



Summer Communicator





The Catholic Women's League of Canada BC & Yukon Provincial Council Newsletter

National Theme

Care for our Common Home

Provincial Theme

Witnessing to the Truth

Summer

Issue Number 39

"Come with me to a quiet place and rest awhile, Mark 6:31

This publication is published twice a year and we welcome submissions from parish, diocesan, provincial council members, and spiritual advisors. Articles may be submitted to: comm@bcyukoncwl.com and will be published on the BC & Yukon provincial website www.bcyukoncwl.com or by request to: info@bcyukoncwl.com

This publication is not intended to replace communiques or reports but is to share our events, success stories and milestones, with our members throughout British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

The deadline to submit articles for Advent Issue Number 40 is Nov. 15, 2019

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel"

Start gathering your news submissions now

2019 BC & Yukon Provincial Convention – June 13 – 15, Nanaimo BC

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Highlights, Reflections and photographs from the BC & Yukon Provincial and Diocesan Councils Chairpersons of Communications

Prior to the convention the delegates were invited to the Resolutions Dialogue led by the Provincial Council Chairperson of Resolutions, Sharon Ciebin. Six excellent resolutions were submitted and reviewed in detail by the delegates in attendance and were amended before being finalized for presentation at the convention. All six were passed on the convention floor and will now be submitted to the National Chairperson of Resolutions for consideration to being accepted at the National Convention in August this year. We make it our mission to make our country and the world better.

Provincial President, Gisela Montague opened the convention after morning Mass on day one and encouraged the delegates to be active participants, seek out new sisters in the League, grow spiritually together and have fun for the next 2 days.

The truths witnessed from our talented guest speakers highlighted our three themes: Caring for our Common Home, Witnessing to the Truth and Solid Rock Living water.

From the moment we arrived in Nanaimo Harbour these themes were front and centre.

The opening Eucharistic celebration showed the synergy of our First Nation brothers and sisters in the moving drumming prayer lead by Jerry Brown which set the tone for the two days that followed.

We were inspired by Bishop Gary Gordon's commitment to the first nation communities in the Diocese of Victoria, and in his words - "*The needs of Missions to the First Nations communities in the Diocese of Victoria continue to be our priority for 2019, particularly in Ahousaht where the re-construction of a chapel, with an additional residence for the Sisters of the Religious of the Virgin Mary, will further contribute to support and expand our pastoral ministry to the First Nations community there. The establishment of a local presence with the Sisters of the Religious of the Virgin Mary ministering to the people of Ahousaht located near Tofino on the West Coast, and in the Cowichan Valley of Vancouver Island, have been of immense benefit in support of this ministry.*"

The Roman Catholic Diocese is committed to building relationships and providing more support for the members of our Diocese who reside in the small outlying coastal communities of Vancouver Island through a visible and active presence of our clergy and religious. Trained catechists and pastoral workers continue to provide a program of home visitations, religious instruction for the young, and assistance with family life development."

This set the tone for the two days that followed and the truths we witnessed from our talented guest speakers continued to focus on our themes.

Amber Zolc, Consultant for Parish Outreach, Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) shared ten ways we can all be witnesses to the truth. Campus and youth centres hold the future of our church in Canada and CCO is there to witness and help students hold on to their faith.

Alissa Golob encouraged us to support Pro-Life candidates during this election year and how every vote counts for those candidates who have the strength and determination to stand up for the sanctity of life. We need to vote to have a voice.

Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Father David John helped us to see the importance of faith and good works in his moving presentation on those in society who don't have a strong voice. He shared how their lives helped form his vocation and spirituality.

Holy Mass was celebrated at the hotel with the altar in the centre of the convention it was beautiful to be with our CWL sisters gathered in prayer and love with our blessed Lord and Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Day One ended in a rocking beach party that allowed us all to throw beach balls, dance to the Glen Foster Partyrock Dance Band and give voice to our inner teenager. We dressed up to the nines and had our photos taken at the photo booth that provided us with all kinds of props to add to the fun. It was amazing to see how ladies of a certain age lose years and groove to the music, forgetting the aching backs and knees that may surface the next day!

On day 2 we began with 2 presentations, SYEYUTSUS (Walking Together) showed us how we can all be part of a journey of belonging with a great heart and strong mind. The session was presented by Stephanie Higginson and Bill Robinson, school trustees from the Ladysmith-Nanaimo School Board, Joan Brown, Executive Director for the Snuneymuxw First Nations, Stephanie Johnson of Toro Communications and our own Bishop Gary Gordon. They educated us in the importance of moving forward through respect and knowledge. Bishop Gary reminded us all how important working together with our First Nations is to God's message as stewards of our Common Home.

The closing speaker, **Anna Hudson**, shared the sad stories of Elder Abuse in society today. This subject was close to the hearts of many of who fit into the over-65 age bracket and who have witnessed, in subtle ways, how government and society treats us all.

In addition to guest speakers, members of the provincial and executive, led by President **Gisela Montague** reported on their various portfolios and **Sharon Ciebin**, Member of the National Strategy Implementation Team updated us on the progress of the various committees.

After the closing Eucharistic Celebration, delegates and their guests returned to the Coast Bastion for the banquet and entertainment by members of the Jazz Band of Wellington Secondary and our guest speaker, **Fr. David John**.

The Convention was full of messages that reflect our three themes and as delegates took the ferry, planes and cars home, they were reminded of our diocesan theme, Solid Rock, Living

Waters, the beauty Vancouver Island and how fragile our Common Home is. We all witnessed many truths throughout the three days.

Our Prayer for our Common Home says it all:

(Written by Mary Ryan, Past President, St. Dunstan Parish Council, Fredericton, New Brunswick)

“Lord, season after season, you continue to renew the face of the earth, “For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.” Teach us Lord, as members of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada, to become attuned to our need to protect the beauty of our common home. May our efforts lead us to sustain its natural order, so that, in the words of Pope Francis, our heritage is never “deprived of physical contact with nature”.

Reflections from Maria Tejero, 2nd Vice president/ Chairperson Diocesan Organization.

I have just returned from the BC and Yukon Provincial Convention held in Nanaimo, Dioceses of Victoria. There were four days full of meetings (yes), learning, fun and fellowship.

Beautiful weather, a lovely City, and catching up with old friends and making new ones. I have returned renewed in my commitment to the League, yes that is what a convention does, it gives you a sense of belonging and of the scope of the Association.

We are bigger than we look.

In today's reading, Jesus feed the 5000 with 5 loafs and 2 fishes, 'Nothing is impossible for God' When I was asked to step to the plate my thought was "Who me? I don't know much (it was all in my head) then I thought that I will not do it alone; He is with me through my sisters.

