



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

Spring 2018 Issue 36

Theme

Speak Lord, I'm Listening

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@bcyukoncwlc.com. Contact your Diocesan president for information or check the website. The deadline for the Fall Issue #37 is October 20, 2018. The Newsletter will be sent to you by e-mail upon request. It is also available on-line at our website www.bcyukoncwlc.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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A Word From Your Publisher and Editor – Laura Esposito

I will be completing my term as BC & Yukon Provincial Communications Chairperson at the June 2018 Provincial convention in Whitehorse. It has been an honour, a privilege and a joy to serve you in this capacity. To say that editing, compiling and publishing these newsletters, for the past three years, has brought me great joy is a true understatement. To read about the wonderful works that are carried out in parishes over the entire province gives me great pride and hope that our League is strong and viable. To read the articles submitted by your dedicated provincial executive and other members from around the province, is truly inspiring. I thoroughly enjoyed searching the internet and also reading some of Pope Francis' publications in order to come up with quotes from Pope Francis that fit the theme. I also enjoyed writing an article each time based on the theme of each edition. Thank you for the privilege and honour to serve you. I hope I have filled the task well.

For my successor, if you find one-tenth of the gratification and joy that I have found in writing articles on the theme, in reading, editing and publishing the articles and stories submitted to me by members from around the province of BC & Yukon, you will be truly blessed.

I wish all of you love, joy and peace.

"It is not how much you do, but how much you put in the doing."

Mother Teresa

"The root of peace lies in the capacity to listen."

Pope Francis (7/17/16)

Pope Francis' prayer for World Communications Day May 13, 2018

Lord, make us instruments of your peace
Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion;
Help us to remove the venom from our judgements;
Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters'
You are faithful and trustworthy, may our words be seeds of goodness for the world,
Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
Where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen

Pope Francis' Quotes – “Speak Lord, I’m Listening”

“The joy of the Gospel fills the heart and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew. (The Joy of the Gospel p.5) 2014

“There is so much noise in the world! May we learn to be silent in our hearts and before God”. (Pontifex twitter.com November 18, 2014)

“To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us. (Pontifex twitter.com Oct. 18, 2014)

“God never tires of forgiving us”. (“The Spirit of St. Francis, Inspiring Words on Faith, Love and Creation” p. 27) 2015.

“True charity requires courage. Let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need”. (“The Spirit of St. Francis, Inspiring Words on Faith, Love and Creation” p. 122) 2015.

“It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions” (Pontifex Jan. 20, 2014)

“Our way of asking and responding to questions, the tone we use, our timing and any number of other factors condition how well we communicate. We need to develop certain attitudes that express love and encourage authentic dialogue.”
(“Amoris Laetitia” – “Catholic Sensibility” Aug. 19, 2016)

“Communicating means sharing and sharing demands listening and acceptance. Listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication and calls for closeness. Listening allows us to get things right, and not simply to be passive onlookers, users or consumers. Listening also means being able to share questions, doubts, to journey side by side, to banish all claims to absolute power and to put our abilities and gifts at the service of the common good.”
(Message for World Day of Social Communication – Jan 22, 2016)

“To all people of good will working for social justice, never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity”. (“The Spirit of St. Francis, Inspiring Words on Faith, Love and Creation”. P. 131) 2015

“Let us listen once more to Jesus, with all the love and respect that the Master deserves. Let us allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live. Otherwise holiness will remain no more than an empty word.” (Gaudate et Exsultate – Apostolic Exhortation on the call to Holiness in Today’s World – March 19, 2018)

THE BC GOVERNMENT LISTENS TO THE VOICE OF THE PROVINCIAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE DELEGATION

Delegation: Evelyn Rigby (President), Gisela Montague (President Elect), Blanca Stead (Legislation), Sharon Geiger (Resolutions)

After months of preparation, numerous phone calls and emails to contacts for the government meetings and to the resolution committee, the day finally arrived for our meetings to present our resolutions to members of the BC Legislature on Wednesday, February 28th, 2018.

On Tuesday night, the night before we were to meet with the members of the BC Legislature, we went over our speaking notes to prepare ourselves.



Blanca Stead (BC & Yukon Legislation):
Sharon Geiger (BC & Yukon Resolutions)
Honourable Darryl Plecas (Speaker)
Evelyn Rigby (BC & Yukon Provincial President)
Gisela Montague (BC & Yukon President-Elect)



Sharon Geiger (BC & Yukon Resolutions)
Greg Kylo (Shuswap Liberal MLA)
Blanca Stead (BC & Yukon Legislation)
Todd Stone (Kamloops Liberal MLA)
Gisela Montague (President-Elect)
Evelyn Rigby (BC & Yukon President)

On Wednesday morning at 11:00 am we met with six of the NDP caucus and presented recent and past resolutions: we began with presenting the motion on *Enforcement of the protection of communities and exploited persons act*, then *Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals, Include Psychotherapy in British Columbia Medical Service Plan, Banning the use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides, National Screening for Newborn Screening including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency*, at this time Gisela did a presentation on *SOGI 123* and we finished with *Hospice Palliative Care An Integral Component of the Canadian Healthcare System*.

Members asked questions and also gave us some information. We were well received.

We then went to lunch with Shuswap MLA Greg Kylo. He told us a bit of his life and how he became an MLA. Todd Stone, MLA for Kamloops, also joined us after lunch. MLA Kylo introduced us to the House - we were in the gallery and

attended Question Period. Greg was very excited to have us there because he doesn't have very many members of his constituency visit him at parliament.

After Question Period he met us and gave us a tour and explained many things regarding the building, especially about the Library. He also took us to visit the Speaker of the House who had to have a picture taken with us. After our tour we met with about fifteen members of the Liberal caucus.

When we had the picture taken, there were only 11 members as some had business to attend to.



The Catholic Women's League Delegates
and the Liberal Caucus



The Catholic Women's League Delegates
and the NDP Caucus

The members listened attentively and had some suggestions.

