



COMMUNICATOR

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA**

BC AND YUKON PROVINCIAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Inspired By the Spirit: Women Respond to God's Call

Leading With Courage

Fall 2017 Issue 35

Theme

The Spirit's Inspiration

Communicator, the BC & Yukon Newsletter, is printed twice a year and relies on submissions from parish, diocesan, and provincial council members, and spiritual advisors. Articles may be submitted electronically to communications@bcyukoncwl.com or mailed to lauraesposito@citywest.ca. Contact your Diocesan president for information or check the website. The deadline for the Spring Issue #36 is March 20, 2018. The Newsletter will be sent to you by e-mail upon request. It is also available on-line at our website www.bcyukoncwl.com. This newsletter is not meant to replace communiqués and reports but to help us to get to know each other better and to share our stories with members throughout British Columbia and the Yukon

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Pope Francis Quotes on The Spirit's Inspiration

The Holy Spirit is the living water that quenches the thirst in our lives because he tells us that we are loved by God as his children; that we can love God as his children and with his grace we can live as children of God, like Jesus.

Listen to the Holy Spirit because he is giving people the good news that God loves them and can renew, purify and transform their lives.

It is the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Risen Christ, who helps us recognize the Truth. He is by our side to support us in this journey of knowledge.

It is the heart that needs to be converted to God, and the Holy Spirit transforms it if we open ourselves to Him.

The Holy Spirit draws us into the mystery of the living God... he impels us to open the doors and go forth to proclaim and bear witness to the good news of the Gospel, to communicate the joy of faith, the encounter with Christ..

Submit to the Holy Spirit, which comes from within us and makes us go forward along the path of holiness.

The Holy Spirit renews all things: He renews our heart, our life, and makes us live differently, but in a way that takes up the whole of our life. You cannot be a Christian of pieces, a part time Christian.

"The Spirit is the wind pushing us forward, keeping us going, that makes us feel like pilgrims and foreigners and doesn't allow us to get comfortable and become sedentary," Hope is both an anchor that keeps us safe in turbulent waves and a sail that allows us to glide above the water. Hope "collects the wind of the Spirit and transforms it into energy that pushes the boat toward the open sea or the shore. We must share that hope not only with those who need it the most but also with God's creation." (May 31, 2017 Wednesday audience - Vatican

It is the Paraclete Spirit, the "Comforter", who grants us the courage to take to the streets of the world, bringing the Gospel! The Holy Spirit makes us look to the horizon and drives us to the very outskirts of existence in order to proclaim life in Jesus Christ. Let us ask ourselves: do we tend to stay closed in on ourselves, on our group, or do we let the Holy Spirit open us to mission?

ADVENT INSPIRATIONS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

ADVENT DECEMBER 3rd – 24th, 2017

“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things.”
Galatians 5:22-23

“Advent is a time of patient waiting. Waiting with patience does not mean passivity. It isn’t like waiting for a bus or the rain to stop. It means “getting ready”. It means movement.” *Thoughts taken from “And So We Go From Season to Season”* compiled by Mary Ryan

First Week in Advent: “In prayer our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity.” Pope Francis - *Visit to the Charitable Centre of St. Patrick Parish and Meeting With the Homeless, September 24, 2015*

What can we do – visit and assist at a homeless shelter, food bank, nursing home, make or collect toques, socks or gloves for those in need.

Second Week in Advent: “The encounter between communication and mercy will be fruitful to the degree that it generates a closeness which cares, comforts, heals, accompanies and celebrates.” Pope Francis “*50th World Communications Day January 24, 2016*”

What can we do – visit the sick, shut-ins, prisoners, lonely and isolated community members. Offer rides to Mass, meetings, Doctors appointments, grocery shopping or just be there to listen to those who need you.

Third Week in Advent: “How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony.” Pope Francis “*50th World Communications Day January 24, 2016*”

What can we do – participate in Penitential Services, go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, say you are sorry to those you have wronged, pray for peace.

