



# Catholic Women's League Newsletter



## Executive:

President:  
Dolores Spreitzer  
President-elect:  
Mary Bybliw  
Secretary:  
Marcella Sévigny  
Treasurer:  
Yvonne Turgeon  
Past President:  
Carol Deters  
Spiritual:  
Deanna Pellatt  
Organization:  
Mary Bybliw  
Christian Family Life:  
Frances Mroczo  
Education & Health:  
Donna Lazaruko &  
Angela Ostapovich  
Communications:  
Sandra Archer  
Resolutions &  
Legislation :  
MaryAnn Scherr &  
Marianne Dierker  
Spiritual Advisor:  
Fr. Francis Hengen

## League Prayer

We humbly pray You,  
O God our Father,  
to bless  
The Catholic Women's  
League of Canada.  
Bless  
our beloved country,  
our homes and  
families.  
Send Your Holy Spirit  
upon us  
to give light to our  
minds  
and strength to our  
wills  
that we may know and  
fulfil Your great law of  
charity.  
Teach us  
to share with others  
at home and abroad,  
the good things You  
have given us.  
This we ask through  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the intercession of  
our patroness,  
Our Lady of Good  
Counsel.  
Amen

## Mission Statement

*The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in Gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the People of God.*

## President's Message

As we have just finished summer and fall, and winter is upon us, what an opportune time to ponder the miracle of God's creation. If we take time to listen, God will whisper in our hearts the truth that faith, peace and people are far more important than possessions and power.

Since nominations are around the corner I ask each member to think about taking an executive position as the reward at the end is far greater than the fear of doing it. I have learned more by being on the executive than when I was just a member and my faith has grown with it. I encourage members to ask others to become members. It is only by increasing our membership that our organization can survive. We need to live our faith - it's a relationship with God, a way of life.

We have been honoured with the presence of our National President Velma Harasen in June and have been able to contribute to her Dream of Helping Children in the Holy Land.

I attended St. Mary's UCWLC Retreat in March with the theme "Jesus' Word from the Cross" with Sr. Bonnie Komarnicki and Sr. Marjika Konderewicz SSMI as presenters. I also had the privilege to attend St. Mary's UCWLC's 60th anniversary in September, with guest speaker Sister Theodosia.

I have had the privilege of presenting the Maple Leaf Service Pin to Marion Fletcher for her continual service to the league and the community.

Once again we had a very successful garage sale and I would like to thank everyone that helped in any way, whether with hands on or donating cakes and vegetables for the meals or items to the sale.

This past year we replaced the stand for the Mary Statue and are working at having stained glass put around the Confessional.

Ladies – remember to mark your calendars – the CWL National Convention will be held in Regina August 10-14, 2013!

May God bless all the members and pray that we continue to grow as Christian followers of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dolores Spreitzer  
St. Gerard Parish CWL Council President



### **Centred on Faith & Justice**

*O Lord,  
as women of faith,  
we come before  
you seeking justice  
for your world.*

*A world blessed by  
you the Creator,  
where the weak  
are protected  
and  
the riches of  
creation  
are shared  
so all may live in  
dignity.*

*A world where  
all of your children  
live in harmony and  
mutual respect;  
a world where  
peace is founded  
on justice and  
justice guided  
by faith.*

*Faith,  
hope  
and love;  
and the greatest  
of these  
is love.*

*May we be faithful  
to our  
League Prayer,  
always aware of  
the needs  
of others  
and  
seek justice  
for all, with love.*

*Amen*



## **Spiritual Advisor's Message**

Dear Sisters in the League,

"Hark, Harold, the angel, is about to begin singing!" Just what he will be singing is anybody's guess.

We are about to enter two of our great liturgical seasons – Advent and Christmas – but this time of year has become such a mish-mash of characters, myths, folklore, traditions, songs, symbols, etc. that sometimes we may indeed wonder what exactly are we celebrating.

Saturday, November 3, 8:00 am, I saw the first lighted tree in someone's window. It's a little hard to call it a 'Christmas' tree seven and a half weeks before Christmas. Saturday evening, November 3, many houses were already lit up with the appropriate reindeer in front. Maybe that is why clear lights have become so popular lately. You can use the same lights for Hallowe'en as you use for Christmas.