We were well respected by both parties. Greg Kylo presented us with gifts at the end of our presentation and then picture time. We felt like celebrities because so many photos were taken of us during our time there.

The presentation of our resolutions to government members is an honor and a privilege that we value. The MLAs respect the work that has been done in the preparation of the resolutions and they are attentive and gracious towards our presentation.

The interchange of ideas is an education for them and for us and it is very worthwhile.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Geiger
BC & Yukon Provincial Resolutions Chairperson
BC & Yukon 1st Vice - President

ALLTHE BETTER FOR HEARING



Father Tony Ackerman receives a cheque for \$1000.00 from St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League president Pat Weninger to help with the costs of installing a hearing loop sound system at the Armstrong church (photo submitted)

This article appeared in the Morning Star newspaper and was written by the Morning Star Staff based on an interview with Pat Weninger, president of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church CWL in Armstrong.

CWL members recently presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Father Tony Ackermann to help with the costs of the recently installed sound system for hearing aid users at the Armstrong church.

"The church and hall underwent extensive renovations through most of 2017," said CWL president Pat Weninger. "With the inclusion of the new induction loop sound system, Armstrong now has two venues supporting the use of hearing aids. Heaton Place installed the hearing loop in 2015."

A hearing loop is a special type of sound system for use by people with hearing aids. It sends a wireless signal directly to the hearing aid when it is set to "T" (Telecoil) setting.

"In some parts of the world, the U.K. for example, assistive listening technology has actually been legislated in order to provide accessibility to all people," said Weninger. "In Europe and the US, inductive loops continue to gain in popularity as a result of the simplicity and effectiveness."

"In Canada, people are starting to hear about this technology. Many businesses are beginning to recognize the importance of servicing their clientele by providing loops in their facilities. This is a way of promoting accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life."

Weninger said BC Ferries Corporation recently got on board by having induction loops installed on several of their ships and have announced that all new-builds and re-fitted older ships will have Loops installed. Weninger added that as a life-long hearing aid user, she is especially pleased to be part of this project at St. Joseph's. As a member of Armstrong Toastmasters, she has personal experience of the hearing loop system at Heaton Place.

"I've experienced the hearing loop when their music systems are on when I arrive to setup for our meetings and just love it. I've also experienced at St. James Catholic Church, Vernon when I attended a retreat there," she said. "I've worn hearing aids since I was a youngster and this loop is the greatest thing since the ear trumpet. "

Submitted by Dorothy Hruby
Kamloops Diocesan CWL President

A WHEELCHAIR PROVIDES A NEW LEASE ON LIFE



Father Terry Brock, Annunciation Church pastor, Prince Rupert: Anne Falvo, Prince George Diocesan Treasurer and Annunciation Past President; Sandra Olaksew, Annunciation CWL President and Gladice Marshall (in wheelchair)

Gladice Marshall is a member of the Annunciation Parish, in Prince Rupert, BC. She arrived in Prince Rupert many years ago to marry a local boy. She was raised in Fost, Alberta, and was friends with a couple of other members of our League, Paulette Desautels and Marie-Anne Olaksew. She is a devout Catholic and she and her husband raised 3 children. Over the years it became harder for her to get around due to health issues. She soon became house-bound, but the church still sent her the bulletins, her Sunday Missal and her envelopes for weekly donations, and Fr. Terry would go on Sundays and bring her Holy Communion. She never mentioned her inability to do things and go places that she missed, like the seniors' center to play games and meet old friends, shopping and once in a while as a treat she would accompany her daughter to Terrace. One day Fr. Terry mentioned to the Catholic Women's League members that there was a member of our church that could not come to Mass because she was house-bound. The Catholic Women's League decided to purchase a wheelchair for her as our "Alms" for the year 2018. On March 15, 2018 Sandra Olaksew, President of Annunciation CWL Council, Prince Rupert., Anne Falvo, Prince George Diocesan Treasurer, and Fr. Terry Brock presented Gladice with a new collapsible wheelchair, which enables her to be active in our community once again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Olaksew and Anne Falvo

**BC & YUKON PROVINCIAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE EXECUTIVE
2016 - 2018**



Back Row:

Carol Vanderbyl (Whitehorse Diocesan President), Dorothy Hruby (Kamloops Diocesan President), Sylvia Jurys (Nelson Diocesan President), Angelina Stiglich (Vancouver Diocesan President), Sharon Ciebin (Community Life), Agnes Geiger (Spiritual Development and 2nd Vice-President), Kathy Weswick (Secretary), Suzanne Eng (Treasurer), Maureen Ingram (Victoria Diocesan President), Gemma Gillis (Prince George Diocesan President), Blanca Stead (Legislation), Laura Esposito (Communications), Linda McClinton (Education & Health)

Seated:

Father Edwin Kulling (Spiritual Advisor), Pat Deppiesse (Past President), Evelyn Rigby (President), Gisela Montague (President-Elect & Organization), Sharon Geiger (Resolutions and 1st Vice-President)

**TWO LEPRECHAUNS AT THE PROVINCIAL MIDTERM MEETING
MARCH 17, 2018**



Angelina Stiglich and Sharon Ciebin pictured during a break from the provincial midterm meeting held March 15 – 18, 2018 at St Nicholas Parish, Langley, BC.

AN EASTER MIRACLE

“Here I am Lord - I come to do your will”

As I share an **Easter Miracle** with you, my thoughts remain with Mary Magdalene, as she followed Jesus on the road to Calvary and was the first witness of his resurrection. Pope Francis in his latest exhortation asks us to “live lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do.....Be holy ...with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. Gal 5:22-23). “

Many of us are discouraged about certain laws and the lack of others in Canada today, and wonder about the effectiveness of our role when taking our resolutions to Government. I trust you will be encouraged, inspired, motivated and filled with hope in your continued efforts from this report.

