



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
EDMONTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL



WOMEN OF PEACE AND HOPE



Diocesan Newsletter

www.e.cwlab.ca

December 2010

Message from the President

June Fuller, President

Dear Sisters in the League:
As we prepare during this Advent season for the coming of Jesus we pray "Come, long expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace, peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself." During this busy time, we must take time to focus on the true meaning of what Christmas is all about.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. As we enter into the Christmas season, most CWL councils will have some type of celebration in December as part of their Advent preparation. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your Spiritual Advisor to be part of these celebrations. We need to remember that our Spiritual Advisors provide us with spiritual guidance and it is important that we as CWL members keep our priests informed of what is happening in our CWL councils. We need to work as a team, and together we can achieve great things. This is also a time for being with family and friends. Perhaps this year, make it a priority to spend more time with family and friends and less time in the big box stores and malls.

In closing, I wish all of you a blessed Christmas and the realization that you are "truly Women of Peace and Hope, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Many blessings
June E. Fuller



**Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again.
Rejoice!**

Spiritual Advisor

Father Marc Cramer

As a kid some of my fondest memories are of the anticipation of Christmas morning and the gifts that would be waiting under the Christmas tree. One such morning I was so excited that when I opened my first gift I blurted out:

"It's just what I always wanted!!"

What made it even more memorable is that I said those same words after every gift I opened. We laughed about that so much that every Christmas afterwards we would always say:

"It's just what I always wanted!!"

What do you want for Christmas? A better question is: What do you need for Christmas? We are being persuaded by the retail world that their shops will have the perfect gift for your loved ones. The Church strives to sanctify this time of the year and give us what we need—Jesus!!

John Paul II said, "That every human person is a question and the answer is Jesus!"

This Advent may we ponder the question we are, so that we are ready to encounter anew the answer in Jesus, the Christ-child born on Christmas morn, the saviour of the world! May Christ be just what you always wanted!!

Merry Christmas,
Fr. Marc

Nothing More Beautiful

Welcome to an Evening of Music, Prayer and
Special Presentations

December 9th, 7p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Basilica

Most Rev. Douglas Crosby - Past CWL National
Spiritual Advisor.

Agnes Bedard – Past CWL National President

Organization

Gladys Brown, President-elect and Organization Chairperson

Greetings

With the season of Advent and Christmas approaching, we are all busy with bazaars, bake and raffle sales, crafts show and getting ready for Christmas celebrations with family and friends. I regret to inform that I have only attended one Zone meeting and that was in Zone 1, the weekend of September 25/10. This was my first time to Grand Cache and it was most enjoyable ---the drive, the scenery as well the hospitality that was displayed by the members. All of the other Zones appeared to have their meetings on the same day and I had other commitments. God continues to bless us with an abundance of gifts and talents and the rewards are remarkable and great.

I must inform you that the figure I gave at the Fall meeting on membership for the Diocese of Edmonton was incorrect and the correct number is 4,657 as of September 30/10. With all councils doing the membership drives for 2011, I encourage the current members to "TALK IT UP" and inform all ladies at your parish what the CWL is all about. Field workers are available to give workshops on any topic that might interest your council. June Fuller, President and I gave a workshop on leadership titled "TAKE THAT SEAT." It was well received by the ladies who attended. We are willing to assist your council in any way ----Just Call. In closing, I would like to share this poem with all the Sisters in the League in the Archdiocese of Edmonton

Thank you Jesus----for teaching us that true power is found not in fame or future, but in our faith---- that true peace is found, not in the outer world, but the inner knowing that we're children of God.....and that true love is found, not in giving something with the hope of gain, but in giving our best without counting the cost. Jesus has blessed us so much! Hope He fills your Christmas with JOY, FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

Respectfully submitted

Gladys Brown



Vice President, Spiritual Development

Dianne Thew, Chairperson

Dear Sisters in the League,

Greetings to all:

"The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you".

