



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council February 2019

Spiritual Advisor

Msgr. Maurice
Comeault

2018-2019 Executive

President

Past President

Mary Bibik

Secretary/Treasurer

Connie Mozdzen

Spiritual Development

Chris Brezden/Maria
Poworoznik

Organization

Stella Ross

Christian Family Life

Pro Life - Joan
Armstrong

Community Life

Education & Health

Belinda Walker

Communications

Carol-Lynne Neitzke

Resolutions

Legislation

Funeral Committee

Joan Armstrong/Judy
Albiani

Greetings to all CWL Sisters!

We are in the deep of winter, and with the long nights and the frigid temperatures we've been enjoying, our human response is to just sit back and hibernate! However, there are many events calling us out, and to enter a room full of smiling, welcoming faces just tends to make it all worthwhile. After all, this is Winnipeg, in winter, and we are a hardy bunch!

Since our last Newsletter in early November, we've hosted a successful Craft & Bake Sale, and another Coffee Klatch. The Parish Ministries' Potluck in December was very much enjoyed by all; the food was phenomenal, and it turned out to be a marvelous evening.

The Marian Workshop Series, entitled "Mary Through the Scriptures", was held over 4 consecutive Thursday evenings from November to December, and was very well received by all in attendance. We were thrilled to welcome 2 ladies from St. Boniface into our midst for the workshops.

Going forward, we have a spaghetti night coming up on March 8th after Way of the Cross; hope to see many of our CWL ladies there, and then we're into Convention Season immediately following Easter! We've already received the invitations to the Diocesan Conventions, so if anyone is interested in attending, please speak to any member of Executive.

Our Spring Brunch is coming up on the week-end of the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, on April 28th, please plan to attend. Preliminary planning is underway, and it promises to be a wonderful event!

Watch the parish bulletin for updates, and check the CWL bulletin board for more info.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be always with you, guiding and protecting.

Your CWL Acting President

A Message from our Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Maurice Comeault

It is February and the month we pray for the sick. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes falls on the 11th, day, declared to be World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Being Pro-Life, it becomes even more an imperative to remember and to take good care of those challenged by sickness. Some ailments are very visible and physical, while others are rather spiritual and sometimes make havoc with the brain and whatever the brain does with all the miserable traffic. May our prayer for the sick be meaningful and practical. Our Lady of Lourdes, give us the experience of St. Bernadette and the wisdom to bring your motherly care to those who intercede for your help and support.

Organization – Stella Ross

Many thanks to all the ladies who have renewed their CWL Memberships for 2019. If you have not done so yet, there is still time. Your membership is important to us and the League. The membership dues remain at \$30 and cheques should be made payable to the Catholic Women's League. Payments can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the Saturday/Sunday collection basket at mass in an envelope marked "CWL Membership". If you cannot remember if you have renewed, don't hesitate to call me and I will be happy to check for you.

Plans are underway for our annual CWL Spring Brunch which will be held on April 28, 2019 after the 11:00 mass. Mark it on your calendars and plan to attend. Join us for a hot meal, fellowship, a guest speaker and the handing out of service pins recognizing members for their years of service and dedication to the League.

Stella Ross

Organization Chairperson

(204)897-3962

Spiritual Development – Chris Brezden/Maria Poworoznik

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](https://dailyverses.net/gratitude, 02/06/19)

It is a blessing for me to co-chair the Spiritual Development Ministry at OLPH CWL with Chris Brezden! She has been my anchor as we forge together in this ministry. I have had 5 joint replacement surgeries and a broken wrist since February 2015! My second hip surgery was in December 2018. I find myself thankful and grateful for Chris, for my faith in God and for my surgeries. Yes, grateful for my surgeries because they were not life threatening and I can come back to my CWL ministry and continue working with Chris and my sisters in Christ! I welcome 2019 and pray that I will have a break from surgeries this year!

