



E-news
CWO July – Aug, 2016 Issue 92

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church



THANKS TO THE
WOW TEAM IN
KRAKOW!

SEE INSIDE FOR LOTS MORE...



in this issue

JULY - AUGUST

PAGES

WOW PRESS RELEASE	for KRAKOW	3
ST MARY OF MAGDALA	Apostle to the Apostles	4 - 5
CARDINAL NICHOLS	Your Editor's response	6 - 7
AGM	DON'T MISS IT!	8 - 9
EL ORDEN SACERDOTAL	Forms of consecration	10 - 11
THERESE VANIER	CWO writer contributes	12
NODDFA 2016	A dog'e-eye view	13 - 14
NODDFA REFLECTIONS	from retreatants	15 - 16
FORTHCOMING EVENTS		17
CWO SAINTS & PRAYER		18
CWO MERCHANDISE		19
AWAKENING	Buy this book!	20

THIS ISSUE comes combined for July and August. You will shortly be receiving your AGM mailout, full of exciting matters for your attention. Meanwhile, wishing you a happy summer,

MARY RING, EDITOR

[HTTP://WWW.CATHOLIC-WOMENS-ORDINATION.ORG.UK/NEWS.HTM](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/news.htm)
NEWS@CATHOLIC-WOMENS-ORDINATION.ORG.UK

WOW PRESS RELEASE

FOR KRAKOW

Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) will celebrate the liturgical Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene, now officially recognized as an "Apostle to the Apostles" and included in the General Roman Calendar for the first time this year.

WOW advocates will gather in Krakow city center at the Bishop's House where Pope John Paul II lived for 15 years as Cardinal of Krakow. Members of WOW will call for a rejection of Pope John Paul II's 1994 ban on the ordination of women and celebrate Mary Magdalene by calling for women's full equality in the Church, including as ordained ministers.

Friday 22nd July - 14.00, Main gate, Bishop's Palace, ul. Franciszkanska 3, Krakow.

Mary Magdalene's official recognition as an apostle, chosen by Jesus, affirms women's rightful capacity to act *"in persona Christi,"* and restores her, often maligned, legacy as someone instrumental to our faith and equal to her male counterparts.

Claims of male clerical superiority based on a physical resemblance to Jesus have never convinced nor served the wider Church.

WOW calls on the Church to rid itself of the sin of sexism and model unconditional equality by opening up all ministries to Catholic women who have the talent and vocation to serve their communities as St. Mary Magdalene did.

WOW also celebrates its 20th anniversary in July and will hold their annual gathering in Krakow ahead of Pope Francis' visit for World Youth Day. During the past 20 years of campaigning, WOW has worked to challenge all remaining arguments against women's ordination. The official recognition of Mary Magdalene's role makes an exclusively male leadership model impossible to uphold and strengthens the case for gender justice.



We are calling on Pope Francis to recognize that a "discipleship of equals" and renewed church will only be possible when women are accepted as equals and are able to participate alongside men.

ST. MARY MAGDALA

APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES



Our gratitude to our Pat (UK), Kate (USA), Miriam (UK), Alicja (Poland), Olivia (USA) and Colm (Ireland) of **WOW**.

They met in **KRAKOW** on 22nd July, the newly created liturgical feast-day of **ST MARY MAGDALENE**, now recognised by the Church as the Apostle to the Apostles, to witness with signs that read **PRIESTLY ORDINATION FOR WOMEN** in Polish, and **MARY MAGDALENE, APOSTLE AND PRIEST**.



Requesting a meeting with Cardinal Dziwisz, and protesting outside Pope John Paul II's former home, they appealed for a repeal of his 1994 ban on the ordination of women.