Fourth Week of Advent: “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith.” Pope Francis “*Misericordiae Vultus*”

What can we do – offer up prayers of gratitude, show our joy by reflecting Christ’s face to others in our words and actions, celebrate your family and friends.

“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 all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” *John 1:1-5*

Written by Agnes Geiger BC & Yukon Provincial Spiritual Development
Chairperson

BC & YUKON LIFE MEMBERS' FINE ARTS & CULTURE AWARD – 2017

Written by Barbara Jarvis, BC & Yukon Provincial Life Member Liaison

This award is an initiative of the Life Members of BC & Yukon Catholic Women's League of Canada and is funded by them through voluntary donations. This year we had two applicants for the award. The winner was selected by a committee comprised of Life Members from the Victoria, Prince George, Nelson and Vancouver dioceses.

It is an honour to introduce the 2017 winner of the award. Our winner is from Victoria where she has been a member of the League since being gifted a membership at the age of 16. She has been actively involved in her parish as a junior group leader at camp, a volunteer for fund raisers, attending youth group conferences and retreats, an altar server and an altar server coordinator, a teacher helper in sacramental preparation, a grade one catechism teacher for 2 years and a supporter of Pro-Life. As well, she is involved in a variety of outreach and awareness programs through her school. Recently she joined Development & Peace hoping to learn more about helping others globally and she has plans to go to Mexico on a mission to help the poor.

She enjoys travelling and meeting people and hopes to make a career out of blogging experiences of common people to educate the world through showing how their way of life impacts them and us. To effectively communicate this, she plans to take photography and video editing classes at Camosun College with the aim to creatively, through technology, tell the stories of people less fortunate than she is and to make a difference in this world.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our 2017 recipient, Angelina Moodie.



Angelina Moodie (recipient)
With Barb Jarvis (BC & Yukon
CWL Life Member Liaison)



Angelina with her Mom, Lidia Moodie
President of Sacred Heart Council in
Victoria, B.C.

ST. EDWARD'S COUNCIL IN DUNCAN RESPONDS TO THE SPIRIT'S INSPIRATION



In response to the national project: "Quilts for Palliative care", members of St. Edward's Council in Duncan, made four quilts that were donated to the Cowichan Valley Hospice. In the photo, Edie Bonar, one of the quilt makers, shows the quilt that was selected at the Victoria Diocesan Convention to go to Provincial where it got the second place. To the right, Executive Director of Cowichan Valley Hospice, Gretchen Hartley, was quite moved as she thanked the Council for this lovely donation.

KIMBERLEY SACRED HEART CWL MEMBERS ARE WINNERS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!



It all started with the 100th Anniversary Lap Quilt Challenge in the Fall 2016 League Magazine. I brought the idea to the attention of our members at a CWL meeting when we were setting some goals for 2017. The ladies immediately got excited about the project and said, "Yes, we want to do this"! We have 3 quilters in our council; Wilma, Anita and Gretchen and they embraced the challenge. A few of the ladies were sceptical because they did not have a lot of sewing experience. The "quilters" though, were willing to guide them through the process. Thus began the Thursday morning sewing bees. Much of the fabric was donated and together they laid out the fabrics in an array of colours! The ladies picked out the fabrics that would be best for the one particular "challenge quilt". They found a design that was titled "Watercolour". After much deliberation the fabrics were chosen, cut and laid out to create a beautiful display of colour that blended from one hue to another. A variety of fabrics in browns made up the wooden cross that was central in the "Watercolour" design. Anita spent many hours arranging the fabric pieces and sewing them together. Wilma quilted it with her machine having rays come out from the cross and a scroll design to finish the beautiful work of art. The heartwarming story behind this project is that the other CWL members were inspired to create more lap quilts. Skillfully led by Anita and Wilma, the ladies gathered together in the church hall on Thursdays to create 5 other lap quilts. The fabrics in the five quilts were arranged in hues of a specific colour thus creating one of each in yellows, reds, blues, beiges and greens.

