



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
EDMONTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL



WOMEN OF PEACE AND HOPE



Diocesan Newsletter

www.e.cwl.ab.ca

December 2009

Message from the President

June Fuller, President

As I sit down to write this message in anticipation of the Advent season, I am sure that many of you are also getting busy with your Christmas preparations. I am sure that many of the councils in our Diocese have been busy over the past month hosting their annual bazaars, fall suppers and bake sales. These are all wonderful activities that seem to bond CWL members in their continued work for the League.

But now it is time to prepare for the Advent Season as we joyfully anticipate the birth of Jesus our Savior. During this busy time of running here and there, we need to remember to take the time to be thankful for all the abundance in our lives and for all the wonderful things God has given us.

Although, I may not have the opportunity to see you before Christmas, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Midwinter meeting on February 6th, at St. Theresa's parish in Edmonton. It's always wonderful to reconnect with the members in our Diocese and I truly look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

In closing, I wish you and your families a very blessed Advent season, filled with lots of joy, happiness, hope and peace.

May God bless all of you.

June E. Fuller
President



2012 National Convention in Edmonton
Thank you to all of the councils that have contributed to the 2012 CWL National Convention Fundraising Project

Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Marc Cramer

Many people go about being busy getting ready for this or that; getting stressed about being ready for that special Christmas party or that important family Christmas dinner(s). People are pulling hair out people in their lives. And finally, people are usually travelling everywhere visiting everybody and generally getting all tired out. Oh the JOY of Christmas!?!

I get busy too, yet it is different. It is more about getting my people, my parish, my loved ones ready for the BIRTH of our Lord and Saviour. Not just ready for the celebrations of the day, but helping them all to prepare a manger in their heart for the **Christ-Child**, the newborn who is **our HOPE** and **our SALVATION**. So in a funny yet splendid way I am making myself busy in slowing down, cleaning out the hearts of Christians and building mangers, the heart-thrones of the **baby Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, our God and our Redeemer**.

So be busy if you must, but please in the midst of it all take time to treasure the preparation of you, the time to slowdown and make ready for Christ to born again into your heart and mind and soul. May He find room in you and may you all be overjoyed with the true meaning of Christmas. Which is not just to keep Christ in Christmas (the word or the season), but most importantly to keep Christ in the Christian who is the true and clearest sign of the **JOY** that greeted the world on that beautiful day 2000 plus years ago!! Happy Advent and a Merry Christmas to all!!

Fr. Marc Cramer
Spiritual Advisor



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Organization

Gladys Brown, President-elect and Organization Chairperson

Sisters in the League

Just a short note to say that having received information from Velma Harasen in late October, she has advised us that we have a ways to go to meet our goals for membership for this year. With this in mind, I feel that 2009 is just about over and that we should concentrate on the membership for 2010. All councils are struggling with filling executive positions and leadership is of the utmost importance if we want our councils to flourish. The Field Workers are available to give workshops on any convenorships therefore please consider this as an option.

I attended the 60th anniversary of Sacred Heart CWL council in Edson on October 17/09 and met the ladies who are very active as well I travelled to Sylvan Lake for their Zone meeting and enjoyed the gathering. Wonderful ladies in the Archdioceses of Edmonton CWL. God Bless and continue to do the good works.

My best wishes for a Blessed and Holy Christmas to all and let us KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS.

God Bless

Gladys Brown

Special Anniversary

Sacred Heart Council, Edson celebrated its 60th Anniversary on October 17th. Congratulations!

Spiritual Development

Dianne Thew, Vice-President and Spiritual Development Chairperson

Dear Sisters in the League,

Year 2 of Nothing More Beautiful began on October 29 at St. Joseph's Basilica. Many gathered to pray, sing and listen to the inspiring presentations of Archbishop Richard Smith and Lydia Cristini. On December 10, we will welcome Archbishop Thomas Collins and Mother Agnes Mary Donovan. Youth and young ministry are warmly invited to the annual Advent gathering in appreciation for all that they do. On Saturday, December 12, at the Catholic Pastoral Centre there will be Mass with Archbishop

Smith at 4:30pm, followed by a potluck supper and social evening.