To find out more about WOW's (Women's Ordination Worldwide) ecumenical network of national and international groups for women's RR priesthood, or to donate, please go to:

<http://womensordinationworldwide.org/>

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YFEQHQE8FPC52



ST. MARY MAGDALA, CONT'D



FOR A SUPERB EXPLANATION of how Mary of Magdala has been traduced as 'forgiven prostitute', rather than 'Apostle to the Apostles' as in the Eastern tradition, read Christine Schenk's column, Simply Spirit, in

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/simply-spirit/magdala-celebrations-heal-long-buried-misogyny-will-our-daughters-care#.V2vX4qbNjiY.facebook>

And don't miss:

<https://www.futurechurch.org/press-releases/st-mary-of-magdala-finally-gets-due-honor>

<http://news.fordham.edu/faith-and-service/truth-about-mary-magdalene-could-open-doors-for-women-in-the-church/>



CARDIFF

PRAYER WITNESS AT THE CENTENARY MASS



Following CWO Wales and South West's prayer witness last month outside Cardiff Cathedral, they were granted a couple of minutes impromptu conversation with Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols.



"Please do have a leaflet about women's ordination," said CWO.

"We could talk about this for hours," said the Cardinal. So we wrote to him, requesting an interview.

Sadly, Cardinals appear to be unable to talk to the likes of us. We received a prompt refusal.

To which, bearing in mind the parable of the widow and the judge in Luke 18, your Editor has replied, as below, persisting in seeking for justice. We'll keep you posted.

Please pray for him and for us.



CWO

Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church

His Eminence Vincent Cardinal Nichols,
Archbishop's House
London SW1P 1QJ

2nd August, 2017

Dear Cardinal Nichols,

I was saddened, though scarcely surprised, to receive your reply of 28th June. I have reflected much upon it.

Firstly, we are grieved that our Church's hierarchy does its people no favours by its continuing intransigence in refusing to see women as real people. Tim Kaine, recently appointed Hillary Clinton's running-mate, spoke for millions last year in his statement before Pope Francis's address to Congress:

"If women are not accorded equal place in the leadership of the Catholic Church and the other great world religions, they will always be treated as inferiors in earthly matters as well..... There is nothing this Pope could do that would improve the world as much as putting the Church on a path to ordain women."

Does not the continuing rise of women in secular governance give the Vatican pause for thought? Three out of the UK's four countries are now led by women. Globally, women leaders continue to move centre stage. The Church's self-contradictory 'complementarity' theory struggles in the face of common sense.

Secondly, please consider this. Had your soul been assigned an XX chromosome instead of the XY it randomly received, you yourself would never have been:

- an altar server
- a priest
- a Bishop
- an Archbishop, nor indeed
- a Cardinal.

According to the Church, the last four doors would always be shut in your face. As they are to us.

Is not this an unforgivable injustice - and waste?

Yours sincerely,

Mary Ring, CWO Member.

AGM 2016

Saturday, 1st October, 11am - 5pm

ST BEDE'S PASTORAL CENTRE
17 Blossom St, York, YO24 1AQ
01904 643 238
<http://www.bar-convent.org.uk/>



THE BAR CONVENT

Our AGM will be held in St Bede's Pastoral Centre adjoining the Bar Convent. The Bar Convent is England's oldest living convent, founded in 1686 as a school for girls and still home to members of the Congregation of Jesus today. The Grade 1 Listed eighteenth-century buildings house a state-of-the-art Exhibition, an award-winning Café and highly-rated Guest House, plus newly refurbished Conference facilities.

CATHOLIC PREMISES

This is the second time CWO has held its AGM on Catholic premises. After our AGM in the morning, we will be sharing lunch which will be provided. Hot drinks will also be provided at the start of the AGM and at lunchtime.





In the afternoon, Sister Patricia Harriss CJ will talk to us about the life of **MARY WARD**, the founder of her community. Mary was a pioneer of education for women and girls, who felt that nuns did not need to be in the cloister, but out and about as apostolic teaching sisters. She tried to get her fledgling community approved by Rome, but at every turn, met opposition (sound familiar??). Mary died without seeing her work come to fruition. Nowadays her order is flourishing worldwide.