Some of the ladies ironed pieces and others sorted and sewed but each of the ladies happily worked together on a project they came to be very proud of. At the May 2017 Diocesan Convention in Sparwood/Fernie we were thrilled to have our “challenge quilt” chosen to go to the Provincial Convention in June 2017. Even though our quilt did not win at the Provincial Convention we have the quilt back with us and consider it a winner as a visual representation of our ladies proudly working together for God and Canada.

Submitted by Heather Morissette

**TWO LADIES, FROM ST. MARY'S PARISH, PRINCE GEORGE B.C. ,
CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY**



Victoria (Vicki) Gutfriend, left and Margaret (Peggy) McMorrow right.

Vicki has 69 years of membership and Peggy has 84 years of membership. Vicki turned 100 on January 3rd 2017 and Peggy turned 100 on October 28th 2016. This picture was taken at Peggy's birthday celebration.

by Barbara Marwood, Prince George Diocesan Spiritual Development
Chairperson

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE'S 80th ANNIVERSARY

October 20, 1937 – October 22, 2017



A skit was enjoyed by all



Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo and
Bishop Gary Gordon

The 121 members of St. Peter's CWL celebrated their 80th Anniversary on October 21st & 22nd 2017 with the theme "Like a Sunflower". Saturday evening Mass was celebrated by our Victoria Diocesan Bishop Gary Gordon and our pastor Fr. Krystian Golisz, SDS. The 4th Degree Knights formed a Guard of Honor.

The celebration was followed by a banquet in our Parish Hall attended by 170 people. Our past CWL Parish Presidents were recognized and a special tribute was paid to our 72 year member, Eileen Little. The entertainment for the evening was a skit of our CWL history celebrated with dialogue, song and laughter, performed by 15 of our CWL sisters, with supporting actors from three of the Knights of Columbus and Fr. Krystian.

St. Peter's Catholic Women's League was organized & chartered in 1937 with forty-one ladies, Mrs. Partington was elected President, Fr. McLellan was the Spiritual Director and Mrs. William Hanlon was the secretary. The charter cost \$2.00. Interesting fact: The first Executive of St. Peter's CWL was "elected" by drawing names out of a hat, imagine that method working today!!

93 year old Bishop Emeritus Remi De Roo, (who was the youngest Bishop at Vatican II), brought greetings. On Sunday our celebration concluded with a free pancake breakfast served by our K of C.

by Agnes Geiger

HOLY TRINITY CWL IN TRAIL HOSTS ITS FALL TEA AND BAKE SALE



Holy Trinity CWL Council, in Trail, organized the annual Fall Tea and Bake Sale which was held on October 21, 2017 at St. Michael's Catholic School. In addition to the bake sale, there were raffle prizes donated by local businesses, in house raffles, table with plants for sale, a sewing table and the ever popular Mystery Table. Confirmation candidates very ably acted as servers for the occasion



Collecting at the door



Selling "Right to Life" Cards



Bake Table



Mystery Table



Making Sandwiches

It was a rainy day but that did not stop over 225 people attending. Many thanks go out to the parish community who baked and worked to make the tea the success that it was. All proceeds are given to the Parish.

BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON ENTHRONEMENT OF THE BIBLE CEREMONY

Preparation: A table with a cloth, flowers and a stand for the Bible is placed at the front of the meeting room to the side of the head table.

Procession: Before the Convention meetings start. All stand. Two ladies with lit candles process into the meeting room. The Spiritual Development Chairperson follows with the closed bible slightly elevated. Appropriate music may be played during the procession.

Opening Ceremony: The Spiritual Development Chairperson reads a passage from the bible following the theme of the President or of the Convention. The bible remains open until the end of the Convention's business session.

Closing Ceremony: At the end of the Convention, the two candle bearers and the Spiritual Development Chairperson go to the Enthronement Table. The bible is closed and processed out of the meeting room. Appropriate music may be played during the procession.

Submitted by Agnes Geiger, BC & Yukon CWL Spiritual Development Chair

Note from Laura Esposito – It was noted by our National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs, at our BC & Yukon Provincial convention in June 2017, that this was the first time she had seen the Enthronement of the Bible Ceremony and congratulated us on it.