I don't want this to be just a cynical rant of people's practices. I truly think that most people honestly are looking for something wonderful to celebrate. We have an innate desire for gathering together, to celebrate hope and joy and something we really believe in. But when the true focus of that hope and joy has been lost, when the world no longer knows, or wants to hear the good news of the birth of Christ and the promise of salvation, then it will turn to another image/event/character that can become the focus. And so we hear again about Rudolph, and Frosty and the Grinch, the 'Christmas' Raccoons, winter solstice, Kwanza, seasonal trees, etc. We know we love to celebrate; we just forgot what we are celebrating.

**A Charlie Brown Christmas** is a great video to watch as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. Charlie is so excited that he was asked to direct the Christmas Pageant. But then he runs into Lucy and others who have different ideas than he has; music, decorations, characters. It is Linus in the end who is able to remind everybody what it is all about. "And there were shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night."

So how do we keep the focus on what the Church is asking us to celebrate in Advent and Christmas? We can't expect the world to understand these two seasons if we don't celebrate them well ourselves. This time of year always brings out one common complaint in parishes - there isn't enough time to get in all the activity we have planned before Christmas: parties, meals, gatherings, socials. Advent, a time to reflect, prepare and wait in anticipation has become a time of hustle and bustle that exhausts people and causes stress. And I'm not talking about the people out there in the world. I'm talking about people in parishes, Catholics who should really understand what a gift these two seasons are for us.

Maybe we could each ask ourselves, "What do I want to get out of Advent and Christmas? How can I best celebrate Advent so it prepares me for the glorious time of joy and hope that is Christmas? Am I willing to make some changes will enrich my experience of waiting in anticipation so I can welcome in full understanding of the angel's message of 'good news and great joy'?"

Father Francis Hengen

## Spiritual Advisor's Message (cont'd)

**C**  
is for  
"Charge it.  
I don't have the  
cash!" **H** is for hurried;  
one final  
mad dash. **R** is  
for ragged. That's how  
I feel. **I** is for itching to get the right  
deal. **S** is for "Sorry. I forgot your gift!" **T** is for  
traffic when I  
need to be swift. **M** is  
for murder. Is it still a sin?  
**A** is for anxious. I won't get it all in.  
**S** is for sanity. I lost mine last week. When  
we spell Christmas this way, no wonder we speak  
of the need for a Saviour to come to our aid.  
We're hassled  
and harassed.  
Our nerves are all frayed.  
But angels came singing,  
"Glad tidings! Good Cheer!  
Merry Christmas to all  
and a Happy New Year!"\*\*

*\*\*I realize the angels didn't actually say this, but it rhymed so well, I thought it a shame to waste a good line or two. - Father Francis Hengen*

## Membership News

Our council at the beginning of this year had 168 members. Clara Krakalovich moved to Macklin and we said a final farewell to Roberta Derkacht, Phyllis Langley, Angeline Maserek, and Eileen Skaluba who died July 16 at the age of 103.

Annual membership renewal for 2013 begins in November. The first person to renew was Christina Padar who renewed her membership in early July. Our annual membership fee remains the same: \$25 (National Council \$13, Provincial Council \$4, Diocesan Council \$7 and St. Gerard \$1).

In January the CWL begins a new theme for the next two years: **"We Have Seen the Lord!"** This theme fits well with the Year of Faith proclaimed by Benedict XVI.

Submitted by  
Mary Bybliw, Chairperson  
Organization Standing Committee

*Note: There are a few vacant positions on the Executive commencing January 1, 2012. If you can answer the call to serve the League, please contact President Dolores Spreitzer.*



### 2012 Service Pin Recipients

At the 2012 June windup, League Sisters were presented with Service Pins



#### 10 Year Pins:

Dolores Spreitzer  
Gerry Yacishyn  
Frances Mroczo  
Deanna Pellatt  
Jackie Guy  
Laverne Rawlick  
Lorraine Slogocki  
Lorraine Flunder  
Adeline Markham



#### 25 Year Pins:

Mary Balint  
Nellie Karpinski  
Yvonne Turgeon  
Tonny van den Heuvel



#### 40 Year Pins:

Frances Semchuk  
MaryAnn Scherr

League Sister,  
Marion Fletcher,  
Is presented  
with the  
Maple Leaf Pin



June 2011 Windup



Velma Harasen,  
CWL National  
President  
and  
St. Gerard Council  
Charter President  
addresses our League



League Sister,  
Jackie Guy  
entertains us



A good time was had  
by all



*Rest in Peace*

† Roberta Derkacht  
† Phyllis Langley  
† Angeline Maserek  
† Eileen Skaluba

*"Well done,  
god and faithful  
servant(s)"*

## Christian Family Life

**Sept. 26/12**, sadly and contrary to our beliefs, Motion 312 was soundly defeated by an overwhelming majority. This motion dealt with research on when human life begins when the question of abortion arises. The law of life is recognized only at the moment of birth, therefore abortions can be performed until that last minute and be legal. Fortunately, some strong minded MPs continue to express their beliefs and have promised to continue to campaign for justice to the unborn.