Welcome to 2010 Homeless Count. The biennial Homeless Count provided the number of the homeless individuals in Edmonton. The 2010 Homeless Count took place on October 5th, 2010. A committee of community members and government officials has been established, and is meeting regularly to carry out the planning process for this important date. The 2010 Homeless Count Committee applied the same procedure used in previous counts, to ensure a reliable "snapshot" of the homeless population. Utilizing the same procedure enables the monitoring of changes and trends to the homeless population, while keeping consistency in data collection. As part of its responsibility the committee is also working towards establishing a "best practices" method for future counts. More than 200 volunteers in brightly coloured vests and clipboards combed the river valley, city streets, neighbourhoods known to have homeless populations: Alberta Avenue, Fort Road, Callingwood, West Jasper Place, McCauley, and social agencies trying to get a handle on how many people have no place to live. It's the ninth count of homeless people in Edmonton since 1999. "It's about giving us the best info that we need to in order to do our work." said Susan Magee, director of Homeless Trust, the agency the city tasked with ending homelessness in Edmonton by 2019. "But the work that we're doing is making a difference. Workers at bottle depots, food banks, hospitals, the downtown library, transit stations, group homes, motels and shelters were also helping out. Since the campaign to end homelessness, called Housing First, began in April 2009, more than 900 people have been housed. Magee said 85 per cent of those people are still in their homes. "Of them, over 40 per cent were chronically homeless so that is certainly making a difference," "They're receiving supports, and they're doing really well. The last homeless count in 2008 found 3079 people without a home in Edmonton, Two years later 2500 are without a home. I was a volunteer at Homeless Count from 5 to 9am. It is 4 hours I will never

forget and something everyone should try at least once, I will continue to help both Homeless Count and Homeless Connect.

Wishing all a Merry and Blessed Christmas.
Your Sister in Christ
Diane Sheu

Past President

Cathy Bouchard, Past President

Dear Sisters in the League,
As you read this we are approaching the Christmas season where gifts are exchanged and wishes are expressed towards one another for a wonderful New Year. May I ask you to consider this; the gift of YOUR time to serve your sisters in the League. You don't have to have the same gifts that you see in others who have taken leadership in the League. God has given you your own gifts so that you can serve in your own unique way. Do not be afraid! This is one of those gifts that will give so much more to yourself than it does to others. As we come to our New Year's Resolutions - resolve that you will make a difference - by serving your sisters in the League. On January 1st we celebrate the Feast of Our Blessed Mother Mary - ask her prayers to guide you in your decision.
Pax Et Bonum (*Peace and Good*)
Cathy Bouchard

Dear Parish Council Presidents,

In preparation for our 2011 Diocesan Council Elections we are updating our files to prepare eligibility lists. I would ask you to check and tell us who your last 4 terms of Parish Council Presidents were:
Name, Present Address, Phone Number and Email, when she was the President i.e. January 2010 to December 2012 (Month and year are needed.)

Please reply to Past President Cathy Bouchard:

abmaccommunications@gmail.com

or by mail to:

Education and Health

Caroline MacDougall, Chairperson

Dear Sisters in the League,

Year 2011 will be faced with new challenges especially within Alberta's health care system. The proposed Alberta Health Act, Bill 17, passed its first reading October 28, 2010. In mid November the bill will be introduced again for debate and will likely pass the second reading by the end of November. Is the proposed AHA a diversionary piece of legislation to distract our attention from the real issues of long term care beds, emergency wait times? Our Health Care system requires concrete action and solutions not vague, abstract principles. We must remain vigilant and informed to ensure that the new health legislation addresses specific strategies to improve our health system. Voice your concerns by phoning, writing or e-mailing our Health Minister, Gene Zwozdesky. (Phone: 780 421-3665, E-mail: edmonton.millcreek@assembly.ab.ca)

Our CWL 16th Annual Poster/Poem/Story/Essay Contest for 2011 is focusing on the League's national theme "Centered on Faith and Justice". The rules have been changed to include other forms of written compositions (Poems/Stories) as well as essays. I encourage you to visit your local schools to distribute and promote our contest. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

Are you feeling tired from Christmas shopping? baking? The amazing cucumber can come to your rescue. Cucumbers are a good source of vitamin B and carbohydrates that can provide a quick pick-me-up that can last for hours.

Remember to laugh every day. Spontaneous laughter helps prevent hardening of the attitude. Laughter lessens tension, anxiety and anger. Jean Munro who hosted a workshop, *Holy Hilarity: Laughter for the Hell of it*, advises people to start each day with good choices, good thoughts, and, of course, a good laugh.