The Western Canadian Association of Catholic Youth Ministers are invited to their Annual retreat and gathering. It will be hosted at the star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert on January 14-17, 2010. The theme is "Responding to Change and Choice" with Father Stefano Penna as the retreat leader and sociologist Reginald Bibby as the keynote speaker. The Canadian League magazine (Fall 2009) has many interesting articles please take the time to read them.

Advent is a time of longing. We experience the darkness in our world, and we hope for a better tomorrow. We long for the Lord of Love to come to heal our broken world. Wisdom in our lives tells us that to make room for the healing we must act in loving ways. Saint Paul gives us this reminder in his letter to the Romans,

Many wishes for a peaceful advent season

Dianne Thew

Mid-Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 6th

St. Theresa Parish, Edmonton

Registration starting at 8:30 am. Saturday

Friday night Workshops:

1. Treasurer's "The Do's and Don'ts"
2. Communication -Learning Effective Ways to Keep Members Informed

Saturday Guest Speaker: Colleen Soetaert

"Volunteering - Good for the Soul"

Past President

Cathy Bouchard, Past President

Greetings from the Past President,

As your parish councils are completing their Annual Report Forms it is a good time to reflect on the good things that your council has done; the service you provide for the parish and people who are not in our parishes. It is also a good time to begin planning for next year while you are reflecting on the one past. What did we achieve this year? Let the parish know of your achievements and thank them for their support.

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Are we inviting new members – young and old?
Are we telling people what we have gained from the League, and what it has done for us? What could we do differently next year? Plan your 2010 program now with dates so that members can plan their own busy lives and keep the League as part of it. “Leading the League” from National is a good resource to help you make a plan.

Past Presidents, keep sharing your gifts of wisdom and experience. Your new president still needs your help, support and ideas. You still lead in your parish council. Assist your president in looking for members who have gifts of leadership and who may be able to be trained to prepare for a leadership role.

REMINDER:

Councils and members are asked to review the Policies of the Edmonton Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. The current policies that we are working with were revised June 2006. Please email Cathy Bouchard dacat2@shaw.ca or write to her at #364, 5140 62 Street., Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 6R1

God bless you as you continue your work
and your friendship in the League,
For God and Canada,
Cathy Bouchard



Christian Family Life
Margaret King, Chairperson

As we approach Advent my prayer for all of you is that you will have a lot to be thankful for. May your holiday season be one of **joy, hope and peace.**

The letter writing that you have done on Bill C-384, which will legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide seems to have reached many. The presenter of Bill C-384, Francine Lalonde of the Bloc Québécois, has changed the date of her presenting from November 16 to November 19 and then made a final change to December 1st with the vote to take place on December 2nd. It is hoped that the Bill will be defeated.

The Adopt a Seminarian program is now underway with all 25 seminarians being adopted by councils. Keep all the seminarians in your prayers during this the year of the Priest.

Wishing you all the holiest and best Christmas ever.
Your sister in the League,
Margaret King

Community Life

Lynne Calkins, Chairperson

Since my last report, I have been to a Zone meeting in Sylvan Lake, which was excellent. It's great to get together with the ladies from your own Zone and see how everyone is trying so hard to continue working for our Lord Jesus.

I also attended Victor Malarek's fundraiser at the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton. This man never fails to truly shock me and awaken me to the wrongs of our society. This was a fundraising event funds designated to go to Maple Leaf /Klenovi Lyst Safe House in the Ukraine. It is a safe house for women and young girls who are sexually abused and coerced into Prostitution. Victor Malarek has produced a second book called "The Johns" it is very graphic but certainly worthy of reading. Please continue to pray.

Anita from St Charles' reports that so far they have received monetary donations for the Refugee Bags from 19 councils. They have also received at the Fall Diocesan Meeting two large supply donations from two councils. Since June they have filled 84 bags for a total of 234 refugees. To date in 2009, 129 bags have been filled for a total of 337 people. The most needed items at this moment are deodorant for both men and women, sanitary napkins and diapers (all sizes), men's shaving cream and razors. Writing paper and note pads, kids crayons and colouring books are also needed. Thank you ladies, good work!

There you go ladies let's be generous especially at this time of year.

I hope God Blesses you and your Families in this Holy time of Christmas

Lynne Calkins

God does not begin by asking about our ability, but only about our availability, and if we improve our dependability, he will increase our capability...

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Refugee Welcome Bags.