In 2010-11, I offered a workshop and established a small discussion group for those women wanting to write a resolution. It was here that Barbara Renaud, wrote her National Resolution 2012.01 – Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services. This resolution asked for Canada to enact a Nordic Model of law. Barbara shared that she felt driven by the Holy Spirit to do something, but was floundering until she received guidance.

In 2013, the Vancouver Archdiocesan Anti Human Trafficking Committee was created with Barbara and I as members. Over the years we have questioned why God chose us and what our value to this committee of professionals was. We now realize it was because of our experiences and skills learned in the League.

While we celebrated Canada’s new Nordic model law in December 2014, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, we were aware of the need for immediate education of both our Catholic parishes and communities, at large, as the law is to be reviewed for its effectiveness within 5 years. This law recognizes the victims (prostituted) and criminalizes the buyers (johns) and those selling others (pimps).

The actions taken by this committee over the years has enriched our lives in so many different ways as we developed strategies, met with police, school boards and worked with other likeminded groups. Through our various efforts, we realized that this law was not being enforced in BC, which lead us to invite Valiant Richey, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County, Seattle Washington, to Vancouver in 2017. Valiant, in collaboration with other groups, is gaining success in his demand reduction model, which focuses on those who have a choice, the buyers. I urge you to watch his presentation at **www.thetraffickedhuman.org** .

Our resolutions’ action plans ask us to educate ourselves, write or visit government officials and if applicable monitor bills. Based on my years of

experience with this group and the need to invite my MP to Valiant's presentation, I swallowed my nerves and visited Ron McKinnon. I brought my concern about the law's lack of enforcement and an invitation for him and his staff to attend Valiant's presentation. As no one attended, his office did reach out to me following the event, and a second meeting was organized.

It was at this meeting that I learned of a Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights and that Ron had been appointed to it. He shared that they would be visiting 5 cities across Canada, including Vancouver, on their inaugural tour. They would be looking at all forms of human trafficking, identifying needs of victims and barriers faced when trying to leave, effective protection and support including for foreigners and the current legal framework. He further advised that I could write a brief, as can every citizen. I was shocked when asked for my recommendations of groups who should present to this committee. I, of course, recommended our Anti-Human Trafficking committee, with the concurrence that if chosen, I would have another member present to the committee.

In early March, the Vancouver Diocesan Council received an invitation to present to this Standing Committee directly from the Parliamentary Clerk. While neither Barbara nor I felt worthy to represent you, we also knew what a great opportunity we had been given. We both knew we needed to answer God's call and after receiving approval from our National Office, we graciously accepted. We were definitely wondering which committee member had put our name forward, as it was not Ron.

On March 23rd, we attended the hearings and were even more amazed at our invitation as we were part of 15 groups, with only three of us not having day to day hands experience in providing assistance.

While we were filled with apprehension, we also felt honoured to share the opinions of approximately 85,000 members that trafficking in all forms, is an affront to the dignity of the human person and a violation of their human rights. The following resolutions were shared and you will note that they all align with the goals of the committee in these hearings.

2004 End Trafficking of Children

2008 Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics

2009 Exit Strategies for Prostituted Persons

2009 Protection and Support Services for Foreign Victims of Human Trafficking

2012 Criminalization of the Purchasing of Sexual Services

At the end of the hearings, each Committee Member had the opportunity to ask any of us questions. It was extremely affirming to have MP Rob Nicholson start off his time, by thanking us for our presentation and for bringing our concerns to Ottawa every year. He asked that we continue to do so. Again, on his way out he took the time to stop and affirm us and request that the League continue her work and continue bringing concerns to Ottawa as they need to hear from us. We were the only group to be acknowledged that day. WOW. Perhaps he recommended us?

We were told that the committee would now study all of the information provided by the numerous groups and lawyers, received from across Canada and make their report to the Government. Each group's presentation will be published and I will let you know once they are.

We believe the study will begin in a couple of weeks.

If you still have questions about the League's value in this process, let me share with you a couple of paragraphs from a letter recently received from my MP Ron McKinnon. I quote

"Human Trafficking is a menace to our society, to our vulnerable populations and has only negative outcomes. While I do not yet know what the Committee will report to our government, your efforts have opened my eyes to this scourge and convinced me that action must be taken now to stem all of the negative consequences it brings.

The Committee's work, while important, does not hold a torch to the work you and others do day in and day out to bring attention to this horrific issue. I encourage you to keep up the good fight, but know that because of your efforts, several Parliamentarians are now much more aware of this than they would have been otherwise."

Call to Action

It is now your turn to become an active participant in **this miracle**. Due to time constraints and urgency in reaching MP's I ask all members to write letters to their Member of Parliament, regardless of party, requesting that the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act remains a law in Canada. Also, I request that **you immediately write a letter to the President of your Liberal Electoral Office (even if your MP is from another party as you have liberal members in your riding)** in support of this law as the Liberal National Convention is on April 19 – 21st, and a private members resolution will reach the floor asking for changes to this law. To assist you in writing I am attaching a government document of frequently asked questions about the law and speaking points for your letter.

Sharon Ciebin
BC & Yukon Community Life Chairperson

TIME TO WAKE UP AND SPEAK UP

by Sister Nancy Brown, SC

Sister Nancy Brown, a Sister of Charity of Halifax, is currently a Pastoral Counselor/Ombudsperson and Senior Manager at Covenant House Vancouver which is a crisis intervention centre for homeless and at-risk youth in Vancouver's downtown area.

Sister Nancy has a passion for peace and justice, working for the elimination of violence within families, on our streets and throughout the international community. Recently awarded the Order of BC, the Queen's Silver

Jubilee and the Benemerenti medals, she is a tireless advocate for the most vulnerable and those at risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Today, the words of Micah, 'to love tenderly, to walk humbly and to act justly' impel me to speak out for justice. In 2020, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act will be reviewed by our government. Now is the critical moment to let our voices be heard in order to protect this Act against any waves or thoughts of abrogation. The silent and oppressed victims rely on concerned citizens to stand for justice and speak for them in order to stop this senseless exploitation.

