



**CWO**

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church

E-news

May, 2016 Issue 90

# QUICK!

STILL JUST TIME TO LEAP ON A PLANE TO:



1-3 June, Rome

A conversation sponsored by  
Women's Ordination Worldwide



MARY RING  
EDITOR

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IT'S DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO START WITH MAY'S NEWS - SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED:

POPE FRANCIS DENOUNCES THE CULTURE OF CLERICALISM!

HE RESPONDS TO THE LEADERS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS BY AGREEING TO THEIR REQUEST FOR A COMMISSION TO STUDY WOMEN DEACONS!!

NOW HE'S GETTING AN EXTRA PARTY FOR FREE... WOW AND WOC ARE BRINGING HIM THE JUBILEE FOR WOMEN PRIESTS NEXT WEEK!!! JUNE 1ST - 3RD IN ROME



THE WOW OFFICE OPENS IN ROME, WITH KATE MCELWEE AND MIRIAM DUIGNAN

As doors around the world are opened to Roman Catholics during Pope Francis' Jubilee of Mercy, one door remains inexplicably closed.

During this extraordinary year — and 22 years of Ordinatio Sacerdotalis — Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) calls on Pope Francis and the Catholic hierarchy to courageously open the door to dialogue on women's ordination. It has been 40 years since the Vatican's own commission declared there is no scriptural barrier for women's ordination. June 1-3 marks the Vatican's Jubilee for Priests. WOW lifts up all women who are called to the priesthood and all who work for equality in Church structures. The pain of this closed door is felt deeply around the world and perpetuates discrimination and injustices against women and girls in society.

# programme: please PRAY for us:

**OPEN THE DOOR TO DIALOGUE:** Wednesday JUNE 1st, 3-5 pm

CASA INTERNAZIONALE DELLE DONNE  
VIA DELLA LUNGARA, 19 ROMA (SALA TOSI)

Join WOW to commemorate our 20th anniversary with a conversation on theology, history, and the possibility of dialogue with:

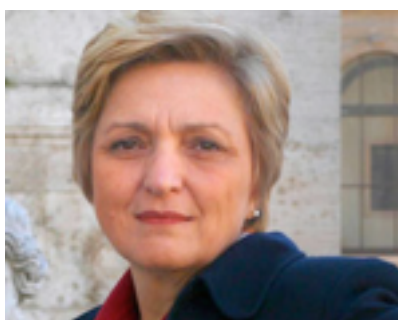
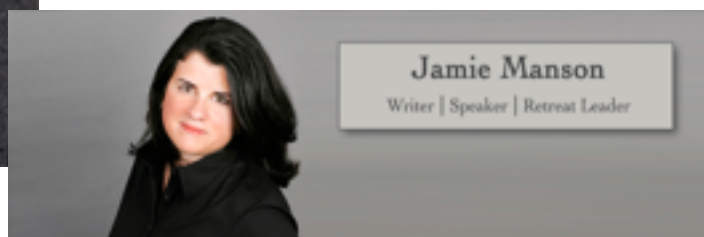


**Fr. Tony Flannery**, an Irish Redemptorist priest censured by the Vatican and ordered to cease priestly ministry due to his support for the ordination of women;

**Rev. Dana English**, Assistant Curate at All Saints' Anglican Church in Rome;



**Jamie Manson**, National Catholic Reporter Books Editor and acclaimed columnist;



and **Dr. Marinella Perroni**, Professor of New Testament at Università Pontificia Sant'Anselmo in Rome, where she was President until 2013.

## **WOW SIGNATURE DRINKS RECEPTION:**

Wednesday JUNE 1st, 5-6 pm  
CASA INTERNAZIONALE DELLE DONNE  
VIA DELLA LUNGARA, 19 ROMA (SALA TOSI)

Join WOW activists and speakers for our 20th anniversary celebration and reception. Serving canapés and WOW signature cocktails.