On December 5th, the Annual CWL/KofC Christmas Potluck was held for all parish ministry volunteers. Chris and Mary Bibik took the lead to provide entertainment for the evening. Choir singers/musicians sang Advent and Christmas songs. The songs inspired all to sing along! A fun game followed called "Guess the Carol" which

required teamwork to guess the carol based on written hints. There were some stumpers that's for sure! Of course, the potluck food was delicious with not much left over! Based on feedback, Chris and Mary and their performers did an outstanding job! I was fortunate to attend this function!

As part of our membership drive, the first week of January saw six brave CWL executive ladies get together at the parish kitchen to bake over 600 sugar cookies and inscribe, in blue icing, "CWL". They were packaged with a special invite to the next CWL meeting and distributed after each Mass on January 12th and 13th. At the meeting, Chris led the ladies through an exercise called "Birds of a Feather". It was a fun self-awareness exercise on discovering your gifts and talents and then comparing them to four different birds. Results were shared followed by a brief discussion. The exercise concluded with a prayer and scripture from Eph.2:10 "*We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do*". I wasn't able to help with the cookie making or attend the general meeting but sure wish I was there with my sisters! What a great idea to discover our God given gifts and talents!

On January 20th Chris, Janet and myself (Yay! I made it out!) attended the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" service. The theme this year was "Justice and only Justice you shall pursue". This service has been occurring for over 100 years and hosted by different churches in the Winnipeg area. Many bishops were in attendance and the sermon was led by Major Shawn Critch. The choir was robust and inspirational! The evening ended with refreshments and fellowship.

I have already attended the first executive meeting of the year and feel well enough to use my gifts where needed!

God's Blessings to all,
Maria Poworoznik

[A Message from Communications – Carol-Lynne Neitzke](#)

There is no message from Communications at the present time.

[A Message from Christian Family Life](#)

The 2019 Welcome Baby Bags Drive has kicked off! We are collecting items for the Baby Bags (check the parish bulletin as well as the parish website), as well as items for Mom's Gifts. Any items you can provide will be most appreciated – they can be placed in the bins at the bottom of the stairs.

[A Message from Subcommittee – Pro-life – Joan Armstrong - jrsarmstrong@shaw.ca](#)

Pro-Life – Subcommittee of Christian Family Life
Joan Armstrong
jrsarmstrong@shaw.ca

On November 24, 2018 Life's Vision Manitoba held its annual fund-raising banquet to support the work Life's Vision does to educate us all on the life issues. Our keynote speaker was Stephanie Gray, from Vancouver. Her area of expertise is Pro-life apologetics on the topics of abortion and euthanasia/assisted suicide – teaching effective dialogue skills, debates, Christian-based motivational and inspirational presentations, speaker and media training. Stephanie's message inspired us to continue to speak for the vulnerable whose lives are not valued in our society today. Check out her book, "Love Unleashes Life: Abortion and the Art of Communicating Truth". She has also written, "A Physician's Guide to Discussing Abortion".

Thank you to all who support Life's Vision financially and for praying for the protection of Life.

Donations may be sent to Life's Vision 618 Muriel St. Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y 0Y2.

For more information about Life's Vision, to book a speaker or learn more about life issues check out the website lifesvision@shaw.ca or call 204 233-8047.

Life's Vision offers the **Dying Healed program**, a project of Life Canada which works to foster a deep and lasting awareness of the meaning and dignity of each human life and the meaning and dignity of all human suffering, especially at the end of life, when the human person is preparing for their final moments on earth. **Dying Healed** is a concept that explains how a person can pass from this life healed, not physically, but mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It is not possible to heal all the pains that accompany disease and terminal illness, but we can help those suffering to experience healing of a deeper kind.

The purpose of the **Dying Healed program** is to give volunteers confidence that their presence at the bedside of a lonely or dying person is an invaluable service. Check the bulletin or with Life's Vision for the time and place of an upcoming training session in the near future.

Upcoming events:

Winnipeg Life's Vision lunch – Saturday, March 30 with guest speaker Alissa Golob, who will inform us about the **pro-life issues in the upcoming Federal Election**. Watch for more information on this event.

