may be grasped.

Grant us the simplicity of heart and let each of our moments dedicated to your service unite us with you. May our efforts be blessed by Thérèse who taught us how.

Paul Collins Talk at The Royal Foundation of Saint Katharine Saturday 16th May 2009

I was one of the CWO members invited to join the WOW steering committee members for Paul Collins' talk. He was most inspiring in his discussion on "the need for a clear and articulate vision in a dysfunctional situation". We can all recognise the difficulties of operating within a context where the hierarchy is completely impervious to change, and he even went so far as to describe the RC hierarchy as toxic, particularly regarding their reconciliation with the Lefebvrist group including Bishop Williamson. The phrase that made most impact on me was that power is not given, and that we need to recover and assume the authority that Jesus gives, and to realise the potency of Jesus' personality.

It is clear that Vatican II made compromises, and ended up with two models of church sitting side by side; one essentially egalitarian and communitarian, one hierarchical. Therefore the new ministerial nation of priesthood developed next to the clerical model, and the two were incompatible. The newly radicalised, progressive religious orders hoped to instigate change by talking, yet again and again they hit against what Collins referred to as Ratzinger's hermeneutic of rupture- where he dichotomised everything. The Vatican Council brought a new discussion, but not closure. Collins referred to the very weak document *presbyterorum ordinis*- the document on the ordained priesthood which was a product of compromise. The trouble with this document, as Paul Collins pointed out, is that any ideas on collaborative ministry were grafted onto a seventeenth century "Father knows best" approach.

So where does this bring us in campaigning now? I found some of his most helpful pointers to do with understanding the background that creates that fear among the faithful, both clergy and laity. Being a presence at the conservative World Youth Day and finding places to dialogue with young people still in a highly clericalised mindset, is vital if we are to engage younger generations of Catholics. His encouraging report from Australia included testimonies from Bishop William Morris who had called for women's ordination and the ordination of married men to the priesthood, and who refused go to Rome when sent for, and how the women of his diocese of Toowoomba stood up to Cardinal Levada (Ratzinger's replacement) when he came to the diocese to reprimand Morris.

Perhaps some of his ideas can inform CWO's response to the "Year for Priests" and enable us to initiate some dialogue with our new Archbishop Vincent Nicholls

Katharine Salmon

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

The "Year of the Priest"

As a retired priest (80 next year) I find the whole idea of the year quite ludicrous but, more than that, quite wicked in that it seeks to perpetuate the old notion of the priest as someone set apart and 'ontologically' distinct. One small point but of quite considerable importance, I think. The priest is encouraged to 'recite' the Liturgy of the Hours before the Blessed Sacrament (and for this he will be granted an Indulgence - such outmoded rubbish) but this, in itself, sees the Hours as the priest's personal 'devotion' and not the Prayer of the Church. Of course, the Liturgy of the Hours is still too complicated for the vast majority of people to join in but instead of seeking to simplify it and make it more possible for the whole church to celebrate it, it is once more relegated to the realm of the priest's private devotion. He is the one who is different and who prays for the Church rather than with us. It's only a small point but I think very significant. I hope this thought may be new to you and useful. Every good wish and 'don't let the clergy get you!'.
Derek Reeve

Please pray for Peter Yeo, a member of the Edinburgh group who has cancer

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*

Catherine of Sienna Virtual College

There are many courses which may be of interest to CWO members – scholarships are available. For more details

<http://www.catherineofsiena.net/prospectus/default.asp>

Websites to visit!

www.womenwordspirit.org

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

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

www.watchwomen.com

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

Article from the New York Times 29 June

Born again in Brooklyn by Michele Madigan Somerville

<http://happydays.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/06/27/born-again-in-brooklyn/?scp=1&sq=Born%20again%20in%20Brooklyn&st=cse>

This woman's story resonates with many of us who try to hang on to a church we simultaneously love and hate.

Sent to me by Deanna Langle

The Sacred Feminine

Patriarchy, which means the "rule of the fathers"...is the basis of all major relational systems in the Western world. In the patriarchal view

1) all relationships are eventually defined in terms of superiority and inferiority, and

2) the all-important need for order and control is assured by the exercise of dominative power.

Now that does not sound so bad if the status quo happens to be working in your favor, but it has served to dehumanize and therefore de-spiritualize generations of races, nations, professions, women, sexual minorities, handicapped people, the weak and the elderly whom the powerful are able to disparage culturally and dismiss as being "of no account."

Not only are the rich and powerful able to project their own darkness onto such groups, but the groups normally accept that darkness as their true value.

The utter evil of such patriarchy is that both the oppressor and the oppressed are incapable of real spiritual growth. The powerful, by rejecting their shadow, are hopelessly inflated. The powerless, by receiving others' shadows, are endlessly deflated. Both lose.

Fortunately, the poor, the oppressed and marginalized, and especially women are beginning to trust their natural and truly religious instincts. In some cases this leads them to mistrust and even disobey the self-assured conclusions of the powers that be.
Richard Ruhr