THE BALANCE BETWEEN MARTHA AND MARY

Recently as I sat listening to the Gospel about the two sisters Martha and Mary, I was haunted by the words of St. Luke's gospel-10:38-42:

Jesus and his disciples were on their way. He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things..."

Our Pastor in his Sunday reflection pointed out that achieving a proper balance was something we all face. Trying to carve out time for God in our busy hectic lives even for busy priests is something we all face. As he spoke those words about the challenges of daily life I thought of St. Luke's gospel

Even as a retired person who is a recent widow I have always occupied my time with what my departed husband called "busy work". I would take on projects at my Church and then forget to go and say a quiet prayer to God on the other side of the wall. How many of us do the same? We come to the Church for a meeting, take notes, share thoughts and rush out for the next activity of the day. We forget God is waiting for us in the tabernacle. He is asking us for some quiet time to sit at his feet and listen to the silence. His quiet voice is our conscience.

Neglecting the bare basics of our religion is not following God's words "that Mary chose the better way". Martha and her self-justification of the busy worker, reminds me of another favourite Bible passage from 1 Kings 19.12: "God's voice is not in the wind and earthquakes but in the silence, that comes after."

One way I have found to bring some "balance to my life" is carving time for Jesus by attending daily mass and weekly Adoration. One hour of prayer and meditation and just sitting and listening to God speaking to us is a wonderful way to re-boot ourselves and get our priorities right. Working within our community to bring comfort to others, who are isolated and alone, is another way to follow the better way.

At our Diocesan Fall Interim meeting our sisters shared how they are committed to the work of assisting those in palliative care at home and in their communities. One member suggested "just sitting with a family member and holding their hand not speaking but listening was the best gift she could give". Listening and hearing what our troubled sisters and brothers are facing is part of Mary's message, because listening to God's children is listening to God. He speaks through others and often his voice is in the quietest and weakest among us.

Martha is not all wrong however. We do have to share the load of work both at our Churches, jobs and home and getting the balance right is a life-long challenge. I marvel at our Kitchen Angels who are constantly in the service of our parish community but take time to leave the kitchen to attend mass before returning to the bustle of their work.

One of the best examples of a woman who embodies the best of both Martha and Mary is our Community Life Diocesan chair Tina Hanlon. She is

quiet and compassionate and a busy Kitchen Angel who takes time to send out a weekly prayer e-mail to remind us all how important our prayer warriors are and how they help so many Council members.

Tina won one of the Bishop's medals for service this year and it could not have been better deserved.

We all are different and we all are part Martha and Mary: the challenge for us is to leave our computers and busy lives and take time to sit quietly and pray instead of looking for another task to accomplish.

Jesus knew both women well and loved them equally. He saw in his friends the very essence of what humanity is. St. Luke chose this simple example to help focus all of us on what he felt was the heart and what is the better way.

Now the big question we all must ask ourselves: How much Martha and how much Mary am I? If we are 50/50 we are on our way.

Sandi Digras

Victoria Diocesan Communications Chairperson

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH BEGINS HERE

This summer, I had the pleasure of attending the National CWL Convention in Charlottetown, PEI. After the convention, my friends and I toured through PEI for a couple of days.

When we stopped at the visitor information centre in Summerside, the advisor told us about the church of St. Simon and St. Jude in Tignish. The church has a unique, heritage organ that is a "Must See". As we were planning on going to Tignish anyway, we decided to visit the church.

This is a very beautiful church, with a welcoming interior. The statues looked to be original, and the whole building was very well-loved and cared for. But the best part came as we were leaving. Over each exit is a banner that reads:

The Mission of the Church Begins Here.

What an important message for each of us—to bring the good news to the people we meet outside the walls of our buildings.