With its current law, Canada has become a leader and has taken a very positive, progressive step forward for demand reduction, gender equality and the elimination of violence against women. The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, (PCEP Act) is in compliance with the UN Palermo Agreement and respects the human rights of prostituted and trafficked women and youth while at the same time holds the buyers and profiteers accountable. Throughout the world, more and more countries are implementing this model which is an innovative form of prostitution policy. It has been adopted in Sweden (1999), South Korea (2004), Iceland (2008), Norway (2009), Canada (2014), Northern Ireland (2015) France (2016), Republic of Ireland (2017) and variations in Finland, and is under consideration in Italy, Israel and Luxembourg. Canada can continue to be a global leader in stopping gender-based violence by ensuring the consistent implementation of our laws throughout all provinces of our country.

Abolishing this Act would effectively decriminalize the exploiter and eliminate any protection of the young person who enters into prostitution as a teenager to meet their survival needs. Prostitution is not a choice, nor is it work but rather a system of power imbalance where one person purchases sex from another. It neglects to recognize that prostitution is inherently violent, coercive and dehumanizing and can never be safe. The preamble to the PCEP Act states that exploitation is inherent in prostitution and recognizes the social harm that is caused by the objectification of the human body and the commodification of sexual activity.

The PCEP Act needs to be upheld and strengthened throughout our country. Without this law, we will have more missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls throughout Canada, more Robert (Willy) Pickton cases in our provinces, and more disappearances of youth along our Canadian highways (like the Highway of Tears in BC), increased violence and organized crime throughout our country. The buyers, profiteers and traffickers will not be held accountable for the injustice and harm they cause to the voiceless and most vulnerable in our society.

Does Canada want to become like Germany. which in 2002 passed a law to legalize prostitution? Since then, prostitution in Germany has increased up to 30% and trafficking has increased with approximately 90% of the women in prostitution coming from abroad, mainly Romania and Bulgaria. The red light district has become a highly criminal environment in the hands of organized

crime. Germany is now known as the Brothel of Europe and called a pimp of the most vulnerable women.

Listen to what Ingeborg Kraus, a German Psychiatrist has to say about what has happened in her country since 2002. "Today we have flat rate brothels where you pay 50 Euros and you will get a beer, a sausage and women without any limitation. Mega-brothels have been created for the increased demand, like the "Pasha" in Cologne with 10 floors and 150 women "working" there. We are observing a reduction in the rate of payment for women: 30 Euros for sexual intercourse while the women pay around 160 Euros for a room and 25 Euros taxes per day; that means that they have to serve 6 men before starting to earn money. The violence has increased, the sex buyers have become more brutal and the sex practices more perverted and dangerous. Before the laws of 2002, the buyers had a guilty conscience. That doesn't exist anymore. They want more and more. The language has changed, women are dehumanized and they are call, "fresh meat", "New Goods", that is super market language. "1

Legalization or full decriminalization is not the answer for Canada. It would normalize sexual exploitation of women and youth while letting the perpetrators act with impunity. Trafficking would increase and organized crime would flourish.

Now is a critical moment for concerned citizens to speak out for those who are silenced. Our current law needs to be protected as it rightly criminalizes the buyers of sexual services and encourages the prostituted person to exit. Many who have fallen into this web of violence, are unable to speak for themselves for many reasons such as fear for their safety, fear of arrest or deportation, lack of trust in formal systems such as law enforcement or foster care system etc. Psychological dissolution is often experienced by prostituted persons which inhibits them from speaking out.

Throughout my twenty years of ministry at Covenant House, I have witnessed the lasting damage done to those who have been bought and sold. I have seen the vulnerability of many homeless 16 to 25 year olds being taken advantage of by dishonest predators. As I pondered the pain and suffering of many vulnerable young people who are struggling to survive or escape this web of violence, I recalled the words of Proverbs, *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."*2

"Exposure to childhood trauma and adversities contributes to subsequent vulnerability to be trafficked. Many trafficked youth have experienced childhood sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, traumatic loss, separation from caregivers, and family and community violence. Such experiences can profoundly impact social-emotional development in complex ways that affect the child's understanding of personal safety, sexual boundaries and healthy relationships leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. "3

Child abuse has been named the boot camp or the pipeline to prostitution. So too, prostitution is a pipeline to human trafficking. Those caught in this web do

not realize the reality, as many have been forced to become dependent on drugs, confused by the false promises of the perpetrators and the stress of the trauma. They are unable to speak for themselves; therefore concerned citizens need to defend the Act for their safety and future.

Are we doing enough to address the ideology that dissociates the meaning of sex from love? How are we as a society, within the family unit, in our educational institutions and churches, adequately addressing the true meaning of love? What are we doing to address the amount of violence that exists within the institutions of our society?

Research indicates that 89% of prostituted persons want to escape but were forced to remain in it because they had no other options for survival. Let's take to heart the words of Elie Wiesel, *"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."*⁴

Please speak to your Member of Parliament, local councillor, mayor and police force to ensure PCEP Act remains and is consistently enforced throughout Canada. We cannot be silent when our brothers and sisters are suffering from such an injustice.

1. Dr. Ingeborg Kraus. Abolition means Love! Trauma and Prostitution
www.trauma-and-prostitution.eu/2017/10/11/abolition-means-Love
2. Proverbs 31:8-9
3. National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Understanding and Addressing Trauma and Child Sex Trafficking.
4. Elie Wiesel's Acceptance Speech on the occasion of the award of Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Dec. 10, 1986

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY TO SENIORS



Our Christian Family Life standing committee organized our Christmas ministry to seniors, the lonely, the sick, and shut-ins: Christmas cards and making the Christmas goody cans to be delivered during our Christmas carolling to seniors and shut-ins. This year we included the medical and surgical wards of our local

hospital. Members of our Parish youth groups participated in carolling and handing out the goody cans. It truly is a remarkable experience to see the joy and tears from the recipients and to witness the children realize how their actions make such a difference to the lonely, sick, and shut-ins. What a great way to spread the true meaning of Christmas!