**Sept. 27/12**, Motion 408 was presented. Motion 408 proposes the House of Commons condemn discrimination against females occurring through sex-selection pregnancy termination. Sex-selection happens and as there are no laws surrounding pregnancy termination, meaning at any stage a baby can be legally terminated. Is it permissible for a female baby to be aborted due to her gender? I am convinced the termination of pregnancy in any capacity is wrong, but the increasing popularity of sex-selection termination causes us to look inside ourselves and our sisters and ask "Do we believe the baby inside of us is a human life or not?" You cannot fabricate a heartbeat and you cannot fabricate movement even if you have fabricated the facts. The moment we have turned against what is inside of us to satisfy demands, ambition, convenience or culture, we have forgotten who we are. Do we care if girls get less opportunity to live than the rest? Have we forgotten that we are made to defend life, not to kill it?

We, as Catholic women, need to make our demands known that life will be protected inside and outside the womb at all costs. Express our views publicly in gatherings and write our MPs stating our beliefs. Ask for support of our views and give wholehearted support to the ones who are making it known that their motions will be brought back for debate and voting at a later date.

*Faith is daring the soul to go beyond what the eye can see.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Frances Mroczo, Chairperson  
Christian Family Life Standing Committee

## Resolutions & Legislation News

We have an opportunity to make a difference!! We need to write letters. Read page 28 in the Fall 2012 CWL Magazine for the action plan.

In a nutshell: The National CWL passed a resolution this past August in Edmonton to urge the federal government to provide an additional 15 weeks of Employment Insurance benefits for adoptive mothers. Currently, parents of biological and adopted children receive 35 weeks of Employment Insurance benefits, while mothers of biological newborn babies receive an additional 15 weeks of benefits. This resolution is recommending that adoptive mothers also receive the same additional 15 weeks as adoptive parents need the same amount of bonding time as biological mothers.

Submitted by  
MaryAnn Scherr, Co-chairperson  
Resolutions & Legislation Standing Committee



## An Advent Reflection

### An Advent Examination

Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Daily we can make an Advent examination. Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion? Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts? Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing or educational achievement? Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us, seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners? Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation? These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the deep, dark corners of our hearts.

(Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 196)

## Women of Peace

*“Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. The rest will be given.”*

– Blessed Mother Teresa

*Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

- John 14:27

## Women of Hope

*“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”*

- Blessed Mother Teresa

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*

- Psalm 28:7



- ADVENT -

A Season of  
Preparation

Do you know.....

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "Adventus", which means "coming."

Advent ends at sundown on Christmas Eve

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Liturgical Year.

The colour purple is a symbol of royalty that anticipates the coming birth of Jesus. It also reflects a spirit of penitence and the need to prepare our hearts.

Pink is a secondary Advent colour that symbolizes the joy of the season.

Catholics are encouraged to prepare themselves spiritually during Advent with voluntary acts of prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving.

“When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 524).

## Advent Reflections

How do the sounds of the season

– bells, chant music, children's laughter and excitement –

help enhance our Advent experience?



The candles on the Advent wreath remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.

How might we reflect the light of Christ to others this season and beyond?



What does the evergreen teach us about God's love for us?

(Hint: It is everlasting!)



Like the angels, how might we be witnesses of God's miraculous love?

## Women of Faith

*"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible."*

- Saint Thomas Aquinas

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

- Hebrews 11:1

## Women of Justice

*"Charity is no substitute for justice withheld."*

- Saint Augustine

*I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall live in your presence.*

- Psalm 140:12-13

## Reflections by Marion

YOUTH is not a time of life..... it is a state of mind. Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals.

Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair... these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.

Whether seventy or sixteen, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement at the stars and the star-like things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unflinching childlike appetite for what next, and the joy and the game of life.

