



CWO

A leading voice for women in the R C Church

eNews

Feb 2018 Issue 107

# VOICES OF FAITH



## SILENCED? NO!

“Ultimately, we did not see a reason why these women should have to go through an ‘approval process’ by anyone”

**Chantal Götz**, of **Voices of Faith**, explains why **Mary McAleese** has been made keynote speaker in Rome, at **Why Women Matter**, on 8th March.

# in this issue

## FEBRUARY

	PAGE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARY MCALEESE AT VOICES OF FAITH, ROME	3
NODDFA - CWO ANNUAL RETREAT - LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!	4
WIJNGAARDS NEEDS OUR HELP	5
POPE FRANCIS CALL TO YOUTH	6
CWO SAINT, EILEEN SIKORSKI, RIP	7
QUEST CONFERENCE AND BOOKING	8
NEWS & LINKS	9
CWO SAINTS, PRAYER AND MERCHANDISE	10 - 12

“DOUBLESPEAK” is the term used by **Astrid Lobo Gajiwala**, a consultant to the Voices of Faith foundation, about the Catholic Church’s “asking for all voices to be heard and then censoring some.”



eNews reports on the headlining of **Mary McAleese** at the International Women’s Day Conference on March 8th in Rome by **Voices of Faith**.

See p 3, and let us **KEEP SPEAKING OUT**,

MARY RING, EDITOR

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

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicWomensOrdination/>

<http://catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/>

# VOICES OF FAITH



**CWO extends its congratulations to Voices of Faith** for their commonsense decision not to give way to the Vatican Congregation for Laity, Family, and Life.

Prefect **Cardinal Kevin Farrell** struck three speakers' names from their list for their March 8th International Women's Day Conference, **Why Women Matter**.

**Ssenfuka Joanita Warry**, who campaigns for LGBT rights in Uganda, and **Zuzanna Radzik**, a Polish theologian specializing in Christian-Jewish relations, were banned by the Cardinal.

In Ireland, however, outrage greeted the news that former Irish President **Mary McAleese** led the list. Herself a practising Catholic and trained Canon Lawyer, she is the ideal panellist to speak to the world about why women matter.



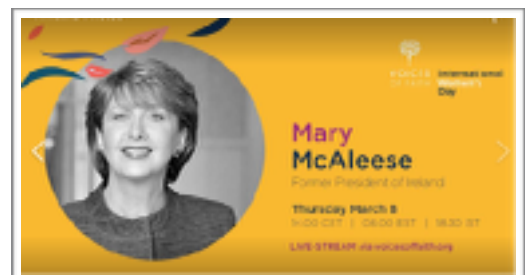
*The Jesuit Headquarters, Rome*

She is widely supposed to have been banned for her support of LGBT rights and her views on women's secondary place within the Catholic Church. Chantal Götz, Director of the Foundation, explains that they decided to move the conference from the Vatican to the Jesuit headquarters, and to make McAleese their keynote speaker.

**"Ultimately," said Götz, "we did not see a reason why these women should have to go through an 'approval process' by anyone"**

"After several years of being ignored despite repeated invitations to the pope and other cardinals and despite trying to avoid any suggestion of criticism or challenge, I think [Götz] decided the time had come to change tactics," said **Tina Beattie**, Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton, speaking to the NCR.

Dr. McAleese's keynote speech will be streamed live from the Voices of Faith website on March 8th, right.



<https://www.ncronline.org/news/people/voices-faiths-vatican-criticism-signals-shift-avoiding-controversy>

# CWO ANNUAL RETREAT NODDFA

15th - 17th June, 2018

## BOOKINGS CLOSE SOON!



Come and experience reflection and relaxation in the beautiful surroundings of the Noddfa Spirituality Centre, Penmaenmawr, N Wales. Arrive Friday from 4pm, until after lunch on Sunday, and enjoy sharing our interests, skills and liturgy as friends in CWO.

In offering an opportunity for sharing and reflection, the CWO retreat may also explore various aspects of what we deem to be divine and how that may tie in with a call to ministry.