Submitted by Suzanne Eng, BC & Yukon CWL Provincial Treasurer

A MOST TIMELY SEMINAR - CWL EDUCATION AND HEALTH REPORT

I attended a seminar at Domano Renewal Centre in Prince George given by Christopher De Bono, PHD on Protecting People from Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. He is a Health Care Ethical and Pastoral Theologian. He spent about 1 ½ hours on what is assisted suicide, MAiD, and PAD (Physician Assisted Death). He works with Moira McQueen and Nuala Kenny, both of whom we have had speak at conventions.

Mr. De Bono recommended 2 books we should read: “The Health Care Ethics Guide” from Novalis and Nuala Kenny’s “Rediscovering The Art of Dying” (available in the current Novalis Christmas Treasures catalogue)

Over 13,000 people were reported as using MAiD from June 2016 to April 2017, in Canada. The following was reported in the Prince George Citizen October 27, 2017 from The Canadian Press “More than 600 assisted suicides in Quebec last year.” Veronique Hivon of the Parti Quebecois said “a lot of people” approach her about “modifying the law to allow family members with degenerative illnesses such as Alzheimer’s access to the procedure.”

Hivon said in an interview, “There is a very clear desire within the population to debate expanding the legislation. We need this debate to happen”. Quebec Health Minister, Gaetan Barrette, said in a statement, “the government is putting together a committee of experts to look into the “complex question” of expanding the law to have it apply to people who are deemed “legally and clinically unfit” to give consent to the procedure.” Very frightening!

Dr. Paul Saba, whose organization had challenged Quebec’s legislation in court, noted that “out of the 377 cases in the 2016-2017 counting period that were denied, 79 people had changed their minds about wanting to die”

“That means that given the right conditions, people might change,” said Saba, who advocates for better Palliative Care for dying patients as opposed to assisted death. “True aid is giving people the right Palliative Care.” The previous statements were copied from The Citizen.

Mr. De Bono stated, “BC has 2 times the National average and the Island has 6 times the National average of assisted suicide.

MAiD poses a significant risk to vulnerable people. A person says “I wish I were dead”. They are not asking for death, but it is a statement of deep pain. MAiD is usually chosen through a fear of symptoms or a fear of being a burden or they are pressured. Only 25% of patients who inquire about MAiD follow through. Some just want relief and need alternatives. Integrated Ethics and Pastoral care is critical here.

What do I do if someone says to me, “I want MAiD!” Listen and do not judge and offer alternatives as most likely they do not really want to die but need help to live. I am very proud of the fact that CWL has worked so hard over the last few

years to make Hospice and Palliative care much more widely known. I have volunteered for our local Hospice for about 10 years and appreciate the knowledge that it has given me to pass that knowledge on to the public.

Mr. De Bono stated that “In principle MAiD does not happen in Catholic hospitals.”

Mr. De Bono spent the day with Priests and Donna Flood, the administrator of Prince George Hospice, and toured our facility and I got some information from our Hospice. Prince George Hospice is a 10- bed facility with approximately 30 paid staff and 200 or more volunteers. Amazing! They receive about 44% of their funding from the government and the rest is volunteer donations.

My source said, “If they are forced to perform MAiD there they would lose at least 50% of staff and volunteers. Hospice is a place to go to Die With Dignity and not to be euthanized.” The families are welcomed to spend time with their loved ones and are also cared for by staff and volunteers. Local companies have donated a new roof for Hospice House, renovated the kitchen and some of the interior and put up a beautiful new fence.”

God Bless

Linda McClinton, BC & Yukon Provincial Education and Health



THE HANDS WHO GIVE US JESUS

Recently while attending Adoration I was reading a wonderful book entitled “Jesus our Eucharistic Love” by Fr. Stefano M. Manelli, FI.

The focus on the Eucharistic adoration and our participation in it is beautifully highlighted in the many chapters: Jesus in me, Jesus for me and many more.

However, the one chapter that captured my attention more than the others was the one entitled “The one who gives me Jesus”. It asks, “**Who is the one who prepares the Holy Eucharist for us and gives Our Lord to us?**”

The answer is: It is our Priests.