We were well over 150 women all united under God and Country under the gentle but effective direction of our Provincial President Gisela Montague, the Executive Officers and the Provincial advisor Father David, we were joined too by Bishop Gary Gordon. (it seems that you can be holy but joyful and funny at the same time)

There were a lot of very interesting presentations, missionaries and what does it mean, how the pro-life movement must become political oriented if we want to be effective, First Nations presentation as the changes they are making in their territory, and an awareness workshop on elder abuse/neglect.

The one that become more relevant to me was in the Implementation of the Strategic plan for the future of the League. I don't have to tell you, we are all struggling to increase our membership, to that end the answer is in this plan for change and action. The league, like us, has change, she is 100 years old, and like us when we try the old wedding dress it doesn't fit. As we have grown in beauty and maturity so has the League and we must buy a "new dress". The implementation of the plan is the responsibility of all of us, not just the executives at all levels. The League is a grass roots organization and the "roots" need to inform themselves, pray, and think about the changes and how are going to be achieve. The national office has prepared a Strategic Plan that may be shown at your council.

I am requesting that all chairperson for Organization and/or Parish presidents have an event to see, and dialogue about the incoming changes.

The CWL is the best kept secret, so I have started to wear my pin every day, and when someone ask what is it? I give them an infomercial. Give it a try!

In closing, please consider attending the Conventions, to reaffirm and support our commitment to the CWL

May Our Lady of Good Counsel be with us.

Fr. David's CWL Provincial Convention Talk

'Three Highlights of My Priestly Ministry'

Introduction

We gathered in Nanaimo on the east coast of Vancouver Island in mid-June when the weather was warm and sunny. The hotel was right on the waterfront and many rooms had a stunning view over Gabriola Island with the Georgia Straits in the distance.

The sun rose just after 5am and, if you were on the eastern side of the building, one's room would be filled with sunlight to overflowing... *(or to put it another way, I was awake by 5:30am every morning!)*



The view from my hotel window at 5:15am

On the Friday afternoon of the convention I was asked to give a “spiritual” talk to the gathered ladies. This talk was for just under an hour in length, and so presented here are some brief notes on that talk.

The Three Highlights of My Priesthood

What I wanted to share were three highlights of my priesthood, and perhaps they won't be events that you are expecting. I have chosen them because each, in its own way, reflected and revealed God's love, and as such they are moments that I really celebrate. The events involve a man called Charlie, my retired bishop in Britain, Bp. Christopher Budd, and the ordination of Fr. Dan Gurnick.

Charlie

The time is the mid-1990's and the place is Cornwall in the south-west of England. Charlie was a 'down-and-out' in his mid-fifties; he was rough and very street wise. We first met by chance when I was walking my dog. He did not know I was a priest; I was just the little guy with the black dog. Charlie was sleeping rough behind some industrial units on a half-finished industrial estate, and this was a really good place to walk my dog late at night as it was deserted and there was a lot of space and enough overgrown land so a dog could do what a dog needs to do.

I never knew much about Charlie, except that he had been married and had had two daughters. How he ended up sleeping rough I never found out. On one occasion I mentioned to Charlie in passing that I had been to church that morning. He asked which church and I said the Catholic

Church. His response was dismissive, “Catholic Church; all those priests are paedophiles!” I let that comment go. A few months later Charlie was talking to another of the local ‘down-and-outs’ who was a regular at the presbytery, and Charlie found out who I was. In an odd way, this made Charlie more inquisitive about me and what I did.

To cut a very long story short, Charlie gave me the title “Little Pope” and this became how I was known by all the gentleman who came to the presbytery door.

The first highlight of my priesthood that I am relating occurred when I hadn’t seen Charlie for a number of weeks. It was early evening and getting dark; I hadn’t walked the dog that day so I decided to go to one of the places I thought Charlie might be squatting. I parked up and started walking around some disused buildings. I rounded a corner and there was a large and frightening looking man blocking my path, he said, “What you want?” I told him that I was looking for Charlie. He replied, “Who’s looking for Charlie?” I said, “I am Father David, but you might know me as... ***The Little Pope.***” Immediately his whole demeanour changed, and a smile broke across his face and he said, “Oh – you’re ‘The Little Pope’!”

That was a line I have cherished ever since.

I was a busy priest but over the years Charlie would keep popping up and I would try to help him out in different ways, and occasionally I would step into his world and meet the people who lived around him. This was fascinating. On one occasion, late at night he asked me – *for some reason I do not know* – if I would go with him to see some people. When we arrived Charlie said, “Don’t ask about the broken leg.” We went in and, sure enough, there was a man with a full cast on his leg. As we drove home, I asked about this and Charlie simply said, “He didn’t take the first warning seriously.” The man was a drug dealer and he had been dealing on someone else’s patch, so having been told to stop selling in someone else’s area, his ‘first warning’, this broken leg was his “second warning”. There is a whole other world out there



Charlie - the only photograph I have of him.

(As a bit of an aside, very sadly, years later when I came to Canada, I did at least a couple of funerals of people who didn’t heed either their first or second warnings! It was amazing that the friends of these people told me a very similar story to what I had discovered in England.)

that we never see: people living on the edge. Eventually we get Charlie into basic accommodation, and subsequently into a small apartment. But by now I have been asked to

move to Canada. Charlie got a group of down-and-outs to come to our local airport to see me off; no parishioners were there, just Charlie and his friends! (Airport security looked very nervously at them all!) Charlie kept in touch.

In time Charlie became unwell, he had stomach cancer. I knew that things didn't look very good for him. I don't remember how, but we had got him reconnected with one of his daughters, Debbie, who took him in. Debbie lived outside London.

I was scheduled for a trip back to Britain but having been in Canada for a number of years I was discovering the difficulties of trips back to Britain. The issue is that the Bishop would want to see me for a weekend, obviously my family would want me to stay with them, my old parishes would expect me to go and visit with them, and then there was all my friends! In a shortish visit it was hard to fit all these things in and the net result was that time with my family got pinched as I did a mad dash around southern Britain. Additionally, my Mum-in-England was in her nineties and feeling 'the burden of her years'. *(For those who don't know, I have two Mums – my Canadian Mother and Mum-in-England – but that is another Provincial Convention talk!)* So for this trip home I hadn't told anyone I was in the country except the Bishop and Mum; my plan was to spend as much time as I could with Mum, but I knew that it would not be an easy visit as Mum wasn't particularly cheerful at that time.



