

CATHOLIC WOMEN SPEAK

Bringing Our Gifts to the Table

SYMPOSIUM AND RECEPTION

Pontifical University Antonianum

Thursday, 1st October, 2015

Feast Day of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux
"I can nourish myself on nothing but truth."
(*St Thérèse of Lisieux*)

www.catholicwomenspeak.com

Sponsored by *The Tablet* and the University of Roehampton, London

WELCOME

The members of the Catholic Women Speak Network warmly welcome you to this symposium and reception to celebrate the launch of *Catholic Women Speak: Bringing Our Gifts to the Table*, edited by the Catholic Women Speak Network and published by Paulist Press. The Catholic Women Speak Network was founded in January 2015 as an online forum for theological enquiry and dialogue relating to issues affecting Catholic women in diverse contexts and cultures. It is administered by the Digby Stuart Research Centre for Religion, Society and Human Flourishing at the University of Roehampton.

Catholic Women Speak has been compiled by a team of editors, translators and proof readers who worked to bring the book to completion in time for the Fourteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme of “the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world,” taking place in Rome from 4th to 25th October 2015. The book is a unique anthology of writings by 44 Catholic women from around the world, including well-known theologians and women telling their personal stories of faith and struggle.

All profits from the sale of *Catholic Women Speak* will go to the Catherine of Siena Virtual College, which is based at the University of Roehampton and offers online courses exploring gender, justice, religion and theology.

From the Foreword by Revd Dr Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator, SJ:

The voices in this anthology enrich and expand the banquet of ecclesial conversation with assorted gifts worthy of a new Pentecost. It is of the nature of the Spirit of the risen Christ to empower disciples with courage in the proclamation of the truth. Similarly, it is a healthy mark of the Church to be able to listen with joy and gratitude to what each voice brings to the table (see *Laudato Si'* 155).

We express our profound gratitude to Sister Mary Melone, Rector of the Pontifical University Antonianum, for hosting and helping to organise this event, to Trace Murphy of Paulist Press for working to tight deadlines to ensure publication of the book in advance of the Synod, and to all our sponsors and supporters. We thank the Holy Trinity for the grace, love and friendship that have inspired our visions and blessed our endeavours. We ask Mary, Mother of God, brave woman of faith and compassionate mother of the poor, to pray for us.

The Catholic Women Speak Network
Rome – 1st October, 2015

PROGRAMME

2.30 pm **Welcome and introduction**

Tina Beattie, Professor of Catholic Studies, University of
Roehampton
Sister Mary Melone, Rector, Pontifical University Antonianum
HE Mónica Jiménez de la Jara, Chilean Ambassador to the
Holy See

2.40 pm **The Synod on the Family and Views from the Pews**

Julie Clague

2.50 pm **Women in Church and Society: changing lives, changing
roles, changing visions**

Cettina Militello, Ursula King, Catherine Pepinster, Anne Arabome
Chair: Susanna Snyder

3.40 pm **Women and the Church of the Poor: speaking from the
margins**

Ana Lourdes Suárez, Agnes Brazal, Nontando Hadebe, Gillian
Paterson
Chair: Séverine Deneulin

4.30 pm **Women and the Forthcoming Synod: bringing our gifts to
the table**

Mary McAleese, Lucetta Scaraffia, Carolina del Río, Cristina Lledo
Gomez
Chair: Susan O'Brien

5.20 pm **Open Forum**

Chair: Julie Clague

5.55 pm **Welcome to the Performance and Reception**

HE Nigel Baker, British Ambassador to the Holy See
Dr Christopher Stephens, Principal, Southlands College,
University of Roehampton

6.00 pm **Performance of Music and Dance**

***“Suspended or Artemisia”*: a dance inspired by the painter Artemisia Gentileschi**

Katja Vaghi, music by Valgeir Sigurðsson

“Her brothers return home late at night, but Artemisia has still not allowed herself to open the window even now that no one can see her, and breathe in the fresh air. She is still drawing with a skilled concentration that almost belies the signs of tiredness, her narrowed eyes surrounded by dark shadows.” (Anna Banti, *Artemisia*, University of Nebraska Press, 1988, p. 28)

What if past breath could be made visible? What if we could see images of our foremothers as they go about their everyday lives? The work “Suspended” is an exploration of a solitary female figure, lost in her breath, attending to her work. The work is loosely based on Anna Banti’s novel *Artemisia*, written during the occupation of Florence in 1944 and first published in 1947.

