

Greetings as we approach the end of August and the imminent beginning of autumn. On some days, I have felt the colder weather indicating fall is around the corner. I am thankful for the yield that my container garden has given me and have enjoyed the produce it provided. I am extremely fortunate to have been able to attend the National convention in Saskatoon, having driven there accompanied by a good friend. We had to put on extra kilometres as, going, I could not drive the Yellowhead 16 through Jasper, however we diverted from Prince George to Dawson Creek and met up for lunch with CWL ladies and then continued on. The return trip was shorter as this time we could travel through Jasper on the Yellowhead, however there were tears in my eyes as I surveyed the devastation the wildfires left. It will take a long time for our precious Earth to recover. I pray that we'll be spared this devastation in the future.

The National Convention

For those who do not know me, I consider myself a convention junkie – having attended my first National in Vancouver in 2005 and since then having only missed two. Each time I come away renewed, full of enthusiasm and ideas. I learn so much at each convention. The education, the camaraderie and the sense of belonging is second to none. The agenda of this year's convention was a little different than others – the first two days Monday and Tuesday were mainly given to presentations from a variety of speakers, all of them timely and educational. Please read about and view many pictures about these presentations on the National website. The third day, Wednesday morning was the meeting of members when reports were given by some of the National Executive. All presentations and reports were absolutely wonderful.

Resolutions passed at the National – all deal with the Service Committee

Three resolutions were passed, all three fall under auspices of the Service Committee.

2024.01 Increase Supported Housing for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Mental Health and Mental Illness Issues This has been a longstanding issue in BC and Canada. What activities can we engage in with community-based long-term supported housing programs that will help everyone?

2024.02 National Pharmacare Program to Include Coverage for Drugs Prescribed for Mental Health Illness

Mental Health has been a sub-theme of the National theme of Here I Am Lord, Send Me. The federal government has initiated a National Pharmacare Program to help with certain drugs for diabetes etc. The need for coverage of other drugs is very necessary and this resolution begins to address this need. There are people suffering from many acute diseases that need coverage.

2024.03 Grant the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise Legal Authority to Investigate Environmental and Human Rights Abuses

We enjoy certain rights and freedoms because we live and work in Canada. Many of our sisters and brothers around the world do not. There are companies that have found they can register as Canadian registered companies but operate outside of Canada and have allegations of human rights and environmental concerns leveled against them. These continued reports of allegations of human rights abuses and environmental concerns have not been investigated thoroughly. Without the authority to summon

witnesses and documents, CORE (the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise) is limited to acting in an advisory or mediator role. This resolution aims to go deeper and grant CORE legal authority to subpoena documents and witnesses when investigating these environmental concerns and human rights abuses.

You can find these three resolutions and all others on the National website under Act and then Resolutions. Please read the resolved clauses, the brief and the action plans for each of these resolutions.

You may ask what can my council or I do. The actions are many and varied.

- 1) Education is key under all three resolutions. How familiar are we with the topics? Bring in speakers to educate members about each of the topics. Search out videos and workshops to make parishioners, not only CWL members, but all parishioners aware of the topic.
- 2) Write letters to the prime minister, other key government officials stating your opinion on each of the topics. Remember that a short letter written in your own handwriting holds more clout than a typewritten one. If you do not wish to write a letter, please phone your MLA or MP to state your opinion. Your voices need to be heard.
- 3) Giving service takes on many forms. Through educating members and then taking action on some of the resolutions, we are giving great service.

The Pope's Prayer Intentions

September 2024 For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of the victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

October 2024 For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

November 2024 For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

I came across a quote recently that has inspired me: "Opportunities don't happen, you create them." May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us daily.