

Catholic Women's League Newsletter

Executive:

President:

Clover Oryschak

President Elect:

Maureen Maynard

Treasurer:

Gail Currie

Secretary:

Dorothy Johansen

Past President:

Annette Patterson

Spiritual:

Tere Rubio

Christian Family Life:

Yvonne Fummerton

Community Life:

Jacky Beriault

Education & Health:

Kerri Fummerton

Communications:

Jean Ashdown

Parish Activities:

Vacant

Spiritual Advisor:

Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz



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

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



During the Advent season, we enter into a time of great anticipation for the nativity of the Child Jesus. In my family, preparations have involved setting up the manger (carefully hiding the baby Jesus where we wouldn't forget him) and setting the three wise men far off to the side to await Epiphany. The Advent season also saw lighting of the Advent wreath candles, attending choir concerts, and setting up the Christmas tree with ornaments collected over the years; many reminding us of important milestones, friends, and loved ones no longer with us. In our family, the children place their favourite shoes in front of the fireplace in the hope that St Nicholas (the patron saint of children) will place chocolate coins, oranges, and perhaps a little gift in honour of his feast day on December 6th. This year, our daughters also had the special opportunity to be blessed with the oil (scented with Myrrh) that flows from the relic bones of St Nicholas. All of these activities, big and small, add to the meaning and joy of the season and eventual celebration of Christmas.

This winter, our CWL council has entered into another time of great anticipation as we make preparations, raise funds and plan to build a new Mary Garden at St Thomas More Parish. This gift to our church community, in honour of Our Lady, involves many hours of dedication from our members: the planning committee lead by Annette Patterson, the cookie bakers (you know who you are!!), the cookie walk volunteers, those who generously donated funds to the project, the gardeners, plant donors, Isabelle Zelinkski's donation of jewelry sales, and all those who prayed for us. Just like during the Advent season, there is so much planning and preparation in an effort to celebrate our faith and to honour God. Our council's Mary Garden preparations are a spiritual journey for us in which we are called to give of ourselves in service, we give thanks to those who have helped and been so generous, and continually pray for God to guide us. I know I am eager, as are many of you, to see the fruit of our labour come next summer when we have the chance to see the garden we have prepared in honour of Our Lady. I look forward to spending time in the garden with you, and hope that you and yours find peace and serenity reflecting in and tending to the garden for years to come. In the meantime, please keep our Mary Garden preparations in your prayers, and thank you so much to everyone for helping to make this wonderful CWL gift to our parish a reality.

Your Sister in Christ,

Clover Oryschak

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of the human race.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only begotten son, full of grace and truth.

SINGLE ADULTS

CHRISTmas Potluck
Supper Mon, Dec 19.

Bring a dish to share and join us for some Christmas fellowship. Some supervision of children will be provided. Mass 7pm followed by potluck 7:30 - 9:00. Please RSVP your intent to attend (# adults, # children, & potluck dish) to Laurie :780-249-7715 or Lorraine : lorraine57@shaw.ca. Be sure to leave a contact number.



Highlights from Fall Council Meetings

September:

Prayer sisters – names of your prayer sister were distributed along with a small plant. Think about your prayer sister whenever you water your plant and pray for her throughout the next year.

October:

Somebody Skit – Performed by CWL Executive at October General meeting. The skit shows what happens when many people talk about things that need to be done and how 'somebody' should volunteer to help. Tere Rubio did an excellent job of acting out the skit as the 'Somebody' who sees the needs in the parish and volunteers to do things while many others talk about the things that need to get done and how 'somebody' should do it. Thanks to those who manned the tables at the Ministry fair, distributed lunch bags.

November:

Quiche making and sale was very successful. 10 ladies showed up on Friday, Nov. 4 to make, bake and box quiches which were sold on Nov 5/6 after masses. We raised \$1451.50.

Annette Patterson informed us about the Objects of the League.

Thanks to those who participated in Living Rosary on Oct 19 and those who helped with the quiche sale, cookbook sales and the membership drive on Nov 5/6.

All Saints' Day Party

The All Saints' Day Party was held in the afternoon of Saturday, October 29 and was attended by 25 children, 8 seminarians, 2 priests, and a large number of parents and volunteers from CWL and CGL. Those dressed as saints told us a bit about the saint that they represented. There were also many dressed as angels. All had the opportunity to play games, make crafts and colour pictures of saints. The children also had an opportunity to participate in a bit of sword play battling one of the seminarians dressed as St. Martin of Tours.



From CWL Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE IV: Objects

The Objects of the League shall be to unite Catholic women of Canada:

1. to achieve individual and collective spiritual development
2. to promote the teachings of the Catholic church
3. to exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
4. to protect the sanctity of human life
5. to enhance the role of women in church and society
6. to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
7. to uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
8. to contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony

Homelessness

On November 25, the Social Justice Ministry of St. John the Evangelist parish offered a number of presentations on homelessness. The meeting featured speakers from St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocesan Social Justice Office, Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre and two people who had been homeless. It was interesting to hear the circumstances that caused these two people to become homeless and inspiring to hear how having a faith life is important part of their recovery and their journey to wellness. Another session is planned for January. See details below.