Mum-in-England

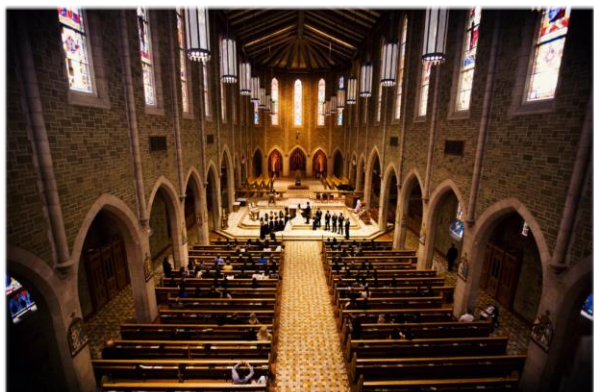
As I drove out of London Airport, I knew I was passing near to where Debbie lived, so I decided to call in and see Charlie. Charlie opened the door, looked at me and started to cry. Brits don't cry much; British men don't cry at all, and tough British men like Charlie really, really don't cry. I wonder if Charlie had *ever cried since he was a child*. He said he just couldn't believe that I had flown over and come and visited him.

We had coffee and we chatted, then Charlie started talking about things in his life. This moved on to talking about "The Big-Guy-Upstairs". He had referred to God in this way before, so I knew what he meant, but previously he had always spoken about God in relationship to me rather than to himself – how **I** understood God not how **he** related to God. The long-and-the-short of it: I heard Charlie's Confession and I anointed him – the anointing of the sick. Eventually I said, "I have to go" and I left. That was the last time I saw Charlie. He died six weeks later.

Why am I telling you this story?

Firstly, because I am so proud of having used the line, "But you might know me as, The Little Pope!" But also, because this whole interaction with Charlie taught me about... ***something***.

I hate it when someone tells a story and then says, "*The moral of this story is...*" This does not put trust in the hearer to be able to take the story and find something that touches them.



What I will say is... Right from the start, as soon as Charlie began putting his trust in me, I felt that I had a *duty of care* to Charlie. I am sure that all CWL members will have experienced a similar feeling in different times with different people. And Charlie sensed this ‘duty of care’ as friendship – or even, dare I say it, love? But more than this somehow, he saw the hand of The Big-Guy-Upstairs in all these interactions.

Now hold on to that idea for a moment...

The Beatitudes – Luke 6:20 and Matthew 5:3

As another aside, one more little thought. Luke writes:

Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you *who are poor*, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

Matthew says, “Blessed are *the poor in spirit*” but Luke says, “Blessed are *you who are poor*.” I have always wondered about this difference.

When it comes to those living rough, tramps, or a homeless person, forget any romantic ideas about camaraderie among down-and-outs; if you live on the street you are very rarely touched by love. Being poor like Charlie means you have very little love around you; I wonder if Jesus knew that it was those who were poor who were often the ones who were impoverished in terms of love as well, so knew they would most easily sense love when it was given exactly because it was so rare in their lives? I might be wrong about this, but I am sure that Charlie felt love, he knew it came from God and he wept. So clearly, he was blessed if ever anyone was.



Bishop Christopher

The second section of my talk, and the second highlight of my priestly ministry, concerns Bishop Christopher Budd.

The Right Reverend Christopher Budd is the Bishop Emeritus of Plymouth. Born in Romford, Essex, England, in 1937 [now 82 years old] Bishop Budd was ordained to the priesthood in July 1962. He was ordained bishop of Plymouth on 15th January 1986.

I first knew Hugh Christopher Budd as Monsignor Budd, the “Rector” (that is, the principle) of the English seminary in the very leafy setting of southern England. This seminary – *priests’ training college* – was where I trained for the priesthood.

He was the rector of the college when I turned up there, so what he did I presumed was what all Rectors of colleges did, but I was wrong. It was only after he left the college that we all realised that he had brought something very special to his task of being Rector. And the idea of “duty of care” comes up again.

At college, ***he would pray with us***. As well as all the other times of formal prayer, the Rector wanted to spend time with his new students in a more informal prayer setting. So, once a week the new students would meet in one of the students’ rooms for an hour of prayer. Obviously, Fr. Christopher was a busy man, so often he would arrive late, but he always told us to start without him in case he couldn’t make it. On one occasion six of us had gathered and we had filled all the seats and the only space left was a beanbag in the corner. Just after we started Fr. Christopher came in; we all wanted to give up our place for him so he could sit on a chair, but he said no and insisted he would quietly creep in and sit in the corner so the prayerful atmosphere wouldn’t be broken. Well as many know, after an hour on a beanbag, getting back to vertical is not easy if you carry a bit of extra weight as Fr. Christopher did. While we can laugh at the ‘beached whale’ image this might conjure up, what I saw was the principle of the college was willing to sit on a bean-bag, with all the associated humiliations that might ensue, just so he could pray with us. For me this was quite breath taking.

This trait he took with him when he became a bishop. When I would fly back to Britain he would say to me, “I don’t just want to sit in my office and have a half-hour chat with you; it is only if I ***talk with you, pray with you, eat with you and relax with you***, will I truly know how you are. So, make sure you are with me for a whole weekend!” And it was not just me, although he had nearly a hundred priests in his diocese, he would make a great effort to sit down with all of them every few years for an extended visit over a number of days.

Again, at college, *if you were sick* you better be in bed because the Rector would be knocking on your door saying, “I saw your name on the sick list, so just popped by to see how you are and to say you are in my prayers.”

Later when he became a bishop, the same was true; if any priest was unwell, he would make a special point of popping in if he possibly could when he was in the area. Indeed, he would make big detours on his way home from various events just to do a visit to a sick priest. For one year of my ministry I looked after a priest who was ill, Fr. Tony, a 48-year-old with a fast-growing inoperable malignant brain tumour; Bishop Christopher was a very regular visitor at the house, and both Fr. Tony and myself, really appreciated this kindness.

Again, at college, his way was always *first to listen*. So, if a student did something wrong, he would take you aside privately and his first question would be, “*Why did you do that?*” It would be after hearing your side of the story would he decide what needed to be done.

When he was Rector of the college and when he was Bishop of the diocese, he really made people feel that he cared. And how does one sense a ‘duty of care’? As friendship – or even, dare I say it, love?

What I didn’t have time to include in my talk in Nanaimo was the small story of when I was in my fourth year of seminary. Fr. Christopher had now left the college and had taken up his new position as Bishop of Plymouth – my diocese. At this point in my training I was struggling; I really didn’t feel that I could climb the mountain of academic work that was being laid upon me, and in my tiredness, I was rapidly losing sight of what had originally called me to search out my vocation to the priesthood. My uncle had always told me never to make decisions when one is tired and when one hasn’t eaten properly. I was tired – very tired – from the burden of work I was battling, and the food at the seminary meant that I would loose about 9lbs (4kg) of weight each term (and then in the holidays I would eat all I could before returning for the next twelve week session at college). So, despite being totally broke, I went out that night, had a good fatty meal at a pub and then came back to my room for a nice early night. That gave me the strength to get through another week.