May you and your loved ones be blessed with joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of Christ.
Caroline MacDougall

Community Life

Lynne Calkins, Chairperson

Dear Sisters in Christ:

As I sat and prayed for God to give me knowledge for this Advent newsletter, I came upon a reflection written by Elizabeth- Anne Stewart a writer for Word Made Flesh. Its content is exactly what we have been hoping throughout the year to accomplish. I will copy this for you and ask that during this time you will reflect on this and Pray to God that the time will come when this is all accomplished.

“Imagine a world where nations spend more on agriculture than armaments, where warfare becomes so obsolete that military technology is put to peaceful purposes. In such a world there would be no need for mandatory military service. Instead of facing combat, the armed forces would serve as peacekeepers, preventing conflict before it even begins. There would be no mass movement of refugees, desperately fleeing their homelands, hoping to find sanctuary across the nearest border. Nor would countless village and cities be leveled by enemy bombs, with the accompanying loss of life and local culture. If the cry of the peace movement – “Bread not Bombs!” – were to become a reality, starvation would be as foreign a concept as war, and farmers could return to long vacated ancestral farms. Hospitals and schools would flourish, while the world’s poor and dispossessed would learn new marketable skills.

Such a world is God’s dream for humanity. What is stopping us from furthering this dream?

May this Advent be a time for peacemaking, O Lord, that we may be ready for your coming. God Bless you all during this Holy time of Year.
Lynne Calkins

Christian Family Life

Magaret King, Chairperson

Once again, councils have adopted all of the seminarians enrolled in the Adopt-A-Seminarian project. Thank you to all the councils that are participating in this project. You can contact the seminarians at the following address:

St Joseph’s Seminary
9828 - 84 Street

Edmonton, AB T6A 0B2

Phone 780- 392-2445

I am looking forward to reading the annual reports that you have been working on. It is always interesting to hear what all the councils have done through the year.

The year is fast slipping away and the season of Christmas is quickly approaching so let me be one of the first to wish each of you the very best of wishes during this holy season.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-winter meeting at St. John Bosco Church, in Edmonton on February 5th.

Margaret King

Treasurer

Cheryl Boom, Diocesan Treasurer



Dear Sisters In The League,

Snow has fallen and it gets me thinking about Christmas. A favourite time of year for me and at the same time it is a sad time for me. I love seeing all the beautiful lights and decorations. I love seeing people smile. I love feeling joy. I want to give to the needy and to my family and friends. I feel blessed to be where I am in my life at this time. I am thankful I am able to serve God and Canada with my time and talents. It’s all because of the birth of our Saviour that this time of year is so special and possible for that matter. I am sad because I have no family in Edmonton to celebrate with but I do have my many wonderful friends and CWL Sisters who I hold dear and consider as family. Friends are the family that you choose for yourself. I want to take the time to thank you for all that you do and I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas!!

God Bless,
Your Sister in Christ,
Cheryl Boom

2012 National Convention

Remember to send \$2.00/ member in support of the National Convention in Edmonton in 2012. This is the 2nd year of the 3 year commitment.

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.**

Resolutions & Legislation

Mable Solomon, Chairperson

Ladies, the following is from the Canadian Press on Bill C – 300 An Act Respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil or Gas Corporations in Developing Countries

The bill lost by just six votes, 140 to 134. Records filed with Canada's lobbying watchdog show nine of the 24 MPs who skipped the vote last month were lobbied by the mining industry. The private member's bill would have forced Canadian mining companies to toughen their environmental and human-rights standards when working abroad. The nine absent MPs lobbied by the mining industry were Liberals Scott Brison, Scott Andrews, Martha Hall Findlay, Keith Martin, John McCallum, Geoff Regan and Anthony Rota, as well as New Democrats Charlie Angus and Bruce Hyer. Fifteen other Liberal, NDP, Bloc Quebecois and independent MPs also skipped the Oct. 27 vote, but records show they were not lobbied by the mining industry.

What this shows is that we must be vigilant in our letter writing and telephoning – not to just our own MPs, but to the opposition MPs as well. The loss of this bill is a tragedy for all those workers who are not being treated justly, and all those affected by improper environmental practices. ***Our voice must have more resonance than that of the lobbyists.***

Having said that, I ask you again to pay attention to the Petition from Canada Family Action relative to **Bill C-54 – An Act to amend the Criminal code (sexual offences against children)**, which you received in your Fall Meeting packages. Please sign them in your councils and parishes and forward them.