After Sr Patricia's talk, we will have the opportunity to visit the

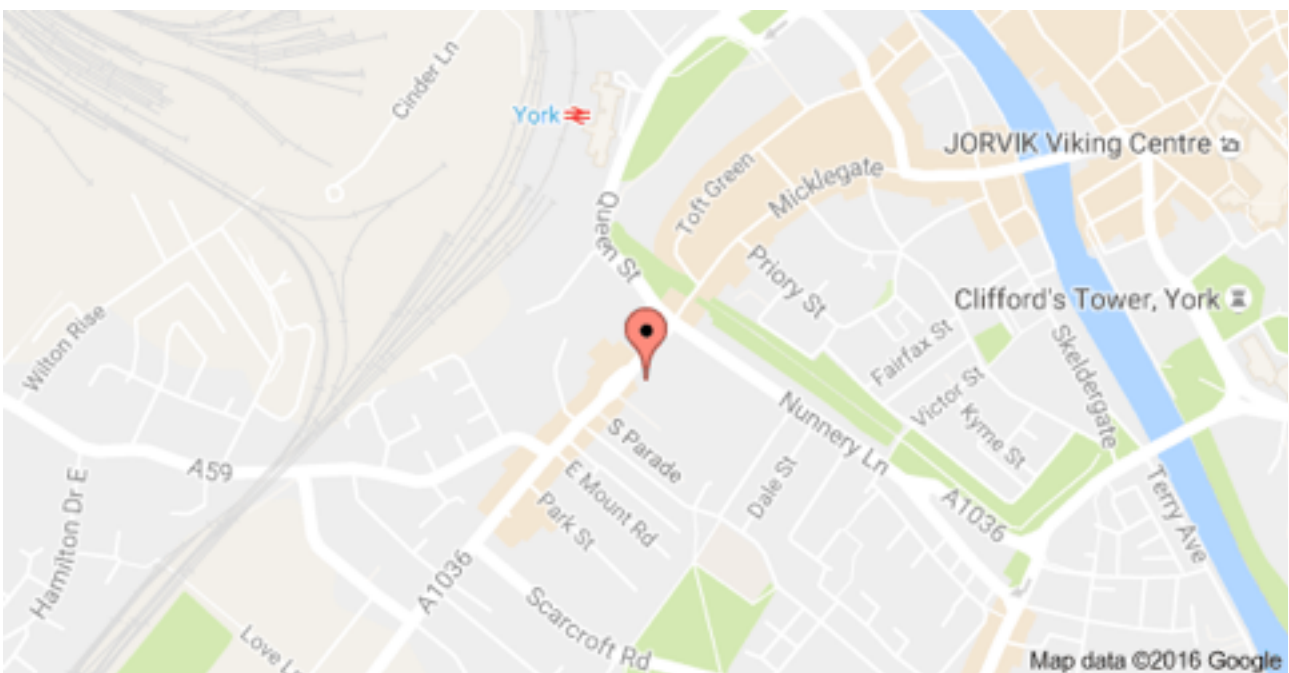
new and interactive exhibition on Mary Ward and her sisters, accompanied by Sr Patricia, who will happily answer any questions we have. The cost of this will be met by CWO. After this, we will go for tea somewhere in York together for those who can stay.



DIRECTIONS:

The Bar Convent is less than 5 mins walk from York Train Station. Come out of the main entrance of the station. Turn right. The road bends slightly and goes a little uphill. You get to a junction with traffic lights and will see a long building on the other side of the road with blue shutters. This is the Bar Convent. Cross the road and walk along in front of the Bar Convent going out of town (away from Micklegate Bar). This is Blossom St. St Bede's is the next building alongside the Bar Convent.

Further information: katharinesalmon@hotmail.com



EL ORDEN SACERDOTAL



We continue our series of summarizing in English a little book in Spanish by German Benedictine monk **ANSELM GRÜN** entitled 'The sacerdotal order' (*El Orden Sacerdotal*, 2002, Madrid, San Pablo; German original 'Die Weihe'). This month, Séverine Deneulin (Bath) summarizes the remaining pages of the chapter on 'The ritual of ordination' (pp. 30-39).

Note particularly the last section, *Other forms of consecration*.

The giving of bread and wine

After the anointing of hands, the bishop gives the newly ordained bread and wine, saying: 'Receive the offering of the holy people to present them to God; consider what you are doing, imitate what you commemorate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Cross of the Lord'. These words speak less about the power to transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ than the mystery of the Eucharist. The priest will have to remember these words when celebrating the Eucharist becomes routine. Being a priest is a constant challenge, and the priest must each enter each day deeper in the mystery of Christ's self-giving through the daily celebration of the Eucharist.