Here is the list of items we generally put in the Welcome Bags, they certainly are appreciated by the refugees. Rachele- 780-475-6500

toothpaste & toothbrush, floss - when we have it come in -- (no mouthwash)
bar soap (not body wash)
shampoo (no conditioner)
deodorant for both men & women
feminine napkins and panty liners (no tampons)
disposable razors and shaving cream for men only
diapers for children under the age of two years
small lotions
a face cloth and a bath towel
pen, pencil, paper, envelope, writing paper or note pads
small sewing kits - (when we have them)
current calendars - (when we have them)
nail clippers and nail files, combs, brushes (when we have them)
crayons, coloring books, story books, small plush cuddly toys for children

One more item of interest...

Some of the items they receive, can not be used in the Welcome Bags, but they are forwarded to the following groups.

The Back Porch (pregnant women)- new makeup, scents, nice lotions, gift sets, nicer things for younger women, nail polish (new)

Tender Hearts (Lonely Seniors) - nicer things for women & men, nice gift sets for older people

Lurana Shelter - C.A.P. Head Start --kids stuff - playdough, mitts, scarves, tuques, socks

Jasper Place Health & Wellness Centre - little shampoos, cream rinse, soaps

Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) - women's toiletries

Urban Manor (Homeless Men) - small soaps, shampoo

Hope Mission - small soaps, shampoo



Education and Health

Caroline MacDougall, Chairperson

My dear Sisters in the League,

As this year comes to a close I want to wish each and every one of you a healthy holiday season. Remember to take precautions to avoid contracting the H1N1 virus. Hopefully you have received the inoculation for the prevention of this flu. I know you've heard this advice many times on how to prevent the proliferation of this infection: frequent hand washing, hands off the face approach, gargle 2x a day with salt water, boost your immunity with foods rich in Vitamin C to name a few. Taking these steps will help you to avoid contracting this virus.

Included in this mail out are entry forms for our 15th Annual Poster/Essay Contest. I encourage you to distribute the information to all the local schools in your area. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

On a lighter note eat all the chocolate you want during the holidays. In a recent article in the Edmonton Journal it reported that not only does chocolate boost "feel-good" endorphin levels it can also improve the brain's ability to do mental arithmetic. It might also help you to lose weight. A new brand of chocolate, called Lola, tricks your brain into believing you're not hungry. Sorry ladies the new treats are only available in Spain!!

May you and your loved ones be blessed with a Holy, Happy Christmas and may the Light of Christ be your guide as you journey into 2010.

Caroline MacDougall
e-mail dcmacd@telus.net

Advent Prayer

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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CWL Member, Elsie Yanik participated in the Canada Olympic Torch Relay when it visited Fort McMurray on November 6. As many of you know, the Alberta MacKenzie Provincial executive, give out a yearly award to an outstanding CWL Member from Alberta at their convention, in honour of this great lady.

Pro-Life

Alberta Pro-Life is in the midst of a provincial campaign, asking our MLAs to de-fund abortion in Alberta. Each year 1 in 5 Albertans are aborted with taxpayer's money, with little thought to the damage it does to baby, mom and dad. Now is the time to de-fund this procedure, with so many proven harmful effects. At a time when medically necessary procedures like MRI's, the closing of acute care beds and long-term care beds are being cut back, it does not make sense to pay for abortions at taxpayers' expense. Call your MLA and encourage them to take a stand you can find their address at: www.assembly.ab.ca <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/> or call Alberta Pro-Life for more information 780-421-7747. Bless you for speaking up on behalf of those who suffer as a result of abortion.

LaRee Pickup
Director, Alberta Pro-Life

Treasurer

Cheryl Boom, Diocesan Treasurer



Dear CWL Sisters,

Merry Christmas to you and your families. I hope you have many fond memories this year as you spend time with family and friends celebrating the birth of our Saviour.

I am amazed at how time flies by so quickly. I have been your Diocesan Treasurer for 7 months and I truly enjoy the work I have been doing and the fun and fellowship shared with the Diocesan Executive.

I have been asked where to send donations to WUCWO and I have received donations for the National 2012 fundraiser.