Canada Family Action's recent communiqué of November 10 on their website at canadafamilyaction.org also enlists our help re **Bill C-389 Gender Expression**. Both of these Bills are worthy of your time to write to the MPs and Prime Minister.

We know it is the Christmas Season, and I ask you to remember that **Christ was just and fair**. We must, to the best of our ability, even as we celebrate His birthday, behave in a way that shows it is all the more important to look into justice for our country,

and people around the world. **May you know the Peace of having done your best**

Mable Solomon,

Planning is underway for our 2012 Year of Celebration for the 100th Anniversary of CWL in the Edmonton Diocese. There will be a **Fund Raising Raffle** at the Mid-Winter meeting.

Tickets will be sold for:

A Very Special Valentine Basket of Goodies, and other Special items

Don't miss your chance to win, come to the Mid-Winter meeting!



Communications

Gwen Elliott, Chairperson

Dear Sisters in the League,
As we prepare to Celebrate the Birth of our Saviour, take time to get in touch with friends and loved ones. We should also take time to communicate in Prayer with Jesus our Lord. The Advent - Christmas season can be a prayerful time of preparation and joyful celebration but it can also be a difficult and sad time for people. Be watchful and listening to the needs of your Brothers and sisters so that you can respond with love and care.

God Bless,
Gwen Elliott

Mark your Calendars

Feb. 5, 2011

Diocesan Mid-winter meeting 2011 at St. John Bosco Parish, 13503 – 40 St. Edmonton

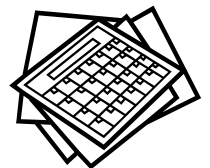
April 8-10, 2011

Diocesan Convention

Chateau Louis Hotel, Edmonton

June 3-5, 2011

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Convention
Fort Saskatchewan



The new *Nickels for the North* project will help our northern sisters in the League travel to CWL events. The Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocese has fewer than 90 CWL members. Distances are great and travel costs make it prohibitive for the executive to visit and meet with the councils and attend conventions. The new *Nickels for the North* project will help our northern sisters in the League travel to CWL events. Every council in Alberta Mackenzie is invited to help raise funds for this cause. This is an Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Executive initiative.

We encourage:

1. Introducing the program at your next parish council meeting.
2. Having a collection can available clearly marked "Nickels for the North" and passing the container around at meetings (all coins accepted!).
3. Depositing the collection to your CWL account earmarked "Nickels for the North" and forwarding it to the Provincial Treasurer when amounts warrant, or regularly in April and December.

Note that this is a **3-year initiative, January 2011 to December 2013.**

Please report collection amounts in your annual parish reports, and in the reports going to the diocese for forwarding to the provincial council.

Thank you for your support.

Missionaries of Mary Immaculate

CWL member, Margot Bilodeau is a member of the lay consecrated women of the Secular Institute – The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. She reported at the Fall meeting that the chapter house in Haiti where 17 local women live was totally demolished in the January 2011 earthquake. These lay women are asking for our **prayers** and **financial support**. Donations can be sent to the following address:

L'Aide aux Missions, SI – OMMI in Haiti,
Suite 100, 7535 Parent Blvd,
Trois Rivieres, Quebec, G9A 5E1.

THE PARK BENCH

Sandra Brenneis, composer of *Mary's Veil* and *Lost Apostle*, is pleased to premiere her new musical production *The Park Bench* at the Arden Theatre Feb 4&5 at 7:30 pm, Feb 6 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm. A simple bench within a park becomes the place where life is celebrated and reflected upon by those who pass by. *The Park Bench* is filled with moving and inspiring music, which highlights the resilience of the human spirit and the power of faith, hope and love.

Sandra and the cast of *The Park Bench* are pleased to once again support West Country Hearth.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through the Arden Theatre at 780-459-1542



*God of goodness and hope,
you fill us with the light of this
beautiful season*

and we are thankful.

*We love the anticipation,
the memories,*

the surprises.

*Help us in all the excitement
to keep turning toward you*

In love, courage and gratitude.

*Help us to walk in your way each
day.*

AMEN.