Booking is simple! Send your deposit of £20 payable to Noddfa by April 15th to:

**Sue Williamson** at **16 Lloyd Court, Slagrove Place, London SE13 7LP.**

[suemacliammor33@gmail.com](mailto:suemacliammor33@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/NoddfaCentre>

# WIJNGAARDS INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC RESEARCH

## NEEDS OUR HELP PLEASE READ AND ACT!

"The Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research is an independent think tank and the home of [womenpriests.org](http://womenpriests.org) - the largest online library of research on women's ordination. Our websites are used as a free resource by hundreds of thousands of people a year from all corners of the globe - including a large readership inside the Vatican!



The Vatican has vast resources dedicated to reinforcing its disputed teaching, yet Wijngaards is a private educational charity relying solely on donations from friends and readers. This means we can be independent, but we also have to ask for help, for [sponsors](#) and [volunteers](#).

**Thank you to CWO and all your members and readers for your support over the years."**

**Miriam Duignan, Communications Director**



**if 1,000 readers  
could give  
£5 a month,  
Wijngaards' future  
would  
be safe**  
[http://  
www.wijngaardsinstitute.  
com/donations/](http://www.wijngaardsinstitute.com/donations/)

Help the Church Think Critically and Help Teachings Evolve!

Since 1983 the WICR has relied on donations to build a world-wide consensus for church reforms. To continue and consolidate our work we need £60,000 a year, or put another way: 1000 supporters who will pledge £5 a month.

**Regular monthly giving helps us to plan ahead**, and it cuts our administration costs, meaning that more money can go directly into our research. Moreover, our tiny staff and numerous volunteers ensure small contributions go a long way. So, every contribution helps the lives of thousands of believers.

Furthermore, **if you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated via GiftAid!** This is because we are a UK registered charity (no. 326421).

**An easy way to become a monthly donor is online at** [www.wijngaardsinstitute.com/make-a-donation](http://www.wijngaardsinstitute.com/make-a-donation) or at [www.justgiving.com/housetopcare/](http://www.justgiving.com/housetopcare/), where you will be able to pay by Credit Card or PayPal.

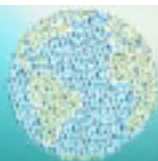
Alternatively, you can fill in the Standing Order Form in the next page or, **for a one-off donation**, write a cheque payable to "Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research". Once you have completed the Standing Order Form (or a cheque), please post it to:

**The Wijngaards Institute  
111a High Street  
Rickmansworth - WD3 1AN**



Scan the QR code to go to our online donation page.

# POPE FRANCIS CALLS YOUTH!



*Catholic Church Reform Int'l.*

A global network seeking renewal of the Church

February 22, 2018

Inviting young people to communicate online with Pope Francis - letting him know your wants and needs of the Church. Let him know how this Faith Community can become more relevant to your lives?



## Involvement of young people is urgently needed:

The time is now for all young people who want to see change in the Church take action. If you are between the ages of 16 and 29, you can [sign up on Facebook](#) to join in this all-important meeting and make your voices heard online. Pope Francis is inviting all youth - whether Christian or non-Christian, whether practicing Catholic or those who've dropped out. If you are someone who has children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, call on them to take action. Even if they have given up on the Church and moved on with their lives, they are the very people who could influence change for the good. The future of the Church rests in the hands of youth. It is evident that the vast majority of church goers are the geriatric generation. When this groups passes away, unless young people are listened to and find relevance in the church's teaching, the Church will dwindle into oblivion.

The NCR asked recently:

[Why are young people going, going, gone?](#)

Anyone aged 16 - 29 can sign up on FaceBook to tell His Holiness what they think:

<https://www.facebook.com/synod2018/photos/a.1474229469325310.1073741827.1474227765992147/1674903622591226/?type=1&theater>

# Eileen Sikorski RIP



<http://catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk/videos/> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bskfEkFzo4M&feature=youtu.be>

**Eileen was a much-loved member of Leeds CWO**, who came to meetings when she could and was an interested, encouraging voice whenever she was in touch with CWO. I loved and respected her and was aware that as she was in her mid-90s, sadly, one day we would be writing her obituary. She died today: 19th February. Eileen is regarded as one of the Women Elders of CWO who has been a member of many Catholic movements of the last hundred years.

Her video is on the CWO website (see links above) and we get a sense of her enthusiastic faith and excitement, her wisdom and great, but underplayed, life experience. She was a woman of faith, love and humility. How many times does she talk about being hungry for stimulation, ideas being exciting and fascinating, that after Vatican II windows and even doors might be opened, and forty years later still being enthusiastic about possibilities?