But I knew I was near crisis point, so I rang Bp. Christopher’s secretary and made an appointment to meet him the following weekend.

We met in his house in Plymouth and I told him my tale of woe. When I had finished, he said the words that I will always remember, “I want you as a priest for my diocese.” He then went on to say that if my journey to priesthood faltered at the seminary where I currently was, then I had to go back to him, and he would help me find another path that would lead to priesthood. This so lifted me that I was able to return to seminary and finish my studies.

But from that day to this, I treasure the moment that the Bishop of my diocese told me that he wanted me as one of his priests. I wonder how many priests have ever heard those words from their bishop? My guess is that this isn’t something that priests are often told, and I don’t put this down to me being particularly valuable, rather I attribute it to the generosity of spirit that Bp. Christopher had; the love he showed to his priests and others.

Bp. Christopher's First Visit to Canada

So, the second highlight of my priestly ministry was when Bp. Christopher came to visit me in Canada, and there was the most wonderful interaction between the bishop and the First Nations community I was serving. And it is a highlight because it was a coming together of this Bishop who I loved and the people I also developed a love for in northern B.C.

Bp. Christopher flew from Britain to Canada and was with us in the parish for a week. We arrange for him to do many things, including a tour of our mines in Tumbler Ridge, a trip in a logging truck and a ride into the bush on a quad-bike. But for me one of the highlights was the blessing of a new cemetery out at one of our First Nations communities.

The liturgical event was the blessing of the cemetery, but we made it into a day when the Bishop visited some of the First Nations members' homes to bless them, and it included the sharing of a traditional meal of wild meat, bannock, and wild fruits for dessert (which had no added sugar). At this point in his life Bp. Christopher had become diabetic so he really appreciated a low fat, low sugar meal; on a beautifully sunny September day under a perfectly blue sky he was clearly rejoicing to share a meal with this community.

Eventually we moved off to the new cemetery for the blessing. And while the ground of the cemetery had been levelled and prepared for its new role, it was still surrounded by a barbed wire fence, and no gate had yet been installed.

So now I have to introduce you to a new character: Arthur. Arthur, his wife Pauline and their kids were very much ordinary members of the First Nations community. Arthur must have been in his mid-forties (I think), and while I really don't like stereotypes, Arthur did fit the First Nations elder image of a quiet and thoughtful soul; a 'doer' rather than a 'talker'.

The Bishop in all his vestments, now in his seventies and still a bit on the heavier side, bent over to climb through the fence. Arthur came behind him to help him through. Arthur put his hand out to steady the Bishop and help him bend, but the Bishop wobbled slightly, and the barbed wire fence came down on the back of Arthur's hand. All I saw was blood, a good volume of it, gushing from Arthur, but he didn't flinch, and he didn't say anything. Quietly he put a handkerchief around his hand and carried on as if nothing had happened. I am not sure that anyone else saw this.



Myself and Bp. Christopher at the First Nations' Cemetery.

Whether or not it was the fact that it was a hand that was pierced that touched me so much, but this small incident eighteen years ago is still so clear in my mind. Here was Arthur, a member of a community I had grown very fond of, protecting Bp. Christopher, someone so important to me. I remember this moment as a high point in my ministry as

It was a wonderful exchange between my two worlds: my life in Britain and symbolised by the Bishop and my life in Canada as symbolised by Arthur,

Dan and the Holy Spirit

The third section of my talk, and the third highlight of my priestly ministry, concerns Fr. Dan Gurnick, a Franciscan priest, and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit

I am sure that everyone reading this could tell one or more stories which is similar to the two that I have already related; in the CWL and beyond we have all taken care of others, and many will have taken care of complete strangers. We have all received care from others, and again, that might even have been from someone we didn't know. We have all loved and we have all been loved!

So now I turn to another story, again about love.

Fr. Dan Gurnick

Dan's sister Caroline was a parishioner in Tumbler Ridge, northern B.C., one of the parishes I served. I first met Mr. Dan Gurnick when he and his parents were visiting Caroline, and the whole family came to Mass. To be honest, I don't remember much of this first meeting; what I do remember is being told about the conversation Dan had with his parents as they drove home from Mass. Dan said about me and priesthood, "If he can do it, I can do it!" Now this can be taken as, "If Fr. David can be a priest, then really anyone can be a priest!", but Dan says that this is not what he meant. But whatever he was getting at, shortly afterwards Dan was in the seminary in Edmonton training for the priesthood.

After a year or so he joined the Franciscans and continued his priestly training with them. Somehow, this was just so right for Dan.

Eventually he was ordained a deacon at the Franciscan motherhouse in Cochrane, and the next year he was ordained a priest at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton, a beautiful and large building which I remember had a particularly high roof that was in semi-darkness. I believe that Archbishop Richard Smith was due to preside at the ordination, but at the last moment he wasn't available, so retired Archbishop Joseph MacNeil stepped in.



Fr. Dan and myself in Cochrane.

I had known Archbishop MacNeil for many years as he was a good friend of Bp. Christopher who had introduced us. And just in case anyone hasn't heard of Bp. MacNeil, he, like Bp. Christopher, was a wonderful and gentle soul.

Now getting away from the parish wasn't easy, so the first attribute I brought with me to Dan's ordination was tiredness. It hadn't been long since I had left my northern parishes which I absolutely loved and, as yet, I hadn't fallen in love with my new parish. The new parish had many issues that at times made it challenging, so the second attribute I was carrying to Edmonton was a bit of grief from what I had lost and generally a heart that was struggling to rejoice. I brought these feelings to an Edmonton in the grips of a cold winter.

I had joined with Dan's family the night before at a local hotel and eventually we arrived at the Basilica. Archbishop MacNeil welcomed me warmly, and I can remember thinking how pleased I was that he was leading this ordination because I could just sit back and let it happen knowing his faith and peace would bring beauty to the whole service. And somehow, I managed to hide myself on the sanctuary behind all the other priests, in a place I could curl up and let the whole event wash over me.

I have to admit that I have no memory of any part of the service except one, the rite immediately before ordination, the 'Litany of the Saints'. The version of the litany they used was a most beautiful version by John D. Becker¹. As it began, I shut my eyes. I can remember that at my own ordination to the priesthood the litany of the saints was a particular high point and was one of the most moving parts of the ceremony. And as we got to this point for Dan, I just let myself go along with this very rhythmic chant.