National Week for Life and the Family – May 12 to 19, 2019

Theme – "Listening to the Gospel – Renewing the Family Bond"

The National Week for Life and the Family : Tridiocesan Catholic Family Conference – Saturday, April 6, 2019

This year, as a lead up to the National week for Life and the Family, we are pleased to offer a free, enriching Catholic family conference for families: parents, grandparents, children and youth while exploring the theme: **"Listening to the Gospel – Renewing the Family Bond"**. **Saturday, April 6, 2019, from 9 am-4pm at the St. Boniface Cathedral Hall**, featuring dynamic guest speaker, **Leah Perrault**. Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" Please register online at: bit.ly/familyconference1

Featured Topics:

- **“Tending the Fire of Faith in our Families”** – *with Leah Perrault*
Faith is something we talk about and something that changes our lives. Come as a family and practice 3 small ways to tend the fire of faith in your family - no matter how messy
- **“Theology of the Body... Beyond the Bedroom”** – *with Leah Perrault*
Explore how our creation connects us to God and each other so that every moment of our lives can be a participation in the work God is doing in our families and in the world.
- **“Listening to God’s Voice in my life”** – Separate activities for youth and children
- **Live Praise and Worship**
- **“Leaning on Faith & Family” – Testimonials** – *For adults*

- **“So What God?!”** – *with Leah Perrault – For Teens*
Choosing God as a teenager is a courageous choice. So what? We’ll talk about why faith is a gift even if other people don’t think so, how to grow confidence in hearing God speak, how we can find and follow Jesus in relationships and dating, and how to find the path God has for you.
- **“Growing in God’s Family” – Testimonials & Activities (Praying in colour)** – *For children*
- **“God’s Story Continues in Our Stories”** – *with Leah Perrault*
God’s story has been written for us in the Bible, but you may be surprised to discover that God’s story isn’t over yet. Every day, God’s story continues in our lives and we will practice listening to God’s story so that we can hear it in our own stories.

For more information contact: Nadine Fetherston mfl2@archsaintboniface.ca (204) 594-0295

The March for Life will take place Thursday, May 9th, beginning with a **mass at 10:30 am** at **St. Mary’s Cathedral**, followed by a **peaceful walk** starting at the **Legislative Building (north entrance) 12:00 noon** and ending there. All are invited to participate in the mass and the March for Life as a public witness to visibly show support for all Life – life for the preborn, the disabled, the vulnerable and those at the end of life.

Conversation: In the Mother’s Womb

The following conversation between two pre-borns was published on the website <https://thebacajourney.com/two-babies-talking-in-the-womb/> by Laurie Seymour. She indicates that “According to Wayne Dyer, the original story was told by Henri J.W. Nouwen” – a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian.”

In a mother’s womb were two babies. The first baby asked the other: *“Do you believe in life after delivery?”*

The second baby replied, *“Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later.”*

“Nonsense,” said the first. *“There is no life after delivery. What would that life be?”*

“I don’t know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths.”

The doubting baby laughed. *“This is absurd! Walking is impossible. And eat with our mouths? Ridiculous. The umbilical cord supplies nutrition. Life after delivery is to be excluded. The umbilical cord is too short.”*

The second baby held his ground. *“I think there is something and maybe it’s different than it is here.”*

The first baby replied, *“No one has ever come back from there. Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery it is nothing but darkness and anxiety and it takes us nowhere.”*

“Well, I don’t know,” said the twin, *“but certainly we will see mother and she will take care of us.”*

“Mother?” The first baby guffawed. *“You believe in mother? Where is she now?”*

The second baby calmly and patiently tried to explain. *“She is all around us. It is in her that we live. Without her there would not be this world.”*

“Ha. I don’t see her, so it’s only logical that she doesn’t exist.”