Submitted by Christina Kinnear CWL Notre Dame Parish Council Dawson Creek

THE LENTEN WHEEL



Inspired by Pope Francis's Lenten message, our Christian Family Life Standing committee held a Lenten Challenge this Lenten season.

Pope Francis in his Lenten message says, "Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs" (of the Gospel of Mathew) "Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (24:12). " "The Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of **prayer, almsgiving and fasting**. "

Focusing on prayer, almsgiving and fasting, our committee created a Lenten wheel with a total of 12 prayer, almsgiving, and fasting tasks. For example: Spin the wheel. It lands on the fasting from indifference arrow that says, "Phone or visit, a senior, sick person, or lonely person each day this week." The next week you spin the wheel again for your new task. Every person who spins can enter the Easter basket draw.

Our youth group also participated by manning the wheel after some weekend Masses, and the wheel was also brought weekly to Youth group so all the youth could participate in the Lenten challenge . 97 people participated in this year's Lenten challenge.

Submitted by Christina Kinnear CWL Notre Dame Parish Council Dawson Creek

JERSEY DAY AT ST. ANNE'S PARISH IN OSOYOOS



Pictured are CWL Spiritual Advisor, Father Peter Thompkins and Council president, Cindy Kennedy (front) with other members of the CWL and of St. Anne's Parish congregation.

When I arrived at Mass that Tuesday morning, Jersey Day, a day set in honour of the Humboldt Broncos, I could not help but notice hockey sticks outside the main door of the Church. In the back pew inside, wearing a hockey jersey, was our pastor, Fr. Peter Thompkins praying, I think. "What a great idea" quietly I said to him "I wish I had a jersey to wear too."

After Mass, a group of us were sitting in the coffee room and in walked Father from the direction of his residence, his arms filled with an armful of jerseys. Onto the back of an empty chair he threw a pile of his own personal jerseys from the many years he had played amateur hockey. He said something like "help yourself" which we did. Pulling them on, we had the sense of team.

To us, it was special to wear the jerseys in honour of the Broncos. Along with our priest, our hearts and prayers that morning and at other moments since were with those who were part of that horrible tragedy. I wore mine for the whole day, at home, at the store and everywhere I went that day after Mass

Submitted by
Elaine Smuland,
Immediate Past-President
St. Anne's CWL, Osoyoos

A LENTEN PROJECT



Pictured from left to right are: Jean Muir, Rose Stoltz and Mary Fehr

St. Ann's Quesnel CWL held a Lenten Project work bee on March 17th and 18th in support of Canadian Food For Children, Okanagan Division. 22 ladies attended and worked in 8 different stations. Several boxes of bandages, quilt tops, diapers and receiving blankets were made from used sheets. These items are sent to Third World Countries by the Canadian Food For Children organization.

Submitted by Maureen Sanderson.
St. Ann's CWL Quesnel Communications Chairperson

PREPARATIONS WERE UNDERWAY FOR THE 2018 KAMLOOPS DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The ladies of St. Ann's CWL, Quesnel are busy preparing to host the 71st Kamloops Diocesan Convention, April 13 -15, 2018.. Our council is also looking forward to celebrating their 70th Anniversary May 6, 2018

St. Ann's, Quesnel, CWL Executive for 2018-19



L-R Carole Holtzman; Audrey Quechuck; Janis McRae; Shannon Moleski; Spiritual Advisor, Father Andrew L'Heureux; Karen Hrbinic; Maureen Sanderson; Yvonne Lebrun; President, Pat Tresierra; Lynne Langley.

Submitted by Maureen Sanderson
St. Ann's CWL Quesnel Communications Chairperson

70 YEARS A CWL MEMBER AND 90 YEARS YOUNG – FRANCOIS ROY



Known to most of us as Fran or Francis, we are here to celebrate this lovely woman who was born December 20th, 1927, **yes 90 years ago!** (*Tisdale, Sask*) WOW, it is hard to imagine all the experiences and changes in her life and our world over those nine decades!

But one thing we do know is that Fran has **filled every one of those years** – filled to overflowing - a life devoted to her faith – family - friends and people she will never know or meet.

Busy!? Hmm, not sure that word comes anywhere close to describing Fran and all she has done and still does each day! Imagine raising ten (10) children. (*Today we think 2 or 3 is busy*) What? Back then? Wringer washing machines, hang to dry, wood stove, baking bread, etc., etc. In Fran's working career she was a teacher and then worked in the Post Office. Throw in her volunteer time helping others, and the fact that she has made **hundreds** of pneumonia vests for the poor and collects clothes for 'Feed the Children' Canada. That's pretty full.....

But wait there's more.....

Fran has been a member – **an active / involved member** - of the Catholic Women's League since **1948!** Almost 70 years!! She has held many positions in the League, including Parish President and Diocesan President (1995 – 1997); she is a recipient of the highly honoured '**Bellelle Guerin award**' for her many years of service and contribution to the League. Bellelle Guerin was the woman who founded the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Fran has always been, **and still is**, active in the parish as well. She is especially well known for managing the **Religious Articles store** for many, many years. She has sat on parish council, the finance committee, was involved in marriage tribunal, taught catechism (or FFC), counted collection money, organized parish golf tourneys, and the selling of Christmas Cards in the Malls **AND**....

She still drives and gives rides to those who don't – picking them up for church, a meeting or other errands. She serves as an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a lector/reader, and she can sing too. I think she could lead the whole Mass.....if need be!

How did she do it! Well certainly her faith has a lot to do with it - **but** being a very smart woman she managed to find time to do things she enjoyed as well. Like curling - she was a skip and very competitive –playing in many bonspiels including the Nifty-fifties. Always one to step up she organized this provincial bonspiel event the year Salmon Arm hosted, and was president of the ladies day league for several years. And then there is golfing and playing lots and lots of cards!

Fran has **many talents and gifts and gives them freely with love**. She is a '**priceless**' mentor – sharing her knowledge and experience - her mind is sharp and her memory is great – especially when telling stories or remembering historic facts about our parish or the CWL.