The Archbishop prayed,

“My dear people, Let us pray that God, the all powerful Father,
will pour out *abundantly* the gifts of heaven
on this his servant whom he has chosen for the priestly office.”

Then, in my mind's eye, I saw the Holy Spirit. It was stunning. Have you ever visualised the descent of the Holy Spirit? Or more precisely, what the Holy Spirit does in the moments before it is given to someone in the sacraments? What I saw in my mind was the Holy Spirit dancing with joy; so full of joy because the Holy Spirit was being invited into Dan to facilitate his priesthood. The Holy Spirit could see all the events that lay ahead, all the times Dan would be an instrument of the Spirit pouring God's love into the world; the Holy Spirit knew the goodness that would flow from its union with Dan in this new way, and the Spirit rejoiced and rejoiced and rejoiced.

At that moment, while I couldn't envision it in the same way, I knew that this same Holy Spirit had been poured into me with similar joy at my ordination, and I felt so stupid that I had been blind to this. But as, in my mind, the Holy Spirit continued to dance around the vast space in the cavernous roof of this basilica like the Northern Lights dance in a clear sky, I also knew that this Spirit was being given in all its power, not to look back in regret but to move forward

¹ (*Glory & Praise, Third Edition*)

in love. All the same, I felt so dumb that I hadn't seen how the Holy Spirit rejoices when we let ourselves work with the Spirit.

If you want a "God loves me" moment, I suppose this was it, but more particularly, I knew that the Spirit we have all received is not given in a mechanical way, but rather God is so joyful at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and Christ's heart is bursting with excitement at this outpouring of love. The Spirit is a manifestation of God's love and is given as a gift with incredible life and energy.

Conclusions

So, we have Charlie, and how he found God's love very simply in a duty of care, and he saw this as coming from God, so he called me "The Little Pope".

Then we have Bishop Christopher, this great figure who I looked up to in the same way I looked up to my father, and how he chose to live out his ministry by his personal care for others, even to travelling 7,000km to go and visit one of his priests. And how this reaching out was seen by parishioners who in turn reached out to guard him.

And finally we have God, the giver of all love, who does not measure out the love given, but pours it out, and God does not count the cost of this love, but rejoices at this outpouring, very particularly when it is directed towards ministry in His name.

Then, as an observer of these things, I see how the ministry that the Church has given me enables me to pass on God's love, I see myself as a recipient of that love both from my bishop and from my parishioners, and I see the source of that love is God's Holy Spirit, poured out in joy to be used to its fullness.

My hope and my prayer is that, all of us, can become more aware of how God so joyfully chooses to give us love. And more than this, I pray that we can all hear clearly this love spoken to us by those who lead us in the Church, and that hearing this love expressed and affirmed, we will have the courage to give of love in the same way to all those we are called to serve in the CWL and beyond.

*Fr. David,
CWL Provincial Spiritual Advisor
for B.C. & Yukon.
June 2019*

Friday Night Beach Party Photographs

"BC & Yukon Provincial CWL Dancing Queens" danced their socks off at the Friday Night Beach Party and closed the place down AFTER the band had packed up and left the building!



Everyone had so much fun ...















Now wasn't that fun? We hope that by looking at these photographs that you are inspired to come to the 2020 BC & Yukon Provincial Convention in the beautiful Okanagan.

Why not start a "Convention Piggy Bank" and drop \$10 a week in it ... Think about it, forgo 2 coffees at Timmy's or Starbucks a week and you will have enough money saved to experience the time of your life!

Jan Hillis and her convention team are already to welcome you!

More Convention photographs!

BC & Yukon Provincial Council Officers, Standing Chairpersons Solemnly Reaffirm their Commitment to the Second Year of the 2019- 2020 Term.



L – R Sheila Doherty, Sharon Ciebin, Kathy Weswick, Susan Steiner, Blanca Stead, Suzanne Eng, Laura Esposito, Sylvia Jurys, Catherine L'Heureux, Sharon Geiger, Gisela Montague

BC & Yukon Provincial Council President thanks the Convention Planning Committee



L-R Cathy Genge, Sharon Geiger, Christa Grillmair, Gisela Montague

Kamloops Diocesan Council Buddies having fun in Nanaimo



Terry Mae Sinclair (St. Joseph's, Salmon Arm, Kamloops Diocesan Communications Chairperson) and Sheila Doherty (Holy Family, Kamloops, Diocesan Pat President and Provincial Legislation Chairperson)



"A Room with a View". It was really hard to come down for breakfast ... and we wanted to be AWOL at the convention this morning but thought we'd better not! (View of the beautiful harbour in Nanaimo, taken from our hotel room) Sigh!

Here is a Gal Born with a Silver Spoon in her Mouth!



Rina Cassino wins yet another prize!

Prince George Contingent



From left to right...

Georgina Hoffarth, Barbara Jarvis, Laura Esposito, Susan Steiner, Father David John, Eileen Bouvier, Maria Tejero, Sylvia DeSousa, Linda McClinton

“Fancy seeing you here!

There was a joyous reunion at the convention with 2 long-time CWL Sisters from Kitimat. Karin Burden, left, moved to Nanaimo nineteen years ago. Karin is a past president Christ the King Council in Kitimat. Pictured here with dear friend, Sylvia DeSousa, Prince George Diocesan President



It Takes a Village

We've heard that comment before, but when planning to host a provincial convention for the Catholic Women's League, you truly need everyone's support in the 'village'.

In 2017, when the Victoria Diocesan CWL agreed to host the 2019 BC/Yukon Provincial Convention, I was excited to say yes to the opportunity to showcase our beautiful city of Nanaimo. It had been many years since we had hosted a convention because the city of choice for Vancouver Island was usually Victoria. But it was time for our mid-Island to shine again and St. Peter's CWL accepted the honour of host council. Working with then Provincial President, Evelyn Rigby, we set our dates for the convention, booked the Coast Bastion Hotel on the waterfront and signed a contract. In 2018, Gisela Montague became Provincial President and we worked together to establish a draft agenda, discussed possible speakers and guests.

As coordinator for the convention, I needed a co-chair that had many years of experience, was very organized and was willing to take charge. That person is Life Member, Agnes Geiger, who helped me navigate through the many pages of the Guide to Hosting and together we worked through it to determine who and what was needed. Agnes, a member of the host council of St. Peter's also took care of organizing the hospitality team.

Some of the other key positions were quickly filled: Catherine Genge, President of Saanich Peninsula CWL volunteered to be Registrar and Renee Johnson, Diocesan Treasurer, helped establish and monitor the budget. We worked with Amanda Gingras at the Coast Bastion Hotel on the logistics and planned a menu. We developed the registration package and started promoting the convention on the websites.