## WOMEN PRIEST PROJECT WITH ARTIST GIULIA BIANCHI:

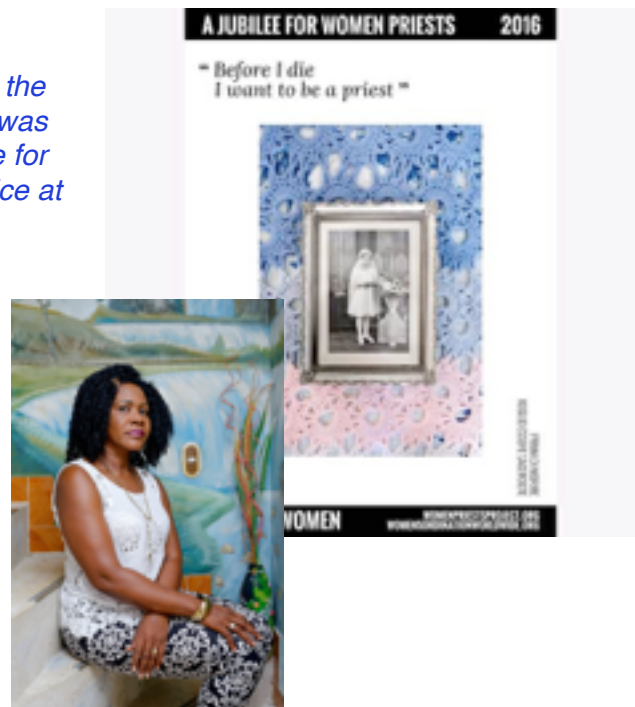
Wed. JUNE 1st, 6 - 8 pm  
CASA INTERNAZIONALE DELLE DONNE  
VIA DELLA LUNGARA, 19 ROMA (SALA TOSI)

This photography exhibition explores the life and faith of Roman Catholic Women Priests that are excommunicated by the Vatican because they disobey a canon law that says that only a male can be ordained priest. Since 2013 Bianchi has met more than 70 women in United States and Colombia. [www.womenpriestsproject.org](http://www.womenpriestsproject.org)

Bianchi's work will be featured around St. Peter's and Trastevere from May 29- June 7th as bill posters.

*"Inspired by prophets and mystics, against clericalism and power, women priests open their communities to divorced, gay, and all those whom the Church does not invite to their Eucharistic table. I was shown a model of world where if there is no justice for the smallest and the weakest, then there's no justice at all. To me those women are a symbol. They are showing us the primacy of conscience and how to renew our own tradition."*

— Giulia Bianchi



## WOW WITNESS FOR WOMEN PRIESTS: A VISUAL GUIDE TO OPENING THE DOOR TO DIALOGUE

Friday June 3rd 8.00am  
PIAZZA PIA

WOW activists will hold a "purple stole" witness (the international symbol for women's ordination) and offer a visual guide to opening the "Door to Dialogue." WOW will then walk the pilgrim's path to St. Peter's as the Jubilee Mass for Priests gets underway. Pope Francis has said, "this Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one," so we will take our place in prayerful vigil in the Square.

<http://womensordinationworldwide.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensOrdinationWorldwide> AND please consider donating, if you can

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WomensOrdinationConferenceInc/wow2015.html>

## Links to the WOW Jubilee:

Stephanie Kirchgaessner writing in the Guardian, 26th May:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/26/rome-poster-campaign-catholic-ban-female-priests>

'Some women disobey': Rome poster campaign challenges Catholic ban on female priests



A Groundswell campaign, pointing out that Catholics support women priests: Pope Francis should do the same.

Please sign, and ask him to lift the unjust excommunications of so many women priests and their supporters. A woman priest will deliver the petition to the Vatican on June 3rd.

<https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/pope-francis-welcome-all-priests>



GROUNDSWELL



asks us to sign 3 petitions, if we haven't already done so:

<http://www.catholicchurchreform.org/216/index.php/get-involved/letters-to-the-pope/143-please-allow-married-priests-back-into-active-ordained-ministry>

to support the return of married priests back to their roles,

<https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/a-declaration-for-our-daughters>

to build a Church for our daughters, and

<http://ncronline.org/news/theology/fr-hans-kung-says-francis-responded-request-free-discussion-infallibility-dogma>

in support of Hans Küng, again if we haven't already done so.

WITNESS TIME - COME AND JOIN US!



## Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving

June 20

### Cardiff Archdiocese

is celebrating its centenary on **Monday, 20th June at 3pm.**

If you can't get to Rome, **Wales & South-West CWO** offer you another chance to witness, a bit closer to home...



**Come and join us! The more the merrier!**

We can manage some beds and hospitality between us, and we'd love to see you in sunny Wales.