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

- Author Unknown

*I have been reading this poem in my dentist's office for years and he kindly gave me a copy. It was formerly in another dentist's office many years ago.*

Submitted by Marion Fletcher



## Habitat for Humanity – Dinnerware Project

Last spring our League collected over 3000 dinnerware stickers during a local grocery store promotion. The stickers were used to “purchase” dinnerware. We will be able to present sets of dinnerware to many more Habitat for Humanity families!

## Regional Retreat

On Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Sturgis Council hosted a regional retreat.

Our day began as Carol Hauber welcomed us to Sturgis and their new Community Center. Immaculate Mary was our opening hymn. We were led in the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary by members of the Sturgis Council.

Carol then introduced the Directors present and our Archdiocesan President Chantal Divine greeted us on behalf of the Diocesan Council. She asked us to stand up and be proud to be Catholic. One’s Spiritual Life matters most, make it THE priority of your life. In this Year of Faith we must recommit to live our faith, our relationship with God, profess it, witness to it; make the Sign of the Cross in public restaurants and in other places as appropriate. We need to recommit to CWL as well.

Our next theme is “We Have Seen The Lord”. Grow in your faith, be the BEST you can be.

Father Denis Phaneuf, keynote speaker, was ordained in the Saskatoon Diocese in 1965, and has been active in the Charismatic Movement nationally and internationally since 1970.

He stated his topics as “Mary, humble servant of God” and “Transformation”.

Humility is an honest opinion of who you are. Pride is inordinate self esteem. Today God is frequently lost to pride. Jesus says “come unto me you will find rest --- I am humble, gentle and meek of heart.” Meek is that virtue of self control.

Father asked “Who are you?” We became a child of God through Baptism. God lives in us his children. Jesus died that we could become righteous in God. Our behaviour, what we do, needs to catch up with “who we are”, a child of God. A child of God is humble and patient. He/she leans on God – “I pray and I obey.” God will promote His children. “What is HE asking you to do to-day?” Pray, thank God, recognize your weakness, be careful not to hurt other people, be a maker of peace.

Transformation comes through the Holy Spirit. A personal relationship with God conforms your mind to the mind of God. The Holy Spirit is with you, in you, upon you. God sees below the surface, quality time spent with God gives you holiness, fills you with the Spirit. Jesus is JOY we are nothing. We must discipline ourselves to do good.

We are on a journey while we sit at the right hand of God in Christ. We must put on Christ by taking personal responsibility for our actions. If we come to the Lord He will forgive. His mercy is fresh every day. Returning good for evil puts the devil in his place. Give your enemy his needs, never avenge, talk and walk by the Spirit.

Submitted by Marianne Dierker



President Dolores Spreitzer presents the Pelletier/Nesbitt family with dinnerware at the June 2012 windup



Mary's Prayer

*And Mary said:*

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes,  
from this day forward  
all generations will  
call me blessed,

for the Almighty has  
done great things for  
me.

Holy is his name,  
& his mercy reaches  
from age to age for  
those who fear him.

He has shown the  
power of his arm, he  
has routed the proud  
of heart.

He has pulled down  
princes from their  
thrones and exalted  
the lowly.

The hungry he has  
filled with  
good things,

the rich  
sent empty away.

Luke 1:46-53

## National Convention 2012

(Editor's Note: A few of our League Sisters were fortunate to attend the 2012 National Convention, held in Edmonton August 12-15, 2012. The following is a report submitted by League Sister, Mary Bybliw).

The 92<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Catholic Women's League Council in Edmonton. The theme chosen for this convention was *Catholic and Living It!*

Every League member will have already received the fall issue of our magazine *The Canadian League* which contains photos and a report about the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention. The magazine also contains information on resolutions passed, voluntary funds spent, and letters sent from the Convention to government.

It is always hard to put into words the experience of any of our League conventions but particularly a national one. The opening paragraph of the message from our new President, Betty Anne Brown Davidson, speaks of 'amazing grace' and its effect in her life. For me, experiencing a CWL national convention is to experience the effect of that 'amazing grace' through the liturgies, the speakers, the sharing with League sisters from across Canada. To pray and sing with over 900 is a truly awesome and grace-filled experience.

Much work goes into the planning for a national convention. There were special touches to commemorate the work of the CWL over the 100 years since the first CWL Council was established in Edmonton in 1912. The Edmonton convention committee had special posters prepared with photos from the archives for each of the decades since 1912 which displayed the work of CWL members.