And who is the priest it goes on to say “He is a man of God.” (2 Tim. 3:17) It is God alone who chooses him and calls him and it is the man himself when hearing God’s call answers it. From the beginning, he is set apart by God to do his work “bestowing on him the supernatural powers of Consecrating the bread and wine into God’s Body and Blood.”

Sitting there reading and listening to God’s voice I reflected on how little we laity appreciate the enormous importance of those gifts. Do we reflect on the

fact that without priests we would never have the Eucharistic celebration? We would never receive our precious Lord or have a chance to sit in his presence and worship him in the real presence.

We take our devoted priests so much for granted we just assume in our cities and towns he will be there faithfully to serve us and make this precious gift of his hands available every Sunday and most weekdays.

If you listen to the media, for many fellow Catholics, 2017 has not been a time of great respect for priests, Bishops and the Pope. Many of the laity have become very jaded in their approach to these holy men who have dedicated their lives in a vocation of service to Christ. Each time we criticize our priests to others or disrespect their vocation as ministers of Christ we disrespect God who called them and gave them their power.

The devil is a powerful enemy and very perceptive in his ability to showcase the faults of God's servants.

We, as the privileged laity, must be careful not to give the devil a chance to work within us. Every time I hear a fellow Catholic deride our priests it makes me sad and angry. I must listen to my heart and channel what God would want me to say and do. Show kindness but defend these wonderful priests that God has given us.

Look at most of the world today. The priests are being martyred in record numbers, those who live are not able to celebrate their faith openly. In many countries, I have visited in Europe, there are so few priests they are covering 3 or 4 parishes. Even in our Northern territories the few priests who serve are so stretched it is impossible to say mass and give the sacraments regularly.

We do not realize how fortunate we, in the Southern cities, are. We opt to go to mass when we remember or feel like it, giving little thought to what we are doing when we go. We half listen to the sermon and without much reflection go to the altar for the body and blood. In other words, we go through the motions. In the same book, it mentions many of the Saints who were quoted as going to amazing lengths to receive communion even once a week.

St. Francis of Assisi refused to become a priest because he did not feel worthy of such a high vocation. He would kiss the hands of the priest and his feet in respect for the power God had given him.

St. John Bosco urged all to "have the highest respect for priests. Keep especially from showing contempt for them in word and deed". "Whoever does not respect these sacred ministers should fear a great punishment from the Lord."

During the next few months when the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts during Advent and the celebration of the birth of Christ let us remember the amazing call our priests have been given and the wonderful gifts they bring to us in the Eucharist. Let us thank them for being there and for answering the call.

The Priests are the bearers of "Life", the mediators of salvation between Jesus and our souls. Amen.

Sandi Digras

Victoria Diocesan Communications Chairperson

REPORT ON THE LIFE CANADA GALA DINNER – SEPT. 8, 2017

We always enjoy receiving an invitation to dinner. Who wants to turn down an opportunity to have a break from the kitchen routine and engage in wholesome conversation with like-minded friends over a tasty meal? So when Past President Pat Deppiesse and I received an invitation to the LifeCanada Gala dinner at The View in North Vancouver we eagerly accepted. We knew that top notch speakers such as Archbishop Michael Miller CSB, Natalie Sonnen and Wesley J. Smith were also to be guests so this was an easy decision. President-Elect Gisela also came accompanied by Carol Gray.

Our archbishop spoke first, stressing that visible compassion for those approaching the end of their natural life is a key to winning people over from the side promoting and practising euthanasia and assisted suicide. What convinces people who may have opposing views to ours, what wins over their hearts, is seeing someone lovingly caring for and preserving the dignity of a person until their natural death, a witness that begins at conception.

Natalie Sonnen, Executive Director of LifeCanada, described the work of this ever expanding organization comprised of four-fifths of the 100+ ProLife groups across Canada. LifeCanada acts as a catalyst to protect the most vulnerable in our society and to promote good values by using a variety of methods: national polling on issues, spearheading campaigns, training speakers, and setting up national conferences. The polls they have conducted have proved to be an excellent source in tracking trends on such issues as euthanasia, assisted suicide, sex selection, conscience protection, parental consent for abortion, and adoption. The data from their polls are often used by other groups in their campaigns. They have also produced a series of webinars, a curriculum for high schools using the ten universal principles propounded by Robert J. Spitzer, also an informative magazine which Susan Steiner, our provincial Christian Family Life chairperson recommends.