The sign of peace and concelebration

The bishop, along with the other priests, give the newly ordained the sign of peace with a kiss or embrace. This is to express that the new priests are admitted into a community, and that they must feel at home, including emotionally, among the other priests. The newly ordained then concelebrate the Eucharist with the bishop.

Blessing

After the blessing from the bishop, the newly ordained give their first sacerdotal blessing. If there is often a widespread popular belief that the blessing of a newly ordained has more power than the one coming through the hands of tired and well-trodden priests, it is most probably linked to the perception that the Holy Spirit wants to realize in us this newness that we desire.

Episcopal consecration

The episcopacy is the fullness of the presbyteral ordination. The priest simply participates in the priestly office of the bishop. The order of the ritual is the same, except for some aspects. The laying of hands is done in the presence of the body of the bishops and not the priests, and the bishop receives the Gospel above his head: the bishop has a duty with regard to Scriptures and he must transmit the teachings of the Apostles. His head, and not his hands, are anointed. This expresses that the head of the Church is not the bishop but Christ.

Diaconal ordination

Vatican II has revived the office as an office in itself and not a step towards presbyteral ordination. The ordination ritual is the same as the presbyteral one until the laying of hands, done only by the bishop, and not the community of priests. The consecration prayer emphasizes service. After receiving the diaconal vestments, the bishop gives the Gospel saying: 'Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practise what you teach.' The ordination ritual highlights the liturgical service of the deacon: to accompany the priest in the celebration of the Eucharist and the proclamation of the Word.

Other forms of consecration

Of virgins: The consecration prayers will reflect the specific spiritual gifts of the woman being consecrated, and what she can do in a male Church. 'The Church cannot reject for much longer the spiritual experiences of women without drying up from within.' (p. 36)

Of abbesses and abbots: They are consecrated for the ministry of presiding a monastic community. This ritual demonstrates the equality between men and women.

Could there be a case for the consecration of other ecclesial ministers? We need signs so that those who start their office within the Church can do so in a way that touches the heart. The ritual can be a catalyst of energy.

Next, we start summarizing the last chapter on 'The sacerdotal life'.

THERESE VANIER

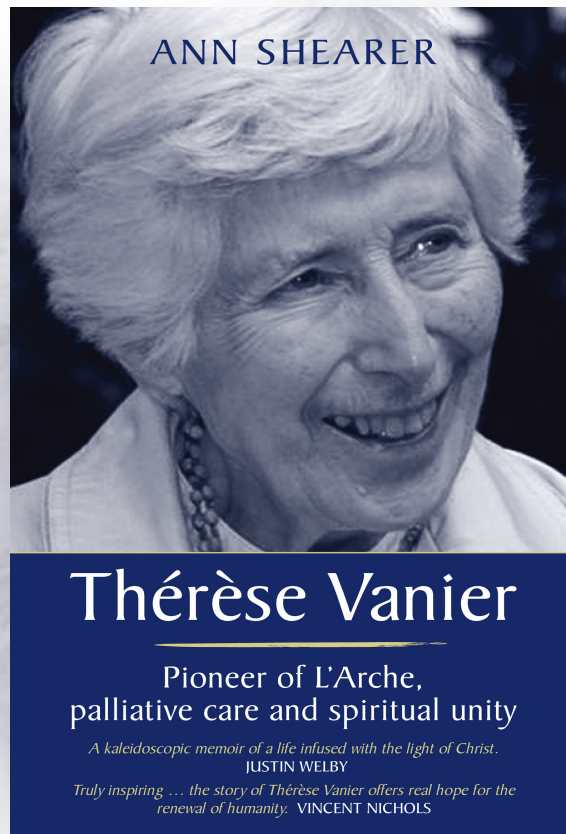
PIONEER

Our **Sue Williamson** makes two contributions to this beautiful new biography of Thérèse Vanier. She offers her personal reflections on conversations with Thérèse about ecumenism, as well as additional material on ecumenism and other topics.

“It could also be said,” writes Sue, “that Thérèse showed an interest in many of the writings about women's ministry, although she remained totally loyal to the RC church in her religious practice.”