The table decorations, besides some beautiful flowers (even tiny, blue orchids) were copies of CWL resolutions from past years. One resolution that caught my attention was **Resolution 1958-04:**

**Whereas** it was the wish of Pius XII that Catholic women make their influence felt in public life, through participation in activities outside the domestic sphere; therefore be it

**Resolved** that the Catholic Women's League in 38<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled at Vancouver that we strive to have our entire membership acquire a better knowledge of the social doctrine of the Church by means of study clubs and constructive reading; endeavouring also to become more spiritually prepared to work with Christian tolerance and understanding for the good of all, in keeping with our motto "For God and Canada."

This is one of the gifts of belonging to the League - members are encouraged to look beyond our life in our local parish family to the needs of our church in Canada and the world.

The work of present day CWL members was displayed during the convention via a video compilation of photos submitted from across Canada. Our St. Gerard Council was represented with a photo of Yvonne Turgeon presenting the quilts our members had made.

"It seems to me that we do not pay enough attention to prayer, for unless it arises from the heart which ought to be its centre, it is no more than a fruitless dream.

Prayer ought to carry over into our thoughts, our words and our actions."

- *The Writings of Marguerite Bourgeoys*, p. 169

### The Road of Faith

Shine your light, O Lord  
So that I may see  
Just where I am heading  
And what's in front of me

Your word is the light,  
The lamp unto my feet  
It may not light far ahead  
Nor show me where it's steep

But it gives enough light  
For each step I take  
Just enough to see ahead  
Along this road of faith

For this is what it surely is  
As we walk with Jesus Christ,  
The road that we are traveling on  
Is by faith, not by sight

So shine your light, O Lord  
So we may see our way,  
Though you only show in part,  
It's enough for each new day.

© By M.S.Lowndes

(Used with permission)





## National Convention 2012 (cont'd)

Velma Harasen, in her President's oral report to the convention (page 12 & 13 in the magazine), mentioned attending the June meeting of our St. Gerard Council at which she thanked us for our contribution to Velma's Dream project in the Holy Land.

The opening mass and all the daily liturgies provided much spiritual food. Also the keynote address by Dr. Chantal Beauvais on spiritual poverty and her sharing about her own faith journey was very moving.

Her opening question to us: What kind of leadership can we demonstrate as a community of believers in order to build spiritually friendly environments? Dr. Beauvais talked about people's desire for spiritual direction. People often say: "I am spiritual but not religious". In contrast a person can be religious but not spiritually aware. Religion gives a sense of community, but many say they can do it on their own. The question to ask is "Does your spirituality make you more merciful, more charitable?" We need to be able to express to others what our faith means to us; telling others why we are happy to be Christians. This is part of the New Evangelization that will hopefully come from a deepening of our faith in this special Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI.

The new theme starting in January is "We Have Seen the Lord!" As baptized Christians we have been given the responsibility to proclaim the good news by the way we live our lives. If we don't proclaim our faith, who will?

There are always times of fun and laughter over the four days of convention. This year we had a very giggly time practicing for the presentation of the invitation to the next national convention in Regina. There is a lot of skill involved in waving ribbons around without strangling yourself.

Travelling to convention this year was great because Frances Mroczo was driving and her granddaughter was navigator. Joan Petracek, from the Esterhazy Council, and I were backseat passengers. We met other CWL members along the way when we stopped for lunch. Sharing hotel accommodation is sort of like an extended pj party.

Hopefully, St. Gerard CWL members will take the opportunity to attend the 93<sup>rd</sup> national convention in Regina next year, August 11 to 14, at the Delta Hotel. The first national convention I attended was in Regina in 1993. As some members from Ontario that I met at a national convention said, "the experience of a national convention can be addictive".

## "Velma's Dream" Update

At our June wind-up we were blessed with a surprise visit from CWL National President, Velma Harasen. Velma was the very first St. Gerard Council President in 1965 (aka Charter President).

As previously reported, our League had decided at a general meeting to contribute \$1965.00 towards Velma's legacy project - "Velma's Dream". With Velma arriving in Yorkton it provided an opportunity for us to present her with a cheque.



"God is not satisfied  
if we preserve  
the love  
we owe our  
neighbour;  
we must  
preserve our  
neighbour  
in the love he ought  
to have for us."