Fundraising started early. Debbie Doyle of St. Peter's CWL planned her baskets and all the councils in the Victoria Diocese contributed many wonderful items for the silent auction, which the Church of the Ascension, under the leadership of Gail Olyniuk and Nancy Horsfield, managed at the convention. We decided on the theme "Beach Party" for the casual night and booked a band. Sandi Digras, Diane Langdon and their team planned the decorations. Maureen Ingram, Diocesan Past-President, took on transportation. Our Spiritual Advisor, Father Alfredo Monacelli and the Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Fr. David John provided their input and Pat Darling, Diocesan Spiritual Development, worked with Agnes and Kathy Fadum of St. Peter's to coordinate the Eucharistic celebrations.

What was the result of all that planning?

- ✓ 176 people registered for the convention and the feedback has on the event has been excellent
- ✓ 56+ volunteers contributed their time and energy to make it a success
- ✓ \$1,864.80 was donated to the West Coast Missions (Mass donation and 50/50)
- ✓ \$2,585.00 was raised at the Silent Auction
- ✓ And, we came in under budget!

What have I learned from this experience? It's important to have an overall plan and budget but to be flexible. Delegate to key people and trust that they will take charge and deliver. Monitor regularly but try not to micro-manage. Everyone has a stake in the success of the event and everyone's part is important—whether it is managing the registrations, organizing the many volunteers, helping people on and off the buses or greeting them at the door of the church with a hug – each large or small contribution is valued and appreciated. I am so proud of our Victoria Diocesan 'village' and am grateful for all their support in hosting the 72nd Annual BC/Yukon Provincial Convention.

Christa Grillmair
President, Victoria Diocesan CWL Council

Vernon to Host 73rd Annual BC & Yukon Provincial Convention

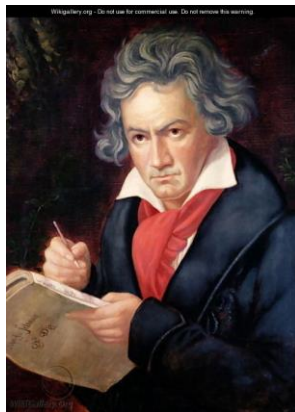
It will be convention time again before we know it and the work is well underway here in Vernon. We at St James and the surrounding parish councils, on behalf of the Kamloops Diocese are looking forward to welcoming you to Vernon June 11-13, 2020.

For the benefit of those who weren't at the Provincial Convention in Nanaimo to get the personal invitation from the Kamloops Diocese, I'd like to re-issue the invitation now in song, sung to the tune of Ode to Joy. You'll just have to do your own singing this time.

Ode to Vernon (Ode to Joy Melody)

with apologies to...

Beethoven



Come, oh come to BC's Eden
Come to Vernon, you will see,
Rolling hills and fruitful orchards,
and our splendid wineries.

R/ When it's sunny, have some honey, Planet Bee's the place to be
Come and see our pristine Kal Lake. Don't forget the Cidery.

R/ Take the Rail Trail to Kelowna; you can walk or ride a bike.
Or to further pique your interest, there are lots of other hikes

R/ Silver Star has a museum, skier folk will want to see.

Mural walls and O'Keefe Ranch will highlight Vernon's history.

Come oh come to joyful Vernon

Vernon is the place to be.

Please all Cath'lic women join us.

We are one big family!

At our Nanaimo invitation presentation, we dressed up as a choir, lip syncing to a recorded professional version of Ode to Joy. As the choir faded out, we began singing our own words to the tune. The choir gowns then came off to reveal costumes of the various components of the song; fruit, cowgirls, hikers, wine waiters, wine drinkers, pink flamingo, chef, a Carmen Miranda look-alike and even honeybees distributing honey sticks. We finished off with a rousing rendition of Sister Sledge's 1972 hit "We are Family" and had everyone up dancing. After all the fun and revelry, we, we eventually toned it down with our Convention prayer to bring us back to the reason we gather together each year – for God and for Canada.

There's more fun to come in 2020. The theme of our Friday, casual dinner will be "Barn Dance" complete with a square dance demonstration and line dance lesson. So, don't forget your cowgirl hats and blue jeans. Yee haw!

Plan to come a few days early or stay a few days later to tour the Okanagan. St James member, Mary-Jo O'Keefe is offering ½ price wine tours through her business MJ Tours. If there is enough interest, a spousal program will be offered touring the cidery, craft distillery and microbrewery. More details will be available in your registration packages early next year.

For you early birds, you can book your room at the Prestige Hotel at the conference rate of \$149.95 (plus tax) per night. Call 1-250-558-5991 and quote group reservation number 4424.

Please remember our Vernon planning committee in your prayers. We can't wait to see all of you in Vernon next year. God Bless.

Jan Hillis
Convention Chairperson

BC & Yukon Provincial Council Oral Reports at Convention

2019 President Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to inspire, strengthen, and defend his followers. He certainly has been working overtime to help me to get ready for this convention. As you know, it takes a whole village to raise a child and I can tell you that it takes many committed members and helpers, including husbands, to prepare for a convention.

We just recognized a special member and it is my pleasure again to recognize a special council, a brand new one from the Victoria Diocese, located here in Nanaimo. Can the members of Trinity CWL council please stand? Congratulations and welcome to the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Thank you for joining this awesome organization of Catholic women and thank you Christa Grillmair for all your effort in the formation of this new council.

So why do we come together on an annual basis? As per the Constitution and Bylaws, we meet for the purpose of promoting the Objects and Policy of the League, planning future programs, receiving annual reports and holding elections of officers, but elections will not take place until next year.

If you want to know more about the objects of the League you must read Bishop Jensen's articles in the last two League Magazines. Among other things he reflected on the 5th goal of the League – to enhance the role of women in church and society and quoted Pope John Paul II: "Women will increasingly play a part in the solution of the serious problems of the future...the quality of life, migration, social services, euthanasia, drugs, health care, the ecology etc."

As members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada we all take an active part in these issues which are reflected in our resolutions and our actions. Inspired by the Holy Spirit your provincial Officers and Chairpersons have worked as a team and have demonstrated tremendous capacity to step up to fulfill their obligations. Much of this work is reflected in the convention book, ably assembled by Sharon Geiger, our president-elect. Please do take the time to read about the reports from all of BC & Yukon.

This spring I was privileged to attend the diocesan conventions in Prince George and Nelson, which was held in Castlegar. I admired the beautiful church in Castlegar which was built by Fr. David after the original one had been destroyed by a fire just a few years ago. Nelson's Spiritual Advisor Fr. Rafael Benosa enlightened all on Pope Francis' encyclical "Gaudete et Exultate - Rejoice and be glad." He reminded us to not be afraid to be holy.