Her life has seen its share of sorrow, pain and suffering, but most would find this hard to notice as she always looks so '**put together**' and **greets you with a beautiful smile and a friendly...Hello!.. How are you? (In a way that makes one feel very special and acknowledged)**

Fran is amazing – always willing to lend a helping hand – trusting God in all she does - knowing His ways are the best ways.

A FULL life – family, hard work, service, love, laughter, tears and joy!
Fran is **a blessing** to all who cross her path, **a gift** to many she may not know and **a role model** to the family and friends around her.

We pray God's blessing on her and pray she knows how much she is appreciated and LOVED.

Happy Birthday Fran!!

By the way she even made her own birthday cake! That is why we have two of them in the picture.....lots to share!

(Ended with singing Happy Birthday and the blessing song)

Submitted by Terry Mae Sinclair
CWL Member, St. Joseph's Parish Salmon Arm

A SECOND REFUGEE FAMILY ARRIVES IN POWELL RIVER



This is a journey that started in September 2017 and ended May 2018. The Church of the Assumption Powell River CWL and parishioners have helped a second refugee family call Canada home. Our first family was from Syria and our second family is from the Congo. Both parents had died.

Our parish had just finished a huge garage sale for the India clinic on April 21st. It was 4 days later on April 25th when we received word that our second family could possibly arrive in two weeks. As it turned out, it was exactly 2 weeks later that we welcomed the Mgeni family of 5 siblings.

Gail Formosa and I, both CWL members, had to collect furniture from all over town. We had to confirm people were home to make arrangements for pick up on short notice. We had a garage to empty out and boxes and dressers to move. We had found a lovely two bedroom suite for the family's new home, BUT it wasn't finished. When Gail and I arrived with light boxes on Monday May 7th, we had to step over chop saws, be careful of wet paint and then saw no kitchen cupboards on site! To say we were a bit anxious would be entirely true!

Now, fast forward to Wednesday May 9th 4 pm. All beds made up, all furnishings ready, pantry full and dressers ready! Unbelievable! This was definitely a journey of hope and faith. We had a warm, welcoming and safe place for the family to call home. While waiting at the airport I was thinking that the Mgeni family was also on a journey of hope and faith; hope for a better life for each of

them and with faith they could live that life in peace and have a future they could only dream of in the Congo.

And so, this was a journey that started and ended with faith. The definition we can find in Hebrews Chapter One....."sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

I think I mentioned in my last article regarding the Dayek family that we should be bold, and step out in faith. I find it is pretty wonderful to step out in faith and see what the Lord has in store for you!

Respectfully submitted.
Margaret Huisman
CWL Powell River BC

Note: The hosting committee for both refugee families was Hands Across the Water, Powell River. The committee had requested help from our Catholic Women's League to furnish the home for our second refugee family. We also supported the project financially.

HOW DO WE LISTEN TO AND HEAR GOD'S VOICE?

Do you find, as I sometimes do, that I have monologues with God, asking for many things and not often stopping to hear what he wants of me?

The song *Speak Lord, I'm Listening*, by Gary Ault, always speaks volumes to me every time I hear it or sing it along with the choir at Mass.

Refrain:

Speak Lord, I'm listening
Plant your word down deep in me.
Speak Lord, I'm listening,
Please show me the way.

1. Sometimes my heart is slow to follow you;
Teach me to hear and understand;
And I'm told the things you promise;
And I hope they all come true;
And I know what waits for those who wait;
And put their trust in You.
2. Sometimes I stumble on my way to you;
Stretch out again, your healing hand;
And I'm told the things you promise;
And I hope they all come true;
And I know what waits for those who wait;
And put their trust in You.

The Bible has many examples of how to listen. Over and over God interacted with people in a variety of ways. He is an endlessly creative God in

how he communicates with us. God spoke to Daniel through visions, to Balaam through a donkey, to Peter through a rooster and to Moses through a burning bush to cite only a few.

We also have a history of God speaking to man from Jesus' time to the present – to people such as Augustine, Mother Teresa, Sister Faustina (in her diaries that reference the Divine Mercy), just to name a few.

In our relationships, we are so distracted and busy that it is often the exception rather than the rule that people listen to one another, much less listen to God. We need to learn better ways of listening.

Learning to hear God's voice is not hard or complicated; but it does require some discipline in finding a quiet place and allowing some time to just listen. One of the hardest things is to learn how to clear your mind. With all the noise of our busy lives, our minds are often full of things circling around, over and over, making it hard to hear God's voice.

Some things which may help are: 1) set aside a special time – perhaps half an hour to start where you can quieten yourself and ready yourself for prayer (if stray thoughts come through your mind, write them down on a piece of paper); 2) read some scripture, asking the Lord to speak to you through it in a way that you can understand; 3) write down your questions for prayer and then pause and listen. 4) Write down what you feel is being said to you. I have found that writing ideas down will help me focus. It is also a good way to look back to see the journey I had and the directions it has taken me. When I record the random thoughts, my mind will focus better because I know I can return to these random thoughts later on.

God's voice is distinctive. He promises that we, his sheep, will hear it. The more you pause and listen for His voice, the more you will find that you will tune in to it – you become familiar with it. It just requires a focused listening.

Once you have heard God's response and His word, it is important that you act on it. Acting on the Lord's word is proof of your faith in God and it always delivers. Many people believe but do not follow through with actions that would help others and themselves. Scripture says, "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer, but is a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:22;25). Faith without good works is in essence dead, just as the body without the spirit is dead. (James 2:26)

What kind of works and acts prove you listened to God's word, believe in Him and in His word? 1) Always believe that God will provide the answer. Do not doubt. Do not look away from what God has said to you for when you do, doubt will set in. "When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. 'It is a ghost,' they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, 'Take courage, it is I: do not be afraid.' Peter said to him in reply, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said 'Come.' Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?'" (Matthew 14: 26-31). 2) If you believe that your requests have been answered, then act as someone who has obtained results, be joyful. Your words, thoughts and actions should show it,

even when no one is looking. 3) Always give praise and thanks to God for all the blessings received, and prayers that have been answered even if they were not exactly answered as you would like to have seen them answered. No matter how long it takes, hold on to the hope that your prayers will be answered at the appointed time. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my way, says the Lord.” Isaiah 55:8)

God always answers your prayers. Are you ready for the answer, no matter what it may be?