*The Writings of  
Marguerite  
Bourgeoys, p. 170*

At the June 2012  
windup,  
President Dolores  
Spreitzer and St.  
Gerard Council  
Charter Members  
presented CWL  
National President,  
Velma Harasen with  
a cheque for  
\$1,965.00 .

This amount  
represents the  
charter year of  
St. Gerard Council.

Velma Harasen  
was the  
Charter President.



Pictured left to right:

Dolores Spreitzer  
(St. Gerard Council  
President)

Olga Dramnitzki

Gladys Molnar

Marianne Dierker

Treeske Holtkamp

Shirley Barnes

Marion Fletcher

Velma Harasen  
(CWL National  
President)

## The Beatitudes

(Matthew 5:1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## 2013 National Convention News

*(Editor's Note: League Sister, MaryAnn Scherr, is a member of the 2013 CWL National Convention Liturgy Committee and shares with us a convention update.)*

In June of 2010, I attended the first meeting of the 2013 CWL National Convention Liturgy Planning Committee. Along with seven other members (all from Regina) and Father John Weckend, I received a Liturgy Planning Binder for the 2013 Convention.

It seemed so far away and now, we are down to the last six months of planning.

Communication between the convention liturgy committee, the national executive is ongoing in preparing for the liturgical celebrations.

Within the local committee of 8 people, we separated responsibilities into smaller groups. Along with three others, I was on the "the hymns, chants and psalms" for all the liturgies.

We began, always, by reading the scriptures of the day. Using a large blackboard, we brainstormed, choosing first of all Communion Chants. The selections for the Opening and Closing Eucharist Celebrations took a lot of time, as we discerned the pastoral, liturgical and musical criteria of every hymn we selected.

The final selections were penned in on September 22. Now these selections will be presented to Most Reverend Martin Currie, the National Spiritual Director, and National Spiritual Development Convenor Mary Nordick (who happens to be from Saskatoon).

The National Convention Liturgy Committee is so much more than what I am involved in. I am grateful for the opportunity to use my experience with liturgical music. Just think – Catholic women from across Canada will give praise to God singing together the hymns that we carefully chose.

The Canadian League Magazine just arrived recently. Read it carefully and I bet you will "Catch the fire!" Mark your Calendar – August 11 to 14, 2013.

Submitted by MaryAnn Scherr

## Comfort Cushion Project

The current Comfort Cushion project is complete. I'd like to thank all of the ladies who came out to sew them.

I have been in contact with Margaret Fenske, volunteer member of the Central Palliative Care Committee. As they are running short of comfort cushions, a selection of different sizes have been provided to them. The rest will be presented to the committee at our Christmas party. Margaret was very happy with them and also very appreciative.

Submitted by Yvonne Turgeon



## A Bible Challenge

### Can you find 16 books of the Bible?

Circle 16 books as they appear in the paragraph below.

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept people looking so hard for facts and for others; it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there will be some real easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit, it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there really are sixteen name of the books of the Bible in this story.

*Thanks to Rose Marchinko for submitting this challenge!!!*

## Catch the Fire!!

Catch the Fire! Is the new CWL leadership training program announced by the national Leadership Development Committee at the 2012 National Convention.

Currently across Canada League Sisters are being trained to train – that is, they are experiencing “Catch the Fire!” and will be returning to their diocese/region/councils to train all League Sisters!

According to the “Catch the Fire!” brochure, the sessions are themed after aspects of fire, showing the new life it can bring:

|                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Light the Match:</b>           | opening prayer                        |
| <b>Spark:</b>                     | structure and function in the League  |
| <b>Kindling:</b>                  | League resources                      |
| <b>Light:</b>                     | faith enrichment                      |
| <b>Warmth:</b>                    | League sisterhood                     |
| <b>Energy:</b>                    | standing committee challenges         |
| <b>Heat:</b>                      | resolutions                           |
| <b>Renewal:</b>                   | working through resistance            |
| <b>Fanning the Flames:</b>        | recruit, retain, and remember members |
| <b>Hospitality of the Hearth:</b> | closing reflection                    |
| <b>Pass the Flame:</b>            | evaluation                            |
| <b>Wildfire:</b>                  | sharing what you have learned         |

Watch for the announcement of the Development Day! What an opportunity to learn more about the League. “Catch the Fire! will help you to love the League, feel the sisterhood, and experience the joy of being a League member.”