Contact Amanda, Ruth, Anna or Mary of WSW Group directly, or for more information and details drop an email to:

[news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)



# Michael Ward

1<sup>st</sup> May 1936 -

28<sup>th</sup> March 2016

*back garage, passionate about local politics and filled with faith.”*

Mike was a very musical person. He loved listening to music and he always wanted to learn an instrument. He took up the banjo, the drums, the trumpet, the mandolin. It was only later in life that he came to the one instrument that really suited him, something where you don't have to practice too much, and when you do practice, it's not on your own. He found great joy in singing with Leatherhead Choral Society, in which he sang bass while his youngest son sang tenor and one of his grandsons sang soprano. Mike was also artistic and loved sketching. The picture of this church on your order of service is part of a sketch drawn by him. It was this skill that led him to becoming an architect - lots of his handiwork can be seen around this part of Surrey.

Anyone who has lived in a house with Mike will know that for him a DIY project was finished as soon as it was usable. He wasn't a great fan of finishing touches. His favourite parts of a project were the planning stage and the shopping stage, especially if new tools were needed. He loved to have the right tool for a job. He had a lot of tools. He used those tools creatively, imaginatively. He was brilliant at making and fixing things, often using unexpected materials, techniques and approaches. He loved making jewellery and clayware - we still have dozens of pots he made for the hunger lunches that took place at this church. He taught his children a fearless approach to the physical world of steel, concrete, wood and fire and they have passed it on to their children. One of his legacies will

*We are most grateful to Heather and the family for sharing Mike's wonderful eulogy with us.*

If there is such a thing as a Leatherheadarian, that's what Mike is. Having been moved around quite a lot in his childhood, I think Mike was very happy to settle here in the early 60s with his wife, Heather. Four children (and nine grandchildren) later he was content with his life, practising as a local architect, playing a full part in the community and enjoying the achievements of his children and grandchildren.

The oldest of his grandchildren sums him up like this: *“He had a life not without its twists and turns, but ultimately he ended life being the best he could be. His family loved him, his community respected him and he's left a lasting legacy. I knew him as a warm, smart, passionate man. The man who loved his work, adored Irish stew and roast dinners, doted on his grandchildren, endeavoured (and usually succeeded) as the ultimate all-round handy-man, strived to constantly create, whether it was sketching, architecture, jewellery or some bizarre handy metal creation he was welding in the*

be generations of makers and menders, tinkers, builders.

Mike was born in Dymchurch in Kent. As with many children in army families, Mike and his sisters and brother moved around a lot during their childhood, so Mike attended numerous schools in Canada and England. From his Italian mother, and aunts and uncles, he got his love of cooking, and from his dad perhaps, an interest in some rather more dangerous pursuits.

As a young man Mike was very active (and keen on some surprising sports.) He enjoyed boxing when he was in the army as well as learning to be a crack marksman. He continued to practice regularly on the army ranges at Bisley and kept several guns at home until the licensing requirements became too onerous. He loved skiing in the days when it was a fairly unusual activity for people in this country and later on he was an enthusiastic squash player. As he got older he preferred less strenuous activities such as camping, sailing and cycling. He enjoyed planning new cycling routes with the Mole Valley Cycling Forum.

Mike was a very passionate, sensitive person, who expressed his emotions. This meant that he could be impatient and angry sometimes, over-reacting, flying off the handle or sulking. But fortunately this side of his character softened with age and he became much more affectionate. He could be very loving – he gave good quality hugs.

Part of the reason for this change was that in his fifties he found a vibrant faith in God. He gradually became the loving, kind and generous person he was always meant to be. He loved the practice of centering prayer, a contemplative form of prayer, and he was engaged in it on the morning when he died, so he moved gently from one life to another. He had often told us that he was looking forward to dying and to finding out what God had in store for him to do in the next life. It is a comfort to us that his passing was the best it possibly could be.

Social justice and equality were important to Mike and he spent large parts of his life in the service of others. He took on important roles for North Leatherhead Community Association, the Labour Party and the Leatherhead Night Hostel. He first joined the Rotary Club of Leatherhead in 1980. In addition to serving the club twice as President, he was also awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in rec-

ognition of his outstanding service both to Rotary and to the local community. He was

well loved and respected in the Club. However, while he enjoyed being at a grand Rotary event, he was just as much at ease in the company of any other local people of whatever station in life.

Mike was proud to have been a founder of SurreySave Credit Union, which was set up in order to help local people who had difficulty managing money. His life as Trustee of the Leatherhead Institute was constantly busy and satisfying, and he appreciated being able to help local people through Leatherhead United Charities.