Banti describes her heroine, Artemisia Gentileschi, as “one of the most talented female artists, and one of the few, recorded by history. She was born in Rome in 1598 to a family of Pisan origin. Daughter of Orazio, an excellent painter. Her honour and her love violated on the threshold of womanhood. The reviled victim in a public rape trial. ... One of the first women to uphold, in her speech and in her work, the right to do congenial work and the equality of spirit between the sexes.” (Foreword, *Artemisia*, 1988).

Musical recital

Gulliver Ralston (pianist), Kristy Swift (soprano)

Handel: “Farewell!” from *Jephtha*

Mendelssohn: “Jerusalem! Jerusalem!” from *St Paul*, Op.36

Purcell: “The Blessed Virgin’s Expostulation”

Massenet: “O mes soeurs” from *Mary Magdalen*

6.40 pm **Reception**

7.30 pm Evening ends

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELISTS AND PERFORMERS

Anne Arabome SSS, originally from Nigeria, is a member of the Sisters of Social Service in Los Angeles, California, USA. She holds a doctor of ministry degree in spirituality from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and is working on a doctorate in systematic theology at the University of Roehampton, London.

Tina Beattie is Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of Roehampton in London. She has published in the areas of Marian theology, gender and sacramentality, and theology and human rights. She is a past president of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain and a member of Cafod's theological advisory group. She and her husband have four children and a grandson.

Agnes M. Brazal is professor at the St Vincent School of Theology, Adamson University, Philippines, and founding member and former President of the Catholic Theological Society of the Philippines (DaKaTeo). She has authored and co-edited five books, a textbook series, and essays on theologies and ethics.

Julie Clague lectures in Christian theology and ethics at the University of Glasgow and researches in the field of moral theology. In 2014, she edited a special issue of the *Heythrop Journal* on 'Faith, Family and Fertility', dealing with topics of relevance for the Synod on the Family and for Catholic engagement with the UN sustainable development goals. She edits the European forum of Catholic theological ethics in the World Church (www.catholicethics.com).

Séverine Deneulin is Associate Professor in International Development, University of Bath, UK. Séverine specialises in the ethical framework of the capability approach in Latin America. She also researches the role of religion in international development and social justice. She is the author and co-author of a number of academic books and journal articles on religion, development and the capability approach.

Cristina Lledo Gomez has a PhD in Theology from Charles Sturt University, Australia. Her thesis was titled "Mother Church as Metaphor in the Vatican II documents." For the 2015-2016 academic year, she is a Visiting Research Fellow at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry. Cristina is a Filipina native but lives in Australia with her husband and two children.

Nontando Hadebe has recently completed a Fulbright Scholarship at Emmanuel College in Boston, USA and prior to this was an International Fellow at the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University. She completed her doctorate at St Augustine College, South Africa, where she teaches pastoral and systematic theology. She is a member of the Circle of African women theologians.

Ursula King is Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Bristol, England. Educated in Germany, France, India and England, she has lectured all over the world, published widely and holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Edinburgh (1996), Oslo (2000), Dayton/Ohio (2003). Married for over fifty years, she and her husband have four daughters and six grandchildren.