To which the other replied, *“Sometimes when you’re in silence you can hear her, you can perceive her. I believe there is a reality after delivery and we are here to prepare ourselves for that reality when it comes....”*

[Message from Community Life](#)

Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre Meal

Our CWL has been preparing, delivering and serving a meal of Shepherd’s Pie, twice a year, for Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre for many years. Saturday, March 16th, we will be preparing the meal in the OLPH kitchen and the next day, Sunday, March 17th, the meal will be heated in our kitchen in the morning and delivered and served at Immaculate Conception Hall in the early afternoon. Many hands make light work in the preparation of this meal. We will need 10 people to cook, mash and deliver the potatoes on Saturday morning. Four to six volunteers are needed to help with preparation in the kitchen on Saturday morning. On Sunday about 12:45 pm three to four volunteers are needed to deliver the pies to Immaculate Conception Hall and help serve the meal. The volunteer sign-up to help with this meal is in the entrance to the church. Donations of new socks and mitts for all ages would be greatly appreciated. These can be left in the bin at the bottom of the stairs to the hall.

Thank you to all who will donate their time to prepare, serve and deliver this meal.

Submitted by Joan Armstrong

[Message from Resolutions](#)

Two of our ladies attended the Manitoba Provincial Council Resolutions & Legislation Workshop on November 17th at the St. Boniface Pastoral Centre. It was interesting, informative, and we are thrilled to advise that this Council presented and adopted a resolution last month, entitled: **Call for a Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracking in Canada**. This resolution will be presented at the Winnipeg Diocesan Convention on April 26 – 27. We encourage you to come out to support our resolution!

Last year’s resolution, **Setting a Standard for Products Marketed as Flushable**, was presented to the Federal Government in November! Congratulations again to Stella Ross for her hard work on this Resolution; it’s such a thrill to watch a resolution move through the different levels of the League and then head to the government!

Legislation

This coming year we are hoping to implement some kind of letter writing campaign at each General Meeting dealing with different past Resolutions that have been adopted. We haven't yet worked out the logistics of such action, so your feedback and recommendations on this matter would be welcomed.

Funeral Lunch Reception

We continue to provide funeral receptions, as requested. This service requires many volunteers and we are always looking for new people to assist. We require people to purchase groceries, provide baking, prepare sandwiches as well as serve and cleanup. We attempt to rotate the volunteers so you are not being asked to assist at each reception. This is a very rewarding service to the parish. Those in need of our time, are extremely grateful for the assistance.

If you are interested in becoming involved or would like to change your availability, please contact one of the committee members. Judy Albiani - 204-896-5320; Joan Armstrong – 204-895-7595; Monika Bingham – 204-896-9157.

Message from Education & Health – Belinda Walker – Chair

Catholic schools week is February 11th to the 15th. St Charles Catholic school held an open house on February 5th and is now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. St. Mary's Academy is celebrating 150 years on May 1, 2019. Please check the website <https://www.smamb.ca/about/150th-birthday/> for the many events planned.

February is I Love to Read month. It is a great time to curl up with a good book, read to your children or grandchildren. You can also check with the local schools to see if they would like a guest reader.

We are very fortunate in our parish to have the Good Shepherd program to aid in the religious formation of our children. The children come together in an Atrium to work with beautiful materials and think about a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy. They can set up a small altar, place sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or place wooden figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd. I will leave you with the prayer the children say before they enter the Atrium. " Atrium Prayer - When we come to visit Jesus in this Atrium we work quietly, and we listen, so that we can hear the Good Shepherd's voice in our hearts. We give him our love, and we are kind to one another. As we work silently and think about the mysteries of Jesus' life, He teaches us without words in the stillness of this room. Please bless our time together, Jesus." (Sheilia Hunt, OLG Creations)

Past President – Mary Bibik

Our CWL theme this year is ‘Care for our Common Home’. You will find this poster on our CWL bulletin board in the entrance. Lots to think about in how we, who are blessed to be placed on this abundant earth, take care of this earth for ourselves and for future generations.

Well, we are knee deep in the winter season. Hope you are enjoying it.

Since the last newsletter we had a successful Craft & Bake Sale in November. As they say “many hands make light work” and we certainly appreciate all the volunteer hours spent on this event. Those who received monies from our proceeds are most grateful!

