



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

### O.L.P.H. Council Newsletter February 2012



Dear Sisters in the League,

A list of our Executive follows. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have by calling the OLPH office, by e-mail at [olphcwlive.ca](mailto:olphcwlive.ca) or by leaving a note in the CWL letterbox in the front entrance of the church. We welcome your input and appreciate your feedback

#### 2012-2013 Executive

President: Mary Bibik  
Past Presidents: Iris Langlois,  
Judy Albiani  
Secretary: Carolyn Giesbrecht  
Treasurer: Bernie Olsen

#### Standing Committee Chairs

Spiritual Development...Marge Schellenburg, Anne Van Humbeck  
Organization...Debra Young  
Christian Family Life...Pat Caron, Belinda Walker  
Pro Life.....Joan Armstrong  
Community Life...Marilyn Halliday & Margaret Stevens  
Communications...Bonnie Taylor & Joyce Buchan  
Education and Health...Marilyn Lowe & Joanne Eilers  
Resolutions.....Vacant  
Legislation.....Vacant

*We have completed our elections and have the new list of Executives that have accepted positions for the 2012/2013 term. We are still in need of someone to fill the following position - Resolutions & Legislation. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please call us for information. We are also looking for someone to Co-Chair as President with Mary Bibik.*

#### A Message from Our President

Due to technical difficulties, Mary's report did not reach its destination in time for printing, therefore I will give some comments on her behalf. I know Mary would want to thank the new Executive for taking positions on Council for the next two years and is looking forward to working with everyone. It will be an enlightening and enjoyable two years!

We look forward to seeing as many as possible out for our annual Brunch on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the poster located in the entrance to the church. Come and hear

about Pregnancy and Family Support Services and how our donations assist in their work. Don't forget to bring a donation of baby food / formula or diapers.

Our Diocesan Convention will be held this year in Selkirk, April 28/29. This is a very informative weekend to learn more about the League and meet other Sisters in the League. Think about attending, even just one day, to become more informed about our great organization.- *Judy Albiani for Mary Bibik*

## **Past President**

What an amazing winter we have had so far. We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning members to the Executive, and look forward to working with you. A big thank you to those retiring members. It's been great to work with each of you and thank you for your time and talents.

This year we will be working on sorting through photos and putting names to faces. If anyone has any photos of League activities from the past, please send them to us to be included.

*-Iris Langlois and Judy Albiani*

## **From the Spiritual Advisor**

The Newsletter is a good way to communicate and share information concerning the activities of the League locally and on the national level. The underlying current which is not evident, is the spirituality of the members of the League. Without the 'communion' with the Lord it could be easy to think we are fulfilling His Will and yet be off the beaten track. Jesus identified all of us as 'brothers and sisters' when he looked at those around Him and said: "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." I truly believe that the presence of the League in the parish and Canada is the opportunity to bring God's presence effectively if we truly are a brother, a sister, a mother to Jesus, because of our commitment to do God's will. *-(Msgr. Maurice Comeault)*

## **Spiritual Development**

Happy New Year to all our Members !!! As we celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League, we are wishing you a year filled with Hope, and Joy and Love!

The theme for the CWL this year is "Centered on Faith and Justice" The focus of the League for 2011 is "Women Against Poverty" (WAP).

Our Prayer Partners program is underway and is on going so if you would like to participate in these we would love to welcome you in. The Prayer Partner Basket is on the counter in the narthex of the church. Please write your name, address and birth date on a piece of paper provided and put into the basket and retrieve a partner for yourself. The basket will be available during our membership weekend on January 21 and 22nd and also at our annual Brunch on February 12.

We will be participating in the World Day of Prayer which will be held on March 2nd. This year the service is "Let Justice Prevail" and is written by the women of Malaysia. More information will available soon. In April we will be celebrating the feast of our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

If you are on the "web check out The National CWL site which can be reached at Here you will find a link to the CWL E-Newsletter which is produced **monthly**  
*-Anne Van Humbeck & Marge Schellenburg*

## **Organization**

With the start of a new year, are all the activities that accompany it and make it memorable. Our 2012 Membership Drive began at the November Craft and Bake Sale and continued with January sitting in the Welcoming Area on the weekend of January 21st and 22nd. To date, our membership for 2012 totals 128 ladies. Members are invited and welcome to come out and join us at the general meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. (not including July, August and December). Be sure to watch for the Birthday Calendar, which should be available in the next few weeks.