Mary McAleese was President of Ireland from 1997 until 2011. Her focus on peace and reconciliation culminated in the historic state visit to Ireland by HM Queen Elizabeth II in May 2011. A Belfast-born cradle Catholic, she is a former professor of law and university pro-vice Chancellor. Since retirement she has qualified as a canon lawyer and is completing a doctorate in children's rights in canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Married with three children and one grandchild she, her husband and family campaigned for marriage equality for homosexual citizens in the recent Irish referendum.

Cettina Militello, PhD, STD, is associate professor at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Liturgy in Rome and directs the Constanza Scelfo Institute for problems of the laity and women in the Church (Department of the Italian Society for Theological Research). She holds the Chair of Woman and Christianity at the Pontifical Theological Faculty Marianum. Her academic interests include ecclesiology, Mariology, women in the Church, and the relationship between ecclesiology and liturgy.

Susan O'Brien is a visiting lecturer at and former principal of Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge. She served as an adviser on further and higher education to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and she is a fellow of Heythrop College, University of London, and a Senior Member of St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge.

Gillian Paterson is a Research Associate and Visiting Lecturer at Heythrop College, University of London. Her doctoral work was on the theological and ecclesiological roots of HIV-related stigma. As coordinator of the Catholic Network for Population and Development, she is concerned to negotiate barriers to effective communication between policy makers, faith-based practitioners and academics, and between different sectors in the body politic.

Catherine Pepinster has had a long career in journalism. In 2004 she became the editor of the Catholic weekly, *The Tablet*, prior to which she was the executive Editor of *The Independent on Sunday*. She regularly commentates on religion on television and radio and is currently writing a book on the British and the papacy, to be published in 2016.

Gulliver Ralston is Director of Music at the University of Roehampton and Director of Music at Oxford's University Church. He studied music as a choral scholar at New College, Oxford, moving to St. Peter's

College to complete his doctorate on Richard Wagner with Roger Allen and the philosopher Roger Scruton. He teaches nineteenth and twentieth-century music history at Oxford, where he is also tutor for the Sarah Lawrence Programme at Wadham College.

Carolina del Río has a Master's in Fundamental Theology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. She is a journalist and licensed in Social Sciences and Information, and she teaches at the Santa Maria Spirituality Center. She is a member of the "Study Circle of Sexuality and the Gospel" at the Manuel Larrain Theological Center, and a participant in Argentina's "Teologanda" programme of study, research, and publications. She has four children.

Lucetta Scaraffia is an Italian historian with a special interest in stories of women and Christianity. She is a member of the National Committee on Bioethics and of the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization. She has published several books and contributes to numerous journals, including *l'Osservatore Romano* for which she edits the monthly column, *Donne, Chiesa, Mondo*. She has been appointed as an auditor at the forthcoming Synod on the Family.

Susanna Snyder is Assistant Director of the Catherine of Siena Virtual College. Her research focuses on immigration activism, spirituality and the arts. She actively supports refugee and asylum-seeking women, and is particularly interested in the social and political activism of women mystics. She was previously on the faculties at the University of Texas at Austin and Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ana Lourdes Suárez is Professor and Researcher at the Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina in Buenos Aires. She has a PhD in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego, and a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Buenos Aires. She coordinates the Interdisciplinary Program, "The Religious Presence in Buenos Aires Slums," and she participates in Argentina's "Teologanda" programme of study, research and publications.

Kristy Swift is a British-Australian soprano who has performed extensively throughout Europe and Australasia. Career highlights include solo performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; London's Barbican Centre (with the London Symphony Orchestra), and a programme of sacred Handel cantatas with selected instrumentalists from Musica Antiqua, Köln. Kristy has a particular interest in exploring the human stories behind many of sacred music's greatest masterpieces.

Katja Vaghi is a dancer, choreographer and dance researcher. With a formation as a modern dancer (Ballet Arts, New York City) and a background in Literature and Linguistics (MA English Studies, Zurich University), she is currently a PhD candidate in the Dance Department at the University of Roehampton.

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NOTES