Our Christmas Pot Luck Gathering on December 4th was a wonderful gathering, sharing and just plain having fun! Here again we appreciate all the volunteer hours on organizing, setting up, and cleaning up at this event. Thanks to those who made and brought the delicious dishes of food we all got to share. Oh and that Sad and Happy Punch are always a hit (Heehaw). The entertainment by our very own parishioners, and the fun trivia games made for a great time.

On January 10th some members of our executive (6) gathered together in the kitchen at OLPH to take on the task of making sugar cookies, decorating them with letters CWL, packaging and labeling. We estimate we made around 700 cookies. We were happy to distribute them to ladies in the parish, after the masses the following weekend, with a personal invitation to attend our General meeting on January 15th. At this meeting the executive members each spoke about their position and duties on our council. This council’s term ends December, 2019 and thus ladies we will have an election later in the fall. I sincerely encourage each of you to prayerfully consider taking on a position on the new executive council of 2020/21. May Our Lady of Good Counsel intercede for us to her son Jesus Christ!

Mary Bibik





Interview with Jeannine Ferbes

I recently have had the privilege of interviewing Jeannine Ferbes who became a parishioner at OLPH and a CWL member in 1963! She is a beautiful woman with wit and grace!

Jeannine was born at St. Boniface Hospital on June 12th, 1929 and is proud to be celebrating her 90th birthday this summer! She comes from a close hardworking family that supported each other through the good times and the bad. Her father was a telegrapher with the railway and was stationed in Ontario, Quebec and Winnipeg. Her parents had 6 children, however one sister passed away at a young

age. Her father passed away too and she found herself looking for work to help support the family. Jeannine remembers her first job as an Admitting Clerk at General Hospital.

She met the love of her life in 1957 and celebrated 60 years of marriage till her husband passed away in April 2017. They have four children and seven grandchildren. A true blessing! The family attended St. Ignatius initially but then moved to Charleswood and OLPH became home.

Jeannine fondly remembers the "Penny Parade" at OLPH. It was a family event that included children's games, bingo, bake sale, food galore and a silent auction. She displayed the stuffed bear the family won! Jeannine said it was a sad day when the Penny Parade came to an end due to lack of volunteers.

Jeannine enjoyed working "behind the scenes" with CWL. Holding an executive position did not interest her but ask Jeannine to volunteer for any event or activity and she was committed! Jeannine said that she was very proud of the charities that CWL supported through its fundraising initiatives!

Jeannine not only volunteered her time with the CWL but also with the cubs and scouts of Canada. Both her and her husband immersed themselves in encouraging youth to participate in cub/scout activities such as swimming lessons, boat/water safety, and camping. Jeannine acted as the event coordinator, organizing every detail to ensure that the youth had a safe and meaningful experience.

Congratulations Jeannine on 57 years with OLPH CWL!

- Maria Poworoznik

Upcoming events:

- World Day of Prayer, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, March 1, 2019
- Winnipeg Life's Vision Lunch, March 30, 2019
- Family Conference sponsored by National Week for Life and the Family, April 6, 2019
- CWL Wpg Diocesan Council Convention, St. James-Assiniboia, Apr 26 – 27, 2019
- CWL St. B Diocesan Council Convention, St. John the Evangelist, Morden, Apr 27
- CWL Spring Brunch at OLPH, April 28, 2019
- CWL Kee-Pas Diocesan Convention, Our Lady of the Snows, Snow Lake, May 4 – 5
- March for Life, May 9, 2019
- National Week for Life and the Family, May 12 – 19
- CWL Manitoba Provincial Convention, St. Lawrence, Thompson, June 8 – 9

On the Lighter Side

- Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery down stairs.
- Today's Sermon: How Much Can a Man Drink? with hymns from a full choir.
- The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.
- Tuesday at 4PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.
- The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."
- Thursday night: Potluck supper – Prayer and medication to follow.
- Twenty two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.
- The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.