*“Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire!”*

*- Saint Catherine of Sienna*



MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!!!!

August 11 – 14, 2013

CWL National  
Convention

Regina, SK

"Can't wait for the  
summertime  
To warmly welcome  
you.  
To the fun, in the sun  
Saskatchewan"

(lyrics to the  
2013 Convention  
Invitation Song)

Tentative Itinerary:

- August 10 -

Country Hoedown

- August 11 -

Bus tour of RCMP  
grounds & barracks  
Resolutions Dialogue  
Opening Eucharistic  
Celebration  
Reception

- August 12 -

Eucharistic  
Celebration  
Meeting with Keynote  
Speaker  
Rock'n on the  
Prairies Banquet

- August 13 -

Eucharistic  
Celebration  
Business Sessions  
Provincial Dinner

- August 14 -

Business Session  
Reaffirmation of  
Officers at the  
Eucharistic  
Celebration  
Closing Gala

Watch for the 2013  
Winter Edition of the  
League Magazine for  
registration forms &  
more information!!

## Our Lady of Good Counsel

The Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel is celebrated on April 26. We pray through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, the patroness of the League, who is our model to be imitated.

In 1910, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) was organized in Brussels, Belgium. Following the organizational meeting of the League on June 20, 1920 in Montreal, an invitation was received from WUCWO inviting the League to affiliate with the world-wide federation. Historical records indicate Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, had been chosen as the patroness of WUCWO. Subsequently, at the annual national convention in 1923 in Halifax, a resolution was passed to adopt Our Lady of Good Counsel as the League's patroness.

It is interesting to note, from church records, that the title Mother of Good Counsel had been inserted into the Litany of the Blessed Virgin in the early 1900's by the pope of the day

Source: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

## League Prayers

### **PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL** **Patroness of The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel:  
filled with the Holy Spirit,  
you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your son.

Intercede with your son for us that we may be  
faithful to our baptism,  
fervent in prayer, and  
generous in the service  
we give to our sisters and brothers.

May the spirit of the living God,  
who graced you  
with the gift of counsel,  
lead us in the way of truth and love.

With the help of your prayers,  
may we come to rejoice forever with you  
and the great company of saints  
in the kingdom of heaven. *Amen*

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### **PRAYER TO WALK WITH MARY**

Jesus, our brother and our Lord,  
You have come to save us  
because God loves us with a deep and unending love.

You have given us Mary, Your mother,  
to be our mother too,  
and invite us to follow her example.  
On earth she was a woman of faith and prayer,  
of obedience to God's will,  
always ready to serve in any way.

In heaven she continues to pray for us,  
so that we may serve God faithfully in our daily living.

Jesus, help us to ponder in our hearts  
over the many ways You show Your love in our lives,  
and lead us to walk with Your mother  
as we follow You each day.

Jesus, we praise You, for You are our Lord and  
our God forever and ever. *Amen*

*"League Prayers", The Catholic Women's League of Canada*



## Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser

Each year the St. Gerard CWL Council organizes a GIGANTIC garage sale as its annual fundraiser.

In 2012 annual garage sale proceeds were \$5,808.50 with expenses of \$412.10. Net proceeds were \$5,396.40, which included pie and coffee sales of \$986.13.

In addition to our membership in Pro-Life and C.H.A.S., proceeds from the annual garage sale help us to support the following local, provincial, national and international causes:

Save a Family Plan is a Canadian-based international non-governmental organization (NGO), committed to seeking justice and working with the marginalized and poor of India, regardless of caste, creed, gender, or political affiliation. In 2011 our League sponsored a well.

Chalice is a Catholic-sponsorship program that shares Christ with those in need by creating and nurturing caring relations of life and love, in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and Haiti.

Development and Peace is the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada and the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis. It supports local initiatives in fields such as agriculture, education, community action, as well as the consolidation of peace and advocacy for human rights in 70 countries.

Coady International Institute works with innovative people and organizations to create effective, practical and sustainable solutions to reduce global poverty and injustice, accomplished through leadership, education, action partnerships and to help young Canadians become active global citizens.

Esk Omi Missions serves the spiritual, material, and cultural needs of the Inuit peoples in the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay. It provides for the needs of Inuit missionaries and catechists, as well as helping to construct and maintain mission buildings.