‘Thérèse’s life was sheer grace to those who met her and knew her. This beautiful tribute speaks of a life of service to Jesus Christ, and captures how the light of Christ shone through her in her deep faithfulness, tireless work for justice and presence in love to those most vulnerable.’

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



Available in paperback - July 2016

£12.99*

176 pp, 216 x 135 mm, 978-0-232-53251-7

Thérèse Vanier was the founder of the first L'Arche community in the UK and continued to bring her unique blend of personal commitment and professional rigour to L'Arche's wider international family as well as its British one. A distinguished doctor, she worked with Cecily Saunders at the world-renowned St Christopher's Hospice and did more than anyone to bring the principles and practice of palliative medicine to the French-speaking world. As a Roman Catholic, she was deeply involved in work for greater ecumenism among Christian churches and understanding between different faiths. This biography draws on the memories of nearly 50 people who knew her to offer a tribute to Thérèse and a critical assessment of her lasting legacy in the three areas of her work.

Ann Shearer is a Jungian analyst and writer in London, and knew Thérèse Vanier for many years. In 2013, she translated Jean Vanier's *Signs of the Times* for DLT.

* By keeping hold of this flyer and using offer code TV2016 you can purchase the book at 30% discount off the RRP from dltbooks.com - offer ends 1/10/2016

DARTON · LONGMAN + TODD

www.dltbooks.com

ORDERS: Norwich Books and Music, 13a Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich NR6 5DR
Tel: 01603 785 925 Fax: 01603 785915 E-mail: orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk

@dlt_books

NODDFA 2016



Milli, above right, would like to make some comments about her stay at Noddfa, says her owner Liz:

"I am a golden cocker spaniel and like any carrot-top I can be quite excitable. My Mum calls it 'vocal.' However, at Noddfa it is such a calm and peaceful place that I managed to keep my cool very nicely. You must come sometime as it is magical. It is not just that the forest is full of enormously tall, green trees. Or that you can hear the sound of the sea mingled with cars. It is not because little animals scurry seductively around while I sniff the flowers and bushes. It is not because of the food but it is the feeling of love.

That is what I appreciate most at Noddfa. It is that feeling that although I have only been once before that I really do know the place. We must be visiting it in our dreams. It all seems so familiar.

I had lots of time to rest and recharge well-worn batteries. Even though Mimi (my black and white Cocker Spaniel friend) and I would have like to listen in to all the activities of Alexander Technique, planning of liturgy and proposing new ways of how the Roman Catholic Church should be, we did love this opportunity to chill in our room. We were allowed to join in with the traipse around all the trees and we did our best to make sure everyone felt safe and comforted. I nearly forgot to tell you that I am a RECOVERY Assistance Dog for Mental Health, as that is my job.

The highlight of the weekend was when all of us gathered to find out what a wonderful mission us RECOVERY Assistance Dogs have to help humans find wellbeing. As you probably have noticed humans talk far too much and get quite stressed doing this. While we, as dogs, are honoured and devout practitioners of sitting still and doing nothing. We love to help others to do this.

You should have seen us show the humans how well trained we are. We gave them an opportunity to get us to sit, stay, lie down and watch them. My Mum showed my new found friends (they had given me treats) how I tap her with my nose to reassure her. Mimi taps with her paw. Mum is so much less anxious and fearful with me around to comfort and protect her. Quite honestly I do wonder if we really are the "next best thing to God on this earth!" as she says. If she only knew what we were thinking sometimes.

Anyway, you missed something absolutely fabulous at Noddfa. Do come next year as you may get to meet us RECOVERY Assistance Dogs. We will make sure you will not regret it as you will never be the same again."

THANK YOU, MILLI, says our Editor. We've developed a severe case of retreat envy. However, by putting next year's date into our diaries NOW we can be sure of booking ourselves a place in 2017:

NODDFA 2017, 23RD - 25TH JUNE

NODDFA REFLECTIONS

And many thanks to the Retreatants for their own Reflection here, collated for us by Pippa.

We summarise here in two parts, the second to follow in our next eNews.