In his church life he was heavily involved in the Catholic Renewal Movement from its beginnings here in Leatherhead in the 1960s. Much later in life, he attended a service at the United Reformed Church, on Bible Sunday. Brian Treharne was preaching about the importance of reading the Bible, and Mike started to do that. He was working for the BBC as an architect, and he started attending the Christian Union meetings. That was where he found the strong faith which transformed the rest of his life. Later in life he became a passionate advocate of Catholic Women's Ordination and joined in their campaigns. Ten years ago he attended a conference in Canada run by WOW (Womens' Ordination Worldwide) and was delighted, more recently, when the Anglicans agreed to ordain women.

The local Men's Breakfast, of which he was an instigator and which he cherished, grew to be a valuable way of building friendly relationships between men from the various churches in Leatherhead. Each month it is the turn of one of the local churches to host a breakfast for men from all the churches. Mike enthusiastically helped set up tables, cook breakfasts and wash up, and he enjoyed listening to the various speakers. One breakfast maker, from a different denomination from Mike's, wrote of him, I shall remember him as a kindly Christian man with a generous ecumenical spirit and a deep spirituality.

*CWO offers heartfelt thanks to Heather and family for the wonderful donation to our funds in lieu of flowers.*



## And now for some responses - you'll all know by now to what they refer...



### Pope Francis Agrees to Open Commission to Study Diaconate for Women

R o m e , Italy: The Women's Ordination Conference (WOC) applauds the women religious of the International Union Superior Generals (UISG) for brazenly dialoguing with Pope Francis on leadership and ministerial roles for women in the Church, including the opening of the diaconate to women. In response to the sisters' questions, Pope Francis agreed to launch a Vatican Commission to study the diaconate to include women, stating: "It would be good to clarify this."



Opening a commission to study the diaconate for women would be a great step for the Vatican in recognizing its own history. Decades of research on this topic has already been published by renowned feminist voices. WOC recommends that the Vatican's commission include the following scholars: Gary Macy, Dorothy Irving, Ida Raming, Sr. Christine Schenk, John Wijngaards, Phyllis Zagano.

Biblical and historical evidence cites several women deacons working alongside men in the early Church including: Phoebe, St. Olympias, Dionysia, St. Radegund and St. Macrina. Such a commission, similar to the Pontifical Biblical Commission of 1976 that concluded there is no scriptural barrier to women's priestly ordination, could begin to restore the Gospel values of equality and justice.

Pope Francis also stated that a woman cannot be in Persona Christi, and therefore cannot preach or preside over the Eucharist. WOC rejects this flawed interpretation that a male body is a necessary condition of representing the Body of Christ. Upholding this discrimination, as though it were the will of God, is simply indefensible.

While WOC celebrates this step from the Vatican, until women are included in all decision-making structures and as priests and Bishops of the Church, equality remains painfully denied.

May 22nd marks the 22nd anniversary of the Vatican's *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, banning all discussion on the ordination of women. WOC advocates that a new commission on the diaconate include discussions on priestly ordination for women in the Roman Catholic Church.

## and from ourselves, thanks to Myra and Pippa:



We in Catholic Women's Ordination (CWO) welcome the challenge from the Religious Women in the USA, given to Pope Francis about the ordination of women to the Diaconate. We wholeheartedly support the Pope's proposal to set up a theological Commission to look into the issue. We are also aware of all the theology that is already in place thanks to our professional theologians, women and men, in the UK, as well as in the USA and other Continents.

The Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research gives documented history of the early women deacons and makes the point that the women, together with the men, received a sacramental ordination in today's terms. However, in the euphoria of the possibility of ordaining women to the Diaconate, we must always remember that historically the Diaconate of women and men has always been understood differently in the Roman Catholic tradition. For men it has always been understood as a stepping stone to ordination to the priesthood but women's Diaconate has been perceived as an end in itself.

In moving to the official possibility of the ordination of women to the Diaconate we need to ensure, especially for future generations of women, that no further theological obstacles are placed in their way towards the fullness of women's ordination to the priesthood. It is important to remember that in 1976, Pope Paul VI, set up a Biblical Commission to look into the matter of women's ordination to the priesthood and in 1977 the Commission reported back there was nothing in scripture or theology against it.