We watched Fr. Larry's film "In the Spirit of Reconciliation", followed by a Question and Answer period with Nelson's Diocesan First Nations Minister, Fr. John Kellogg. Sister. Norma Gallant from the Congregation of Notre Dame spoke on the 400th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Marguerite Bourgeous and Doreen Gowans, as national representative, instructed all on the strategic implementation plan.

In Prince George it was a pleasure to meet their new diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Pier Pandolfo, who gave his spiritual talk called “Engage in all Challenges with Joy”, He reminded us on the importance of being contemplative. Maria Tejero gave a very informative and interesting presentation called “It’s All in Your Head”, namely addressing the function of the human brain and the effects on it of influences from our life experiences and teachings.

My appreciation goes out to Sylvia Jurys who represented me at the diocesan convention in Kamloops, Sharon Geiger who attended the one in Abbotsford of the Vancouver diocese and Sharon Ciebin who presented the strategic planning workshop in the Victoria diocese in Campbell River. Later this morning we will hear more from Sharon on updates of the Implementation Committee.

Of course, at most of these conventions the members appreciated the provincial workshop on the lives of the female saints, how they can encourage and give us practical wisdom on overcoming life’s challenges in our CWL journey.

As the dates clashed with the Knights of Columbus invitation and the diocesan convention of the Nelson diocese it was Catherine L’Heureux and her husband who attended the Knight’s state dinner and convention in Richmond, bringing greetings from the provincial CWL council.

Hard on the heels of these action-packed weeks came the March for Life in Victoria. Chilliwack’s Pro-Life organization always hires a bus to the event, so I was able to take advantage of this. Our provincial banner was proudly displayed by Blanca Stead, provincial Christian Life Chair, and other members from Victoria and Vancouver Island.

I close my report by acknowledging the support I have received from this provincial executive and with the hope that our theme Witnessing to the Truth will be acted upon by our members to help right the wrongs prevalent in today’s society and by example point the way to a better world.

Respectfully submitted,
Gisela Montague

BC & Yukon Provincial President

President- Elect & Organization Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019

Good morning! Have you ever wondered why we do the things we do? When I was blessed to have been elected as President - Elect, I felt honoured and yet thought to myself "what have I done?". Can I do this job that the members have elected me to do? It is a big commitment. Well here I am finishing off the 1st year of this standing committee and what a blessing it has been. Yes, there have been ups and downs and oh yes, challenges. Annual reports, writing a workshop, doing the convention book, booking rooms at hotels, and booking meeting rooms. These challenges have been a great learning curve. The best part of the journey for me has been meeting new members and renewing old friendships from my league sisterhood throughout the province.

One of my goals is to show that all members can be leaders, I want members to love the league like I do and to not be afraid of being a leader. I pray for all members to use the different gifts, and talents God has given you. Your gifts and talents don't have to be grand just put them to use.

Another goal is to get members communicating better with their sisters in the league. Society is moving at such a fast pace. How can we slow down and connect with each other? We need to look for opportunities to interact with one another. Just like the small gifts and talents that each of us have, we can do the little things to connect with each other. We all know what Random acts of kindness are, right! Look at your sisters and see Jesus' face reflected in her face. Give a smile, a hug, a card, bring a cup of coffee to someone - especially someone you don't know - when you are at an event. When you do this act of kindness you will make new friends and experience the joy.

To help with this second goal, I challenge you to do many random acts of kindness during this convention. Let me know how both of you felt giving and receiving. I pray we continue to grow and share with others both our gifts and our love for one other.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sharon Geiger

**BC & Yukon Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada**

Oral Report To: Provincial Convention 2019

Date: June 13, 2019

From: ***Suzanne Eng, Treasurer***

In the interests of time, most of my report is on page 25 of the convention book. I'll just give a few highlights now.

As many of you are aware, there are still problems with the online reporting surveys for National. However, the information relating to donations has improved considerably over the 2017 reports. I included the diocesan treasurers' comments in my report to National. I am hoping that the 2019 reporting will be further improved.

Every year, I am impressed by the generosity of you, the members. Not only do we donate to our parishes and personal charities, we raise funds for our communities as CWL councils. The work and materials are all donated by you the members, and you deserve a round of applause.

The total donations reported to National for 2018 are as follows:

• National Voluntary funds	\$ 3,201.00
• Donations under committees	216,489.00
• Donations to Parishes	<u>113,890.00</u>
TOTAL	\$333,580.00

Thank you to all of the members who so generously give of their time, talent and treasure. These funds are on top of what each of us gives individually to our parishes and community charities.

One question that arose from the annual reports related to what the National Voluntary Funds are. The following funds are noted on the National website:

1. Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC)
2. Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)
3. Coady International Institute Fund
4. Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (Until August 2020)
5. National Bursary Fund.

There is a form available on the website that is to be printed and submitted with parish donations. Information about all of these organizations is available on the National website or by going directly to the organization's website.

Thank you to the diocesan and parish treasurers for their communiques and reports. You are all working very hard for the League and for the Church.

The financial statements for 2018 are on pages 26 to 34 of the convention book. If anyone has questions, please give them to me in writing, and I will address them either individually or in my next communique in the summer.

Respectfully submitted
Suzanne Eng

2019 Secretary's Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

Good stewards give of three T's - time, talent and treasure. Thank you to all secretaries for maintaining the history of your meetings. It's a treat to read the minutes of a council from many years ago. Is what they did then similar to what is done now?

In 2003, I was first elected as secretary on the Prince George Diocesan Council. I loved the wonderful organization known as the CWL, but as diocesan secretary, I grew to love and respect it more. I learned so much through the oral reports which I later reread, when I had more time to absorb what each League sister accomplished. We do so much for our parishes, our communities and our country. Where would parishes be without the women of the CWL?

Sometimes, things go wrong. Big time! It's Murphy's Law! Every 15 minutes or so, when working at a computer I save – or so I thought it's an automatic action for me. Not so in March at the provincial spring midterm. At the end of the first day, I touched the wrong key and lost everything. We tried to retrieve it back, but to no avail. Eventually though, with the combined time and talent of the executive, I came out with the treasure of those minutes. I remind everyone of the importance of saving constantly!

I try to do any job that I take on well. In order to do the job of provincial secretary, I need every parish's help. How you ask? According to the Provincial Policy and Procedure Manual, the convention packages need to be sent out to everyone by March 15th. I did that. In order to do that though, I need to receive the current parish registers by the end of February. I was still receiving new parish registers in April, May, and yes even in June. Some went to the wrong person back in March!