An Evening of Storytelling and Awareness Building Wednesday, January 25, 7:00-9:00 pm

St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall, 9830-148 Street, Edmonton

Join us for an evening of awareness building and storytelling. Dave Ward of Homeward Trust and Holly Taylor of Catholic Social Services will provide insight into Aboriginal culture, and share some of the challenges faced by Aboriginal people who are participating in the Housing First program. The program will include time for questions and dialogue, as well as the opportunity to listen to Aboriginal drumming and enjoy some bannock!

For more information, please contact: Sr. Mary Clare Stack, uj. 780-378-2455 or sister.maryclare@catholicsocialservices.ab.ca

Catholic Girls' League

A total of 21 girls have registered to be part of this year's Catholic Girls' League at our parish. The CGL is led by CWL members, Jean Ashdown, Dorothy Johansen and Laura Walker, and by volunteers Lauren Ryan, Rebekah Ryan, Louise Ashdown and Victoria Walker. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month in the Youth Room. We do games, crafts, activities and learn about our Catholic faith.

We have made bookmarks, St. Teresa beads and advent calendars. Many thanks to Elizabeth and Stephanie's grandfather, Peter Lema, who made the wooden crosses used for the St. Teresa beads. These were extra special as each has been personalized with the girl's first name.

We labelled the lunch bags that were distributed to solicit donations to the school lunch program run by E4C. We also cut out, decorated and labelled over 1,000 angel and star ornaments and hung these on the Giving Tree to facilitate the collection of items for the Lurana Shelter. Thanks to Diane Gagnon for coordinating this and allowing CGL members to participate in this activity.

Some of the time we spend learning about our faith. We have discussed saints, lit the candles on the Advent wreath and watched a show about Christmas. We also have time for fun! We have played ice breaker games and 'Minute to Win It' Christmas games, had a Christmas gift exchange and always have a snack and something to drink.

In January, we are offering a Red Cross babysitting course. While there will be several of the CGL girls attending, this course is also open others in the parish (ages 11 to 15 years). Cost is \$50



Community Life Chair

Jacky Beriault has been appointed the new Community Life Chair for our council. In this role, she will be overseeing our council's Homeless Committee.

Jacky was born in Glasgow but lived in England until she moved to Calgary in 1978. She came to Edmonton in 2009 and joined the CWL to meet people and contribute to the Church.

Jacky has 3 daughters and a grandson who is 11 years old. She has worked in banking and real estate but is now employed in the optometry field. She likes to travel, read books and spend time with family.



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Edmonton Area has launched new website at

<http://www.ssvpedmonton.ca>. The

Society provides emergency assistance to those in need in Edmonton and the surrounding area - men, women and children who, either as individuals or as families, are encountering difficulties in their lives. Help can be offered in many forms: food, furniture and/or household items, clothing, transit tickets, financial assistance with rent or utilities, or other needs.

Vincentians bring the love of Christ to serve the poor on a person to person basis. Please visit <http://www.ssvpedmonton.ca> to learn more about the Society, to request help, or to volunteer.

Happy Birthday to the Following Members:

December:

- 11th - Jackie deBruin
- 20th - Linda Sorenson
- 30th - Eleanor Magnan

January:

- 3rd - Patti Chomyc
- 3rd - Johanna Dietrich
- 3rd - Jan Dunnigan
- 11th - Judy Buddle
- 13th - Shavonne Deib
- 14th - Jean Ashdown
- 19th - Marie-Florence Lamaute
- 21st - Joy Turnbull
- 22nd - Cecilia Fenrich
- 30th - Mary Ellen Haggarty
- 30th - Bonnie Johnson

February:

- 3rd - Debby Oikawa
- 11th - Kerri Fummerton
- 12th - Magdalen Miklos
- 13th - Grace Koenig
- 20th - Lucie Baril
- 21st - Nancy Yatscoff
- 22nd - Mary Ann Curran
- 24th - Jaya Scaria
- 25th - Doris Lees
- 26th - Sue Fish

No Room at the Inn

No Room at the Inn is an annual appeal to Edmonton area churches to help provide safe and affordable housing for those who are homeless in our city.

This year's Christmas offering will assist Wings of Providence with their Our Home Next Door projet which will provide affordable housring for women with children who have experience family violence.

To donate, make a cheque payable to *WINGS of Providence*, enter *NR11* in the memo line and mail it to:

WINGS of Providence
PO Box 32141
Edmonton, AB T6K 4C2.

All donations are tax deductible.

Mary's Garden Update

This fall the Mary Garden committee has been busy researching statue possibilities and initiating fundraising projects so that this project can move forward. We are still hoping to have the garden established by the summer of 2012.