In the next half-hour the main speaker Wesley J. Smith, renowned for his championing of Human Exceptionalism, delivered what he had promised, namely “a disturbing message” about the changing face of “Do No Harm Medicine”. A former lawyer, he has authored or co-authored 12 books, has spoken out against the Culture of Death, has been on many TV programs, and even counselled government leaders.

He spoke of the need to give vulnerable life extra attention and protection in order to counter act a change evident in modern society which rejects the notion of the sanctity of human life. The primary purpose of a society which wants to eliminate suffering has eventually turned into eliminating the sufferer. A caring society would help the person that is suffering.

In Belgium couples can now be euthanized together so that they won't have to face a life of widowhood. Society will benefit from the organs donated from victims of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. In the Netherlands the death of a

mentally ill person is seen as having greater value than their life because their organs can be harvested. Canada has the most radical euthanasia law in the world, making it a fundamental right. Indeed after the Carter decision in 2015 to allow Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia, it was reported that some certified nurse practitioners were in favour of being involved in the procedures.

He maintained that no human should ever be treated as an object. We are the only species with duties to each other. We were advised to arm ourselves with reasons why human beings have dignity.

He used the phrase “medical martyrdom” for those who may be told in a couple of years that they must euthanize a person. Some provinces are already considering that a medically-licensed person must be ready to euthanize, and those who conscientiously object may have to face tribunals and penalties. When you accept the concept that some people are disposable, the consequences are tragic, and we were left with the thought that we may be moving to a time when society will impose on us a duty to die.

The evening closed on a brighter note with attendees donating over \$42 000 for local and national pro-life projects.

Sometimes the follow-up to a presentation like this can reap further benefits. One can become better informed about the anti-life views which continue to surface, and be motivated to find good arguments to rebut them. I recommend Wesley J. Smith’s blog site for this. Also at the next meeting of my local ProLife group I was able to present the advantages of taking out membership in LifeCanada and was duly rewarded.

The meal was tasty, the company outstanding, and we three came away much wiser, knowing that our role in the CWL is to remain involved in palliative care and/or hospice projects which promote life, and to advocate even more strongly for the lives of the vulnerable in all stages of their God-given life on earth.

by Gisela Montague and Evelyn Rigby

5 WAYS TO OBSERVE THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR AND PRAY FOR THE POOR EVERYWHERE (from Catholic Relief Services)

PRAY FOR THE POOR

There are so many people who need our prayers. If you’re overwhelmed and not sure where to start, try praying with your newsfeed. As you see headlines about what’s happening around the world, pause and pray for the people affected by those stories.

PRACTICE THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

The Corporal Works of Mercy are drawn from Jesus’ life and teachings. They call us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and imprisoned, bury the dead and give alms to the poor. Pope Francis added a new work of mercy: to care for God’s creation. The Corporal Works of

Mercy offer a clear model and starting point for how to care for our neighbours in need.

MAKE CARING FOR THE POOR PART OF YOUR ROUTINE

Do you buy coffee, chocolate or Christmas gifts? One way to support low-income workers around the world is by buying things you use on a regular basis from organizations that pay a fair wage. If you drink coffee or tea, look for a fair trade label, which means the farmers who harvest the coffee or tea are paid fairly and work in safe conditions. As you begin your Christmas shopping, consider buying gifts from around the world that are produced and traded ethically.

LEARN ABOUT THE CAUSES OF POVERTY AND WORK TO CHANGE

There are many reasons why people around the world are trapped in poverty: lack of jobs, war and climate change that affects what farmers can grow are only a few examples. We can raise our voices together to ask our government to support policies that help address these causes of poverty.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH TO THE POOR

One way to care for the poor around the world is to support the work of Catholic Relief Services, the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. CRS is motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries. Learn more and get involved at <https://www.crs.org/world-day-poor>

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – CHILLIWACK PRESENTATION OF 40 YEAR SERVICE PIN TO MAGDA DECK 29 SEPTEMBER, 2017



Pinned by President Shirley Rollheiser and Organization Chair Diane Wynker at Bradley Centre, Shirley also presented Magda with our council's CWL quilt "Love is All Around".