# AGM 2016

**Saturday, 1st October, 11am - 5pm**

**St Bede's Pastoral Centre**  
21 Blossom St,  
York  
YO24 1AQ  
(5 minutes from York Station)

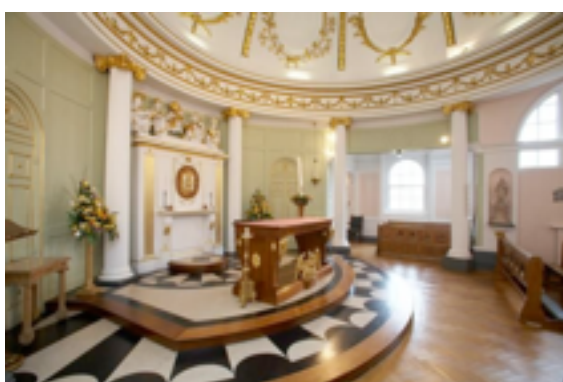


St. Bede's Centre is right next door to the Bar Convent, which is England's oldest living convent. It has just been refurbished, and has an amazing exhibition about the founder of the Congregation of Jesus, Mary Ward.

Mary, a feisty and determined woman, wrote in 1617, "I hope in God that it will be seen that women in time to come will do much."



Born in a time of much religious conflict, Mary's determination that her nuns should be as active and effective as their male Jesuit counterparts, her travels around Europe on foot and in great poverty founding schools and her work with the poor, sick and imprisoned, make it no wonder that Benedict XVI set her on the path to sainthood.



We will have time to explore the beautiful chapel and exhibition on her life as part of our Annual Gathering, for which we shall be in the competent and knowledgeable hands of Sr Patricia Harriss, CJ .

**SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

## Websites

<http://womensordinationworldwide.org/>

Women's ordination worldwide CWO is member

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

US organisation supporting women's ordination

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

All previous housetop websites can be reached via this address

<http://82.70.116.125/index.html>

Women Word Spirit

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women's equality in Church of England

<http://wearechurchireland.ie/>

Concerned Irish Catholics committed to the renewal of the Roman Catholic Church on the basis of Vatican II and the theological spirit developed from it. Affiliated to International Movement We are Church (IMWAC)

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

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

<http://ncronline.org/>

National Catholic Reporter

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

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

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

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

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

Catholics for a Changing Church

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

Campaigns against and challenges homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

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

Proclaims the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ so as to sustain and increase Christian belief among homosexual men and women. They offer pastoral support for LGBT Catholics friends and families Sign up for quarterly newsletter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

<http://www.spirituschristi.org>

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/Easter2015/>

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

## CWO SAINTS

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White  
Pat McCarron  
Marcella Althaus-Reid  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown  
Tissa Balasuriya  
Jack Sutcliffe  
Pat Regini  
Mary Ann Schoettly  
Pam Skelton  
Robert Kaggwa  
Mike Ward

## 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.



## 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. We now have mugs which as well as being practical are a good way of advertising CWO. You might like to send one to your bishop!

orders up to £10	4.00
orders £10 - 20	6.00
orders over £20	Free

Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
CWO rectangular badge	Purple with white lettering <b>Renewed Ordained Ministry for Everyone</b>		Free (except please add postage £2)	
<b>NEW!!!</b> Mug CWO logo website "CWO's my cup of tea"	Purple on white Buy for your office, church tea room, meeting room		4.50 each 3 for £12 10 for £35	
P & P *see below				
Donation (optional)				

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name

Delivery address

Post code

Contact email or telephone number

Send completed form to: [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) for how to pay.

AND BY NO MEANS LEAST...

## AWAKENING

Catholic Women's Ordination from the Public Square,

by Myra Poole and Pippa Bonner.

£10.00 post free, from [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

**Our thanks to Fr Peter Dodson for this wonderful endorsement:**

I have read the print off my copy and I think it displays a powerful, holy, agonised, hopeful and urgent loving compassion at work.

I particularly enthused over the book's reassessment of Mary. As a contemplative man, Mary's reported words "Let it be to me according to your word" express the depths of contemplative understanding and practice: making oneself open and receptive to the penetrating Word/Spirit/Life of the God who is Creative Wisdom, Burning Love, and Boundless Power.

I love being a pregnant man!

"MY heart is broken because MY people are crushed. MY eyes stream with tears; I drench you with MY tears" (Jeremiah)

Peter