Following the decision made at the October CWL general meeting that our Council would take on all fundraising responsibilities for the project, the committee has put forward several fundraising ideas:

- ✓ We have approached Parish Council for a donation, and are waiting to hear back their reply.
- ✓ The appeal letter that was sent to all Council members was the initial, and main, fundraiser. Thank you for your support to date; if you haven't made a contribution yet, please consider doing so. We want to wind up this campaign at the December 13 Pot Luck. The parish bookkeeper is handling all of the donations, and all contributions remain anonymous.
- ✓ We are asking members to donate money they receive from returning bottles and milk cartons to the bottle depot.
- ✓ Isabelle Zielinski has offered to donate proceeds from the sale of Fifth Avenue Collection jewelry. At the November 15 meeting, she had a selection of Christmas pins to choose from. At the December 13 Pot Luck Dinner, Isabelle will provide a much larger selection of jewelry to choose from, if you wish to purchase Christmas gifts
- ✓ We will have the Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 11, after all the masses. Cookies will be sold for \$10.00 per box. To be a success, we will need lots of cookies baked as well as volunteers to help on the day of the sale.



Diocesan CWL Meetings

Fall Diocesan Meeting:

- Gorden Self and Carole Mullen from Covenant Health, Alberta's Catholic Health Care provider, talked about the "Angel's Cradle" idea for Edmonton. Based on program offered by St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, it allows a mother to anonymously drop off their baby in a private and safe location. An alarm alerts hospital staff 30 seconds later. A group is working on getting one or two sites for Edmonton however there are legalities in Alberta that requires a search for parents of abandoned children.
- Mass collection was donated to the CWL Archives committee for 2012
- Nothing More Beautiful sessions are available on DVD or by Livelink during the sessions.

Zone 9 Meeting – Nov. 24 at St. Dominic-Savio parish

- There was a speaker from Back Porch Ministry. Zone 9 collected donations from various councils (we donated \$100) to support the Back Porch Ministry. Their office is located across from the abortion clinic in Edmonton. It offers last chance counseling and information for women seeking an abortion.

Newsletter Deadline is Feb 15.

All suggestions or contributions for the Spring 2012 newsletter must be made prior to this date. Contact Jean Ashdown at (780) 435-1861 or jean.ashdown@telus.net.

2012 National Convention

The Catholic Women's League had its start in Edmonton in 1912. So, in 2012, Edmonton Diocesan CWL will be celebrating their Centennial. Edmonton will be hosting the National Convention in August 2012. There are other plans also. A Gala event, 'Catholic and Living It' will be held Feb. 11, 2012 at Northlands. And, a historical display is being put together to be displayed at the Provincial Archives and at the National Convention.

Volunteers will be needed to help with Convention. Dorothy Johansen is looking after registration and Pam DeLuca is looking after spiritual.

Why join the Catholic Women's League of Canada?

- Apply for educational bursaries
- Bring comfort to the needy, marginalized, and vulnerable
- Live your Christian values and be a positive role model
- Become part of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
- Share fresh ideas with friends who await you
- Join an organization that recognizes and celebrates healthy family life

The benefits are eternal! "For it is in giving that we receive."

Upcoming Events

January

Tue, Jan 17th – **CWL General Meeting** – in the Chapter Room following 7pm mass.

Wed, Jan 25 – **An Evening of Storytelling and Awareness Building** – at St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall, 9830 – 148 Street, Edmonton from 7 to 9pm.

Thu, Jan 26 – **CWL Zone 9 Meeting** – at St. Anthony's Parish 10661-82 Avenue. Registration at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:00pm.

February

Sat, Feb 4th - **CWL Edmonton Diocesan Mid-Winter Meeting** – St. John Bosco Parish. Registration at 8:30am. Meeting starts at 9:00am.

Sat, Feb 11th – **CWL Gala: Catholic and Loving It** – at Northlands. Cost is \$125 but first 20 members of our Council who purchase tickets will be supported with \$50 towards the price of a ticket.

Tue, Feb 21st – **CWL General Meeting** – following 7pm mass in the Chapter Room.

March

Sat, Mar 17th - **St. Patrick's Day Supper** – volunteers will be needed to plan and work to put on this supper for our parish family.

Tue, Mar 20th – **CWL General Meeting** – following 7pm mass in the Chapter Room.

April

Apr 20th-22nd – **Edmonton Diocesan Convention** – Red Deer

June

Jun 1st-3rd - **ABMK Provincial Convention** – hosted by St. Paul diocese.

August

Aug 12th-15th - **National Convention** – see latest edition of League magazine for registration form.

Would you like to join women from all across Canada in an organization that can foster and celebrate your Catholic faith?

The CWL is rooted in gospel values and calls you and all members to holiness through service to all people of God.

You are invited to join League sisters as you pray for one another and walk the gospel road together.

Special CWL occasions are often celebrated with the Eucharist.

The CWL motto is "For God and Canada". Mary is honoured as Our Lady of Good Counsel."

As a CWL member, you joyfully affirm that God's presence blesses every aspect of ordinary life including meetings, volunteer projects and celebrations.

Come, join us! Contact Maureen Maynard at (780) 435-4917 for more information.

Renewals are due now! Please complete the attached membership form and submit your dues by placing in an envelope addressed to 'CWL Membership' and leaving or mailing to St. Thomas More church.