Camp O'Neill is a Catholic-oriented youth camp located at Round Lake that provides youth an opportunity to experience camp in a spiritual setting. Both Youth Camps and Special Needs Camps are offered.

AMPO is an outdoor education program that involves Grade 7 students from St. Alphonsus, St. Mary & St. Michael, and St. Paul schools in Yorkton. It is designed to encourage spiritual development through a multitude of activities.

Sacred Heart High School Scholarships are presented annually to two graduates. The recipients of the 2012 scholarships were Janet den Brok and Emily Kruger. Congratulations and good luck with your future endeavours!

### Who Are the Poor?

The poor are the center of the Church.

But who are the poor?

At first we might think of people who are not like us:

people who live in slums,  
people who go to soup kitchens,  
people who sleep on the streets,  
people in prisons, mental hospitals, and nursing homes.

But the poor can be very close.

They can be in our own families, churches or workplaces.

Even closer, the poor can be ourselves, who feel unloved, rejected, ignored, or abused.

It is precisely when we see and experience poverty - whether far away, close by, or in our own hearts - that we need to become the Church; that is, hold hands as brothers and sisters, confess our own brokenness and need, forgive one another, heal one another's wounds, and gather around the table of Jesus for the breaking of the bread.

Thus, as the poor we recognise Jesus, who became poor for us.

- Henri Nouwen



## Service to the People of God

The St. Gerard  
Council  
of the  
Catholic Women's  
League

meets the  
First Wednesday of  
each month (except  
July & August)  
at 7:30 pm in the  
CWL Room.

### *For God and Canada*

*The Catholic  
Women's League  
of Canada  
is first and  
foremost a spiritual  
organization, that  
hopefully will bring  
its members closer  
to God,  
to our Patroness  
Our Lady of Good  
Counsel,  
and to each other.*

*The CWL is an  
organization that  
contributes to the  
life and vitality of  
the church,  
family  
and community,  
both at home  
and abroad.*

For those who have  
supplied an email  
address, a coloured  
copy of the  
newsletter will be  
sent directly to your  
inbox!

Do you have an email  
address but are not  
on the CWL email  
list?

Follow this link:  
[www.yorktondigital.ca  
/lists.stm](http://www.yorktondigital.ca/lists.stm)  
and select  
"stgerard-cwl "  
to subscribe

Have you ever wondered about joining the Catholic Women's League, and how each member serves the people of God? League members seek to carry out their mission of building up the kingdom of God through service. There are eight standing committees that offer a range of particular areas in which members may serve.

Our local council has been blessed. In January 2012 we witnessed the reception of new members, as well as the installation and affirmation of League Sisters who chair the following committees (or combinations of):

### **Spiritual Development**

- a) Spiritual growth of members
- b) Study of Catholic teachings
- c) Role of women in the church
- d) Evangelization and mission assistance
- e) Lay ministries
- f) Ecumenism and interfaith endeavours

### **Christian Family Life**

- a) Marriage and family
- b) Sanctity of life
- c) Ministry to:
  - i) Youth
  - ii) Disabled
  - iii) Seniors
  - iv) Widowed
  - v) Separated
  - vi) Divorced
- d) Vocations

### **Education and Health**

- a) Catholic education
  - i) Catholic schools and catechesis
  - ii) Rites of Christian Initiation
- b) Literacy and continuing education
- c) Scholarships and bursaries
- d) Wellness and sickness/disease
- e) Environment
- f) Genetics

### **Resolutions**

- a) Research and preparation of resolutions and briefs
- b) Study and implementation of resolutions adopted by other levels

### **Organization**

- a) Recruit members/maintain membership
- b) Leadership development
- c) League resource material
- d) Annual reports
- e) Life membership

### **Community Life**

- a) Dignity and rights of persons
- b) Social and economic justice
- c) Refugees, immigration and citizenship
- d) Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
- e) Developing countries

### **Communications**

- a) The Canadian League magazine
- b) Media:
  - i) For evangelization
  - ii) To promote the League
  - iii) Evaluation and promotion of good content
  - iv) Newsletters and bulletins
- c) Media relations
- d) Pornography

### **Legislation**

- a) Monitor and study legislation at all levels of government
- b) Preparation of briefs and position papers on proposed legislation

For more information about the Catholic Women's League of Canada on a national and global basis, please check out the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

**"Catch the Fire"** – the new leadership program!! Watch for details in the coming months!!!