Eileen was a realist and knew at first hand the struggles within the institutional Church. However it did not make her bitter or discouraged. The importance of keeping going even though it might take many years was something she lived by and encouraged in others. I shall miss her smile and genuine excitement about her faith and the reforming possibilities ahead.

We are delighted that her family have given us permission to add her to our List of CWO Saints.

**Pippa Bonner    19th February, 2018.**



Fr James Martin SJ, one of the headline speakers at the 2018 Quest Conference, points out the false dichotomy of advocating building a bridge between the LGBT Catholic community and the Catholic Church. He stresses that sexually and gender variant Catholics are already a part of the church. In this case when we refer to the church we in fact mean the institutional church - the Vatican, church officials and the clergy.

One of the original aims and purposes of Quest is to establish and extend a dialogue between "homosexual (now expressed as LGBT+) Catholics and members of the clergy". The election of Pope Francis in March 2013 marked the beginning of a pontificate (from the Latin *pontifex* (*pons* = bridge + *facere* = make)) that has been full of surprises. Pope Francis possesses a basic understanding that LGBT people are marginalised and acknowledges the need for our pastoral accompaniment, believing that it is "what Jesus would do." Thus the building blocks from which greater inclusion and justice can arise are now in place. Quest has risen to the challenge of reaching out to the clergy, having already met with a few of the English bishops. The 2018 conference will focus on the need to continue, deepen and widen this process.

**2018 Speakers will include**

**Fr James Martin** is a Jesuit priest, editor at large of *America* magazine, consultant to the Vatican's Secretariat for Communication and a best-selling author. His latest book, published in 2017, is *Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and the LGBT community can enter into a relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity*. Before entering the Jesuits in 1988, Father Martin worked in corporate finance at General Electric in New York City and Connecticut. He will be joining us via video link.



in addition he is known for his firm but patient insistence on truthfulness in matters gay as an ordinary part of basic Christianity, and for his pastoral outreach in the same sphere. James' most recent work (2013) is *Jesus the Forgiving Victim* a programme of induction into the Christian Faith for adults. His last appearance at a Quest Conference was at Sheffield in 2007.

**The Venue**



**BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY**

**James Alison** is a Catholic theologian, priest and author. He has studied, lived and worked in Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile and the United States as well as his native England. He earned his doctorate in theology from the Jesuit faculty in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. His principal claim to fame is as one of those who has done most to bring the work of the great French thinker René Girard to a wider public. In

Located in the historic heart of the city of **Lincoln**, just a few minutes walk from Lincoln Cathedral, Castle and the old Roman city, the university is a beautifully green and pleasant campus. Robert Grosseteste, was a thirteenth century scientist, philosopher, educator, and Bishop of Lincoln. His remains lie in the south-east transept of the Cathedral.



for **BOOKING FORM** & more info:

<https://questgaycatholic.wufoo.eu/forms/pkbakqi0xp0jiq/>



# NEWS & LINKS



ENews caught up with **Baroness Sheila Hollins** (third from left, back row) on the news that Pope Francis has renewed the **Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors**, but has substituted nine new members for six of the original board. Baroness Hollins points out that she has completed four years as a founder member, which is “quite enough in one role”, and in addition to ongoing projects, also chairs the Scientific Board for the Centre for Child Protection at the Gregorian University in Rome. Plenty to be getting on with.

---



## WOMEN, EQUALITY AND FAITH

**Thursday 8th March,  
Midland Arts Centre, Birmingham.**

**Tickets (£5)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-equality-and-faith-tickets-41310106641?aff=efbeventtix>

---

**CREATED EQUAL** is now available on DVD and video on demand. It tells the story of Alejandra Batista, called to Catholic priesthood. “No-one, including the Catholic Church, gets to be above the law...”

**Watch the trailer here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1Bw2UFlonM&feature=share>



## 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  
Anne Hepburn  
Peter Nelson  
Stanley Baxter  
David Konstant  
Eileen Sikorski

Pray for us



## 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!

		how many	unit cost	total
Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.60	
Car sticker CWO logo website and phone number	Purple on cream		1.50	
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 to Pat Brown, 4 West Park Gardens, Leeds, LS8 2HD				

#### \*Postage and packing

orders up to £10	3.00
orders £10 - 20	5.00
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](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

address as above for CWO Merchandise