This year "Organization" will continue to focus on Volunteer Hour Reporting Forms. Submitted "Volunteer Hours" for 2011 totaled 8,354 ½ hours. This was based on reporting by 30 members; which means we came close to doubling the number of ladies who submitted their hours over 2010 reporting – thank you ladies!! If you do not already have a form, they are available in the CWL plexi-glass holders. Members are invited to put their forms in a visible place and throughout the course of the year mark down any volunteer hours that they spend giving of themselves to activities that benefit our league or parish; our families and communities; and outreach and charity programs. Forms are then submitted at the end of October or beginning of November and total volunteer hours are forwarded to the National Office to help measure the impact that CWL members have on their communities.

## Brunch

On the social end, we have two events that are up-coming. The first is our February brunch taking place February 12th following the 11:00 mass. We hope you have signed up to attend, and look forward to having the opportunity to get together and recognizing ladies who have reached milestone markers in their years of membership.

## Spring Tea

Secondly, we have our annual Spring Tea on April 29th. (More information will be forthcoming by way of the bulletin and posters.) Something new for the 2012 spring tea - in lieu of a hat parade, we will be having a "Creative Hat Contest". While passing those last few days of winter, you can put your chapeau together. Make your hat as silly, or as glamorous as you like and wear it to the tea. It will be great to see what all those creative minds come up with.

Our collection of odd matching tea cups and saucers (and those accompanied by bread and butter plates) has progressed wonderfully. Additional cups and saucers/sets are most welcome and would be greatly appreciated. Should you be willing to donate these items to the CWL, please contact me as set out below to make arrangements for their pick up.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me by dropping a note in CWL mailbox, by phone at 453-6067, or by email at [kyoung2@mts.net](mailto:kyoung2@mts.net)  
- Debra Young

## Christian Family Life

We are looking forward to working with the CWL council for another two years. This month, we are beginning to collect items for the Welcome New Baby Bags for Pregnancy & Family Support Services and Villa Rosa. For anyone who knits or crochets, we require tightly knitted or crocheted baby hooded sweaters and large baby blankets for the baby bags. An announcement will be placed in the parish bulletin and on the CWL bulletin board with a list of articles needed for the baby bags.

We are in the process of getting information from Charleswood Care Centre regarding their volunteer needs. We would like to be more involved with the seniors in our community.

In December, poinsettias were purchased for four shut-ins from our parish and they were each paid a visit and loved getting the flowers.

Thank you for all the Christmas present donations for the Pregnancy & Family Support Christmas dinner, and warm clothing that was donated for the families at Pregnancy & Family Support Services and Villa Rosa. We will continue to pass along winter clothing as it is donated. - *Pat Caron & Belinda Walker*

### **Christian Family Life - Pro-Life Report -**

Winnipeg League hosted their Annual Respect Life Week Brunch February 4, 2012 . This marks the beginning of Respect Life Week February 5 – 11, 2012.

**From Life Canada E-Newsflash** At its annual plenary Assembly, held in October, 2011, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) adopted a plan to implement in 2013 a national pastoral initiative on life and family, titled: “Building a Culture of Life and Family in Canada”. The plan includes a preparatory year during 2012. In a letter dated December 8, 2011, addressed to all Bishops of Canada, CCCB President Archbishop Richard Smith invited his brother Bishops to implement their own diocesan plans for life and family. The President recalled that this national pastoral initiative had been part of a long reflection by the Bishops, including the members of an Ad Hoc Committee which was responsible for developing this plan in collaboration with the Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF). The CCCB is convinced that family issues are closely related to the challenges of the New Evangelization.