Submitted by Laura Esposito
BC & Yukon Provincial Communications Chairperson

MANY LAP QUILTS DONATED BY ONE CWL MEMBER



Early last year, the Catholic Women's League of Canada initiated a national Lap Quilting project. Soon afterward, the local St. Joseph's Parish Council of Smithers organized a work bee to begin making quilts as part of this project. A few members of the League brought their boxes of fabric to the work bee location, chose fabric textures and colors, and took them home to start their quilts. As summer unfolded, the members put their quilts on hold until fall, that is, all except one.

At the November 2017 general meeting, that member, Marge Hemenway, said, “I have about fifty lap quilts made, what do you want to do with them?” To say the rest of the members were surprised, is an understatement. As a council, they decided to display all **sixty-one** of Marge's quilts in the foyer of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and then distribute all but two of them to the Bulkley Valley District Hospital, RCMP Victim Services program, Bulkley Lodge, The Meadows Assisted Living, and to St. Teresa's Missions in the Prince George Diocese (care of Father Johmer Faderanga). The two quilts that were not given away will be raffled off as part of a fundraiser for the CWL Convention that will be held in Smithers from April 20-22, 2018.

Marge was invited to a Valentine's party at The Meadows to deliver a lap quilt gift to each of the fifteen residents. Catholic Women's League president Eileen

Bouvier, accompanied Marge and provided background information regarding why the lap quilts were made, and told them that Marge had made them all. The residents were overjoyed, some with tears in their eyes and repeated “thank you’s” and hugs from everyone. One resident exclaimed, “This is the nicest gift I have ever received.” Marge continues to make quilts as she says “I love to sew and I have boxes of fabric.”

Submitted by Laura Bolster
St. Joseph’s CWL, Smithers
Communications Chairperson

95 YEARS YOUNG – CONNIE HATHERTON



One of our life members, Connie Hatherton, recently celebrated her 95th birthday.



Also in a photo were CWL member Pat Fischer and life member Wilma Pyplacz. Wilma was Connie's treasurer when Connie was provincial president. Happy birthday, Connie!

Submitted by Mirella Manarin
Vancouver Diocesan Communications Chairperson

CATCH THE FIRE SESSIONS STILL ALIVE AND GOING STRONG



Our CWL council at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Surrey BC were proud to host the first Catch the Fire session of the year this past Saturday.

Barbara Renaud of the Vancouver Diocesan Executive and her team fanned the flames of enthusiasm in the hearts of 25+ members from OLGC, St. Matthews (Surrey) and Immaculate Conception (Delta).

Submitted by
Nicky Olson
Our Lady of Good Counsel Organization Chairperson

VICTORIA DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DAY OF REFLECTION



Huguette Fox, Christa Grillmair, Father Alfredo Montecello, Pat Carew, Sandi Digras



Christa Grillmair (played Martha)
Huguette Fox (played Mary)



Nancy Horsfield, Past President
Ascension Council



Pat Carew, Father Alfredo Monticello and
Christa Grillmair Diocesan President - Elect

"How Women of the Old and New Testament Have Influenced Our Lives Today" was the theme of the February 5, 2018 CWL Day of Reflection held at St. Peter's in Nanaimo.

Spiritual Chair Pat Carew and Spiritual Advisor Father Alfredo Montecello worked together to create an enjoyable day for the over 60 members who went on a journey of discovery and education. Father asked us to pray the Magnificat to open the day.

We knew it was going to be challenging when we were given the agenda and a quiz on Women of the Old and New Testaments and their stories.

Needless to say, the Old Testament women were the biggest challenge and I dare say without the benefit of google and smart phones not many answers would have been filled out. Four members read the stories of Ester, Judith, Tamar and Ruth. We learned that their lives were all inspiring even to women in 2018.

The New Testament women proved much easier with profiles of Mary Magdalene, our blessed Mother's cousin Elizabeth and Martha and Mary.

President-elect Christa Grillmair and I created a skit to illustrate the challenge of trying to balance the Martha and Mary in us all. Hugette Fox assisted in taking the part of Mary while Christa related to Martha.

As Narrator, I was able to point out, through real life examples, how these two powerful women were true role models today.

We had ample time to discuss aspects of these lessons and share how Jesus works in our lives, how we share our faith with others and what lessons we learned.

Father Alfredo gave us insight on how we should view fasting for Lent. He suggested we are dependent on things and abstaining from them by turning

instead to prayer helps us focus on the reason we want to give up a dependent habit in the first place. He suggested we enhance our connection with Jesus by asking for his help during these 40 days.

Father Montecello and Father Krystian Golisz concelebrated mass at noon and closed the afternoon with prayers and reflections.

Everyone felt the day was wonderful and congratulations go to Pat Carew and the St. Peter's Council who made sure we were inspired and made welcome.

The prayer after the Martha and Mary segment summed up the day:

Dear Lord: we are the ones who get tired and frustrated. We live in a "Martha world of many distractions, never ending demands, and over stimulation. Lord Jesus, help us-help me cultivate a Mary heart in a Martha world. My problem isn't the world I inhabit but the heart that inhabits me. I make King David's prayer mine, "give me an undivided heart that I may live in awe of your name" Jesus you are the one thing worth being concerned about; you are the "one thing" that will never be taken from us. Amen.