It is such an honour to recognize a model sister-in-the League, our sister, Magda Deck, for her 40 years plus service in our council. She was a caller for many years and even when sick she continued by having Magda, Jr. do the calling for her. I might add probably 55 plus years in our St. Mary's parish. What a legacy she has created to date in her 97 years of full life!

No one is more exemplary to living our Mission Statement, to being rooted in gospel values and following the call to holiness. Magda is so devoted to our Blessed Mother and has shown to be a total prayer warrior. In this powerful

practise she has supported our council and made material and financial donations to our bazaar.

Magda has demonstrated the love of a wife, mother to three daughters, grandmother to two grandchildren and great-grandmother to two great-grandchildren.

Magda is one of those ladies blessed with strong fibers to have survived the World War. She was a kindergarten teacher in her home town in Austria, moved to England where she became an RN, then came to Manitoba where she did more nursing. Upon moving to the Chilliwack area she worked in the prisons as a guard but chose to go back to nursing and finished her career in the maternity ward of the Chilliwack General Hospital.

Many will remember her jokes while working at Mother Theresa's Thrift Store for a good twelve years.

Magda was also a professed Secular Franciscan for 35 years. That is why she lived in poverty Or was it because she gave away so many gifts?

Our bible study group would get re-energized at pot-luck suppers with Magda beating us at a competitive game of cards, besides entertaining us with her humour and laughter. Her many friends always knew Magda to not only be full of fun but with much knowledge of what the politicians were doing.

We know that our patroness, Our Lady of Good Council, will continue to be at her side and ask her Son to bless Magda with His many gifts.

Note: This quilt was chosen to represent the BC & Yukon province at the special prayer ceremony in Charlottetown, PEI, where quilts from all provinces and territories were blessed at a special ceremony at the national CWL convention.

Submitted by Rita M. Blanchette.

As the Spirit Inspires Us, in this season of giving and receiving – **have we thought about the following:**

- Giving of our time and talent to the poor in our communities- by helping out at soup kitchens, donating toques, mittens, scarves and socks to the less fortunate, stopping on the street during our busy day and talking to those who are less fortunate we happen to meet.
- Helping out an elderly neighbour who does not get out very much.
- Visiting those who may be lonely for company.
- Donating extra funds to Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) for their work around the world alleviating the circumstances of those who have faced recent disasters.
- Buying products from companies who support or organize causes for the poor.
- Support local businesses. They provide local jobs and pay local taxes which are beneficial to the poor.
- Pray silently and sincerely for the poor and follow it with charitable donations.
- Encourage more people to Volunteer and join associations which help the poor.
- Give, Give, Give! in whatever capacity you can.

by Laura Esposito

60 Years with the League



Bernadette Watteyne, (centre) of St Anne's Parish in Quesnel received her 60 year pin as a Catholic Women's League member. Bernadette is pictured with her daughter Maureen Lowden of St. Peter's CWL in Nanaimo and her daughter's husband Dave Lowden

Has the 'Communicator' fulfilled its Mission ?

Thank you to all who have contributed and celebrated responding to God's call while joyfully serving the Lord. Your articles, tributes, and celebrations have helped educate, fulfill and give us food for reflection. If you have any articles, ideas or suggestions for the Communicator, please e-mail your suggestions to Laura at lauraesposito@citywest.ca or communications@bcyukoncwl.com.

The *Communicator* is intended to be a teaching aid to educate members and to share ideas from the BC & Yukon Provincial Council and from our members to our sisters in the League

Deadline for the Spring Issue #36 is March 20, 2018.

2018 Spring Newsletter Theme is: "**Speak Lord, I'm Listening**"