Full report at: <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/3238-ccb-pastoral-initiative-for-life-and-family>

- *Submitted by Joan Armstrong, Pro-Life Chair*

## **Community Life**

We continue to support those less fortunate in our community with your kind donations of used and new clothing such as mitts, hats, sweaters, shoes, warm outerwear; as well as housewares, toiletries, toys, etc. Some of the organizations we support include Rossbrook House, Osborne House, Chez Nous, Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre. Any donations can be dropped off in the designated boxes at the entrance to the church. Your generosity is much appreciated.

At the Pot Luck supper in December, toys were collected and distributed to Alpha House, Rossbrook House and Osborne House. A money donation was also given to Alpha House.

A donation of vegetables, celery and potatoes was made to the Missionary Sisters of Charity for Christmas. They were not in need of turkeys or hams this year. Thank you to Noble and Farida for making this delivery to the Sisters.

We support Alpha House on a regular basis and are grateful for any donations, which can be left in the little wooden house in the narthex. Alpha House is second stage housing for abused women and their children.

We will be serving the meal at the Immaculate Conception Drop-in Centre, on SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012. This meal consists of Shepherd's Pie, buns, milk, and bananas and is very much appreciated by those in attendance. We are in need of help in preparing this meal. If you can be of assistance in any of the following areas, please sign up on the sheets which will be posted in the entrance to the church: frying beef on Friday morning, March 16; cooking and mashing potatoes, or chopping and cooking onions, at your home and bringing them to the church kitchen on Saturday morning, March 17; assisting in the assembly of the shepherd's pie on Saturday morning; or helping with the serving of the meal on Sunday, March 18. We are grateful for any help you are able to give. - Marilyn Halliday and Margaret Stevens

## **Communications**

If you would like your newsletter sent to you electronically, please send me an email at [cwlcomm@hotmail.com](mailto:cwlcomm@hotmail.com) and you will be added to the list. If you are aware of any CWL member who would benefit from a card of comfort please email [cwlcomm@hotmail.com](mailto:cwlcomm@hotmail.com) or call Joyce Buchan at 888-8313. Please let us know of any CWL members in need of Sympathy or Get Well cards.

If you have any items you would like considered for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter please forward to Mary Bibik for approval. -Bonnie Taylor and Joyce Buchan

## **Education and Health**

As your new representatives for the standing committee on Education and Health, we look forward to the challenge of addressing topics of interest related to our Catholic faith.

One subject that appeals to both of us is early childhood development. We will begin our responsibilities by presenting information on mother / infant attachment which is fundamental for human dignity and respect for life.

*"A baby who is not welcome is ruined at the roots of his existence. A life without acceptance is a life in which a most basic human need goes unfulfilled"<sup>1</sup>.*

We welcome suggestions from the general membership for further topics of concern

- Marilyn Lowe and Jo-Anne Eilers

## **CRAFT GROUP**

Through the efforts of the ladies in the craft group, many items were donated to nursing stations in northern Manitoba for distribution to those in need. These included 32 sets of Mitts and Toques; 6 toques, 3 pairs of Fleece Booties; 2 pairs of knitted slippers; 7 adult afghans and 9 knitted baby blankets. These were delivered in time for Christmas.

The Craft Group will continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We knit, crochet and sew items for those less fortunate as well as for the Craft and Bake Sale which is held in November each year. Some people work on projects at home as well. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. -  
*Marilyn Halliday*

The Funeral Lunch Reception Service is offered to parishioners by our committee of C.W.L. members/parishioners of O.L.P.H. If you are able to help us in one or more of the following areas, please call Liz 895-1928 or Joan 895-7595. [preparing at the church, serving, clean-up, baking, phoning, shopping for supplies] The greater the number of volunteers we have, the more the work can be shared, allowing us to call on volunteers every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> funeral. There is a charge for the receptions and once the expenses are covered, the money remaining is donated to organizations such as the following: Life's Vision, Serena Manitoba, Rossbrook House, Westgrove School Breakfast Program, Euthanasia Prevention, Campaign Life Coalition, Northern Missions, Pregnancy and Family Support Services. Thank you to all those who already volunteer their time with this service.

- *Judy Albiani, Joan Armstrong, Marilyn Halliday, Judy Kaczmarz, Virginia Kenney, Liz Sherman*