Submitted by Sandi Digras
Victoria Diocesan Communications Chairperson

MY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE JOURNEY – GEMMA GILLIS

Gemma is presently the Prince George Diocesan President. The following is a talk she gave to the CWL ladies celebrating the 50th anniversary of Fraser Lake Parish Council

I joined the League in Fraser Lake forty-eight years ago. I lived at Lejac and at the time had two young children and was pregnant with number three. I did not drive and felt it was just about impossible to get out of the house and join any group, but a very generous lady assured me everything was possible. Marilyn Lacerte persuaded me that fellowship was what I needed and the CWL could provide that. So off I went to an occasional meeting. At the time I knew nothing about the League except that it was a group of Catholic women who were frequently called on to make coffee, cater for banquets, funerals etc. and sometimes got together to socialize and give reports. To me this sounded safe and appealing. I had come to northern BC to serve as a Frontier Apostle working under Bishop O'Grady. While teaching in Fort St James, I met my husband and we chose to stay and settle in the area. The family soon grew in size and here I was living in an isolated community, looking for fellowship and friendship and the CWL offered just that.

For the first few years I was quite happy helping at a social event or attending the meeting with baby in arms. When we moved to Vanderhoof I was happy to transfer and continue with the fellowship I had come to enjoy. In those days one thing I greatly enjoyed was the annual one-day retreat. A day for myself! The baby that usually accompanied me was well looked after by all the other ladies!

As the years went by, I gradually learned that the CWL was more than I had first thought. I learned it was a national organization, I could find these wonderful ladies in many communities right across Canada. I learned that this organization was much more than a group that would step forward to cater whenever asked. I discovered that meetings led to conventions. I have to let you know that the first convention I went to was in Vanderhoof, I only attended a few events and of course with a baby in my arms. I was beginning to understand that this organization had strength and power. I belonged to an organization with Objects that excited me. *To promote the teachings of the Catholic Church*; Yes I had been raised in a Catholic home. It had been instilled into me that I must know and live by the church teachings. *To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life*; Now I was a parent I could understand the importance of this statement. *To achieve individual and collective spiritual development*; As a baptized Catholic I knew I had to work to do. Yes, I was ready *to protect the sanctity of human life and to enhance the role of women in church and society*.

I was a member of Infant Jesus Council for many years, serving in all executive positions except treasurer. I am not someone who should be in charge of money! I enjoyed my service in the League. I had at least one evening a month when dad had to put the children to bed. I became quite good at making sandwiches. I never learned to make good coffee; even now I always leave that job to someone else. I enjoyed the annual retreat and other spiritual programs. I learned to write letters in support of the resolutions. What a privilege to be able to actually propose a change in legislation or express our concerns to government. Would I have expressed my concern as an individual? I'm not so sure that I would. The CWL encouraged me to act on my beliefs. I have been nourished in my spiritual growth and encouraged in my baptismal call. I am proud to belong to this organization.

Since I retired I have had a little more time to devote to CWL work. I had attended diocesan conventions as a member of parish council, in fact I remember how my knees knocked the first time I stood up to give a report at convention. In recent years I have been able to attend not only diocesan conventions but also provincial and national conventions. What a wonderful experience! If you get a chance please attend a convention. It is inspiring to be with so many like minded women, to attend Mass where a church full of women sings out the responses, to participate in wonderful spiritual programs, to listen to presenters on matters of interest to us, to socialize with women who are so full of fun and really know how to laugh.

One of the most moving experiences is the opening Mass at a national convention. The flags of all the provinces and territories are processed in and then ladies and attending clergy, usually including a number of bishops, stand and sing "O Canada." A very moving experience! Have you ever attended an event with close to 900 women who have the same beliefs as you do? I should also mention that the League has amazing leadership. Our present national president Margaret Ann Jacobs is an inspiration to us. I hope you all read her regular messages.

I know I have come a long way from the overburdened mother who attended the meetings just to have an evening out. My membership in the League has enabled me to work at and promote the things I believe in as an active member of the Catholic Church. Of course nothing is ever quite the way we plan it. Raising seven children and having a teaching career restricted the time for League work. I think of the ladies I have worked with, so many wonderful members who dedicated so much of their time to League work. I reflect on the guidance and leadership they gave.

I wonder if we do enough to promote the CWL and really take the younger women in our communities under our wings and gently lead and guide them and listen to their needs. Years ago I was simply invited to meet like-minded ladies, exactly the invitation I needed at that time. Today we have to find the right invitation and the right words to invite young women to join us. I am glad that the League is presently involved in examining everything about the organization. The CWL was founded 100 hundred years ago to serve the needs of refugees arriving in this country, it has flourished and grown over the years. But needs have changed and we must adapt. The strategic planning that is happening now, is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to help develop an organization that is ready to welcome the younger women and assist them on their journey as Catholic women in the modern world. What are their needs today? Are we ready to be open to their ideas? Are we ready to offer them the guidance they need?

I hope you have participated in the survey put out by the strategic planning committee. You are invited to respond to the questionnaire. You can also send in your comments to National. Please do so. The statement waiting for your response this week is "Women would join the League if...." We are asked to complete the statement. What will your response be? In her recent report "Joy of the Gospel and Strategic Planning", Barb Dowding says, "By being authentic witnesses who continue to pray for wisdom and guidance, while taking Pope Francis' words to heart and putting Jesus Christ at the centre of everything, the League will surely set the world ablaze once again with love and zeal." Let us be open to that wisdom and guidance as we ask our patron Our Lady of Good Counsel to be with us as we strive to continue our work for God and Canada.

Gemma Gillis

Once again the refrain from Gary Ault's "*Speak Lord, I'm Listening*"

Speak Lord, I'm listening
Plant your word down deep in me.
Speak Lord, I'm listening,
Please show me the way.

Has the 'Communicator' fulfilled its Mission ?

Thank you to all who have been inspired by the spirit and have been women responding to God's call while leading with courage. 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 communications@bcyukoncw1.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 Fall Issue #37 is October 20, 2018.

2018 Fall Communicator Theme will be determined by the new Provincial Communications Chairperson to be appointed at the post-convention meeting, after the 2018 BC & Yukon Provincial Convention in June..