During our CWO Retreat we reflected on our vision and structure of church and the gifts we have to offer. This was undertaken as an exercise where we assumed a “blank canvas” and could envisage our varied notions of the ideal. We agreed to share these via CWO eNews and this (inevitably), is a brief summary of our extended session. We were encouraged to recognise our gifts and dream!



Vision

- Rediscovering glimpses of the Early Church with the emphasis on the way members loved and shared with each other, having things in common, living simply and discussing ways forward together.
- Welcoming women's priestly ministry and women in all other roles.
- Leadership and other roles may be temporary.
- Retaining RC tradition as it has developed is important for some: transubstantiation, the importance of Mary as Mother of God, incensing the coffin and other outward signs.
- Valuing celibacy (but not exclusively) is important for some.
- Having a Sacramental church.
- Reaching out to the marginalised, and responding to the needs of the community.
- Ensuring a welcoming community: eating and drinking together.
- Responding to poverty e.g. credit unions.

- Responding to refugees.
- Respecting and celebrating ecumenical and inter faith diversity.

An international Church has different cultures and aspects of the church will be different in different places.

Structures

- Community building: with small groups, minimal hierarchy with some organisation but unregimented. Developing ways of including all.
- Buildings for meeting conducive to community building and need: a long nave is perhaps not the right shape for this. It was acknowledged that places become sacred because people have prayed there. Having large and small spaces available.
- Training available for leadership, preaching, and other roles.
- Leaders perhaps elected for short period, a notion of equal leadership, liturgy development together. Perhaps a different liturgy leader each week.
- Spiritual formation/discussion not necessarily done by clergy.
- Paid workers for justice issues, community building etc.
- Ministry of encouragement.
- Diverse communities: poor/wealthy, different races, celebrating diverse gender, sexual orientation, welcoming the sick, mentally ill, all ages.
- Finding ways to celebrate needs separately and together.
- House groups but to be aware in a diverse area some poorer people may be sensitive about hosting a group in their home.
- Healing Services. Services including meditation and silence.
- Living simply: Traidcraft, CAFOD, Christian Aid, etc.



❖ Your views? Send to: The Editor:

news@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & MISSION was launched in September 2013 to provide excellent theological and biblical training that is open to all. We aim to develop a learning community which not only deepens faith and understanding, but also equips people to bring fresh insights into every sphere of life and discipleship.

harrogate
school of
**theology &
mission**

Our fourth season includes eight Saturday morning sessions featuring well qualified speakers either live or recorded on DVD. Each is skilled in communicating their message and passionate about its relevance for today. These events include an excellent continental breakfast served from 9.30 am, with the formal session beginning at 10.00 am prompt. See www.hstm.org or contact Tim Hurren 01423 568218/550730 for full details.



We are delighted that Revd Dr Alan Garrow (former Canon Theologian at Bath Abbey and now Vicar of St Peter's Harrogate) will be with us on 24th September to get the new season off the ground. Alan will explore why did people in the first century decide to follow Jesus? On the face of it, it seems an odd choice - one likely to make life considerably more difficult and dangerous. And yet, people joined the Jesus-movement in their thousands. Alan proposes that it was the way the first Christians ate together that caused others to join them - which leads to the obvious question, why not eat in this way today?

Live lectures (at St Mark's HG2 8AY) are £8 per morning, or season ticket £25 for the series of four. Students: £5 per session or £15 for the season. **Bibletrack seminars** (at Mowbray Church HG1 5AT) cost £5 per morning, students £3. Payable on the day in cash or by cheque made out to St Peter's Church, Harrogate

MEDIA TRAINING T.B.A...

Do you wish you could speak more confidently about women's ordination?

Would you like guidance and tips on how to present our case comfortably?

NATCOG

is looking into the possibility of some

MEDIA TRAINING *in the New Year*

Whether you're a beginner, or seasoned responder, please drop us a line if you think you may be interested:

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!

Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
CWO rectangular badge	Purple with white lettering Renewed Ordained Ministry for Everyone		Free (except please add postage £2)	
NEW!!! 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 for how to pay.

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

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

Coming soon!

MIDLANDS GROUP,
SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER, 2 - 4.30PM

'WOMEN'S ROLE IN THE CHURCH - A DIALOGUE'