Please send WUCWO donations to National CWL using the **National Voluntary Remittance form** (updated form on www.cwl.ca) click on Supplies & Forms, it is listed under Finance or contact the office at:

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Unit C, 702 Scotland Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

Please send National 2012 fundraiser cheques to Becky Kallal, presidents should have received a form for this donation. Cheques should be made payable to: **2012 National Fundraising Project.**

And lastly, a reminder to send out your year-end disbursements if you haven't done so already. I would like these numbers accurately reflected in your 2009 Annual Treasurer's Report.

Thank you for your continued commitment and dedication. Please call on me any time if you have any questions.

Thanks and God Bless,
Cheryl A. Boom

Communications

Gwen Elliott, Chairperson

Dear Sisters in the League

The Calendar year is coming to an end and we have already begun a new Liturgical year with the beginning of Advent. This is the time when we will be communicating with family and friends. The message is the Good News that Jesus came to live among us.

As you send your good wishes through the mail, I encourage you to choose the Nativity Stamps that Canada post has prepared this year. This year, Nativity Sculptures will appear on three new stamps, the Shepherd, the Madonna and Child and the Magi. We want Canada post to continue issuing

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stamps that depicts the true meaning of Christmas. I hope that you and your families will have a prayerful Advent and a joyous Christmas celebration. See you all at the Mid-winter meeting and the Friday evening, Communications workshop .

Merry Christmas & God Bless
Gwen Elliott

St John Vianney, patron of the Year for Priests

Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney was born May 8, 1786, was born into a farming family in Dardilly, a tiny community near Lyons, France. His parents, Matthew and Marie, had five other children as well.

John was a child during the French Revolution which was a time of intense persecution of the church in France. His family attended Mass clandestinely with others in private homes or barns late at night. The priests who offered these masses were faced with execution if caught.

The Vianney home became a home of refuge for these priests. One of these priests heard 11-year-old John's first confession in their home. John received his first communion at age 13 at a Mass in a private home with bales of hay stacked against the windows.

At age 19, John decided to become a priest but his studies were interrupted when he was drafted into the French Army. Napoleon was at war with Spain at that time.

John reported for duty but became ill and was hospitalized. He was ordered to return to his unit in the field. By the time he reached his barracks his unit had left without him.

He was then told to catch up with them on foot.

Along the way he met up with a group of military deserters hiding in the forest to avoid arrest. He was led to a farm where he hid for the next 16 months when amnesty was announced.

John returned to theological studies but with little schooling he was not equipped to handle academic studies. He was dismissed from the seminary but Father Balley, a holy priest, intervened and tutored John that he was ordained on August 13, 1815, following a dispensation from a generous diocesan official.

His first few years in the priesthood were spent as an assistant at Father Balley's parish where he was provided with an excellent example of a priest.

Father Balley died in 1818 and Father Vianney was sent to the parish of Ars, population 230. It

was an assignment that he would carry out for the rest of his life in a way that the village and the universal Church would never forget.

Three aspects of his ministry stand out: the orphanage he founded, his daily catechism lessons, and his ministry in the confessional.

The Cure of Ars, as he is known, died August 4, 1859, at the age of 73. He was beatified in 1905 by Pope St Pius X and canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. He is now venerated as the patron saint of parish priests.

Adapted from a feature article in "The Catholic Answer" with permission.

Johanna Davis

Mark your Calendars

Dec. 10th, 2009; Nothing More Beautiful
Theme: The Way, Truth & Life

February 6, 2010

Mid-Winter Meeting, St. Theresa, Edmonton

March 12-13, 2010 Catholic Conference,
Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton

April 15 - 18, 2010

88th Annual Diocesan Convention, Olds

May 28-30, 2010 CWL Provincial Convention

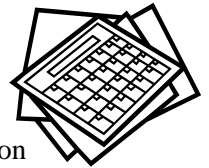
Grouard-McLennan Diocesan Council hosting in
Fairview, AB

Aug. 8-11, 2010

National Convention, Ottawa ON

Oct. 2, 2010

Fall Diocesan Meeting, Fort Saskatchewan



Women of Peace and Hope

O Lord our God, You are the source of peace.

Inspire the women of the league to live in peace

by acting justly, loving tenderly and walking

humbly with You, our God.

We pray that You enlighten the eyes of our mind

So that we may see what hope Your call holds for us.

May we be firm in the hope we profess,

and always be ready to give the reason for the hope we
have.

Amen