When filling out registration forms, it is vital that what is checked under credentials on the registration form matches the credential form sent to me. There were many discrepancies between what Cathy Genge and I received. The educator in me came out though and I created a "cheat sheet" which I hope will help everyone for next year's convention. My motto is to mentor and help whenever possible. As an educator for 38 years that was and still is my daily motto. Speaking of credentials, they need to be sent in on time. Please and thank you! Many were not! From the credentials I receive, paperwork is completed and brought to convention in the form of sign in sheets, the roll call etc. I completed all of this before I left home on June 9th, so last minute requests for credentials could unfortunately not be accommodated, without a lot of extra time being expended and forms changed and reprinted at the last minute. Sorry!

I really do love each job I take on. I work with FFF – faith, fun and fulfillment. It is a part of CWL at all levels. With each job I do, I learn so much more about this wonderful League we belong to – which nurtures my faith, gives me so many friends across the province and country and fulfills me in every aspect of my life. I hope you also find the same FFF – faith, fun and fulfillment through your involvement with the League. Because of these three F's and in order to share your 3 t's – time,

talent and treasure, I hope you will consider a leadership role. The League needs you. Will your answer be YES?

Laura Esposito
Secretary

Past President's Report

Are there any current parish past presidents in the room today? Are there any current past diocesan presidents in the room today? Are there any provincial past presidents here today?

I suspect many of us get asked the same question: How do you feel now you are no longer president? Well it took me nearly a month to clean up my files and organize my binders to pass on to Gisela. Once that was done, I could settle into my new role, and it felt fine. I had so many happy memories of visiting all six dioceses in the province, and of sharing these times with my wonderful sisters in the league who all along had treated me like a queen. More importantly I felt confident about Gisela and the talented and industrious officers and chairpersons who would follow. I knew the province would be in safe hands.

I had enjoyed a wonderful working relationship with my past president and main mentor Pat Deppessie, and I want to give Gisela nothing less.

So, I checked the C&B and found only 4 tasks!

- (a) Serve in a consultative capacity
- (b) Be responsible for archives and history
- (c) Facilitate the study and implementation of the Constitution and Bylaws
- (d) Perform other duties as assigned by the president

Then I checked our BC & Yukon Provincial Policy and Procedure booklet for the additional tasks required at conventions, such as preparing the re-affirmation and installation ceremonies for the officers and chairpersons. Probably the most challenging will happen in the second year of my term, namely

- (1) heading the preparation for next year's election for the 2020-22 provincial council, and
- (2) preparing an updated P&P.

But, with the Lord's help through the intercession of our patroness Our Lady of Good Counsel, and the patron saint of archivists, St. Lawrence of Rome, my efforts should bear fruit.

If you have any questions about the work of Past President please write them on a piece of paper with your name, council, diocese and email address and pop it in the box. I can address them either in my next communique due the end of August, or if needed earlier, in a personal message.

Madame President, this concludes my "meat, potatoes and gravy" report!

Evelyn Rigby

WUCWO report by Evelyn Rigby 2019 Provincial Convention

Before I go any further, I want to make it clear that the letters WUCWO stand for World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

This is the official scarf of WUCWO. Please note that Barbara Renaud is modelling it for us. Thank you to Pat Deppiesse for generously donating it to the Past President's Box.

As Past President of the provincial council it is my responsibility to provide the annual update of WUCWO's work at our convention, but first their history warrants a mention.

The suggestion that the leagues of Catholic women throughout the world should be united was first publicly declared in 1910 by Madame de Velard, president of the Patriotic League of French Women. From the outset the vision was that it would be "an International Council formed between the Catholic women's leagues, independent of all political parties, with the aim to maintain Faith, to defend religious liberties, and to organize Catholic social action in a spirit of full and constant submission to the ordinances of the Sovereign Pontiff." Does some of this sound familiar?

WUCWO currently boasts a membership of almost 8,000,000 Catholic women spread throughout the world. It represents about 100 organizations including our very own CWL of Canada, and it is active on every continent. Did you know YOU were a member?

Two fairly recent National Past Presidents of the CWL have held important positions in WUCWO namely Velma Harasen and Betty Ann Brown Davidson.

Most important of all is that WUCWO has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. It has participatory status at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) and is an official partner of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, scientific and cultural Organization) in Paris. Two of our CWL resolutions that have recently been accepted by WUCWO are: END TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN and CRIMINALIZATION OF SEXUAL SERVICES

Through WUCWO these important issues have been aired at these major international gatherings. This is why we need to support WUCWO. WUCWO gives us access to these higher levels of government. They go where we can't. WUCWO is our best conduit to the international powers.

Also, if you want to learn more about the situation of Catholic women around the world and how they are dealing with common issues, e.g. Human Trafficking, WUCWO prepares an official newsletter three times a year for about \$20 US. It is called *Women's Voice*. **Show it**. Maybe each parish council would like to apply for this. It would certainly be useful for your Community Life Chairperson.

Evelyn Rigby
Past President

**2019 Christian Family Life Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention,
Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019**

What's the meaning of the name and scope of this Standing Committee?

CHRISTIAN: This is what we are and as the Pope said we are not part-time Christians, therefore, this designation applies to all that we do.

FAMILY: we are born into a family and during our journey on earth we belong to a family not just by blood ties; sisterhood, friendship, faith make us members of diverse and caring families.

LIFE: it begins when God gives us life until He calls us back to him.

Christian Family Life, these 3 words cover our earthly pilgrimage. That is why all the human life highlights are included. We believe in life from conception to natural death, so Conception, Birth, Marriage, Death and what happens in between are our concern.

We focus on **Youth** because of the importance at this stage of development to plant the right seeds, to teach and to encourage, to correct, to discern for the future.

We focus on **Marriage**, from where the family life develops, and when things don't work out there is **Separation, Divorce**; health problems that lead to **Disability** may result in family members becoming care givers and after the death of a spouse, the experience of **Widowhood**.

We focus on **Vocations**: a call either to religious life or lay service.

Christian Family Life scope encompasses a human life span.

In our annual reporting, statistics and percentages for some activities can be low, but our councils are doing what they can, and they are doing it right. This is because, as the councils work for any aspect of Christian Family Life, they are working for Faith, Service and Social Justice.

This concludes my report.

Blanca Stead

2019 Community Life Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019

'May every Church and Christian Community be place of mercy amid so much indifference'
Quote from Pope Francis

Dignity and Rights of Persons—It is our responsibility, as Christian women and members of a National organization to play an active role in opposing discrimination wherever and in whatever form it appears. Speaking of dignity and rights, on June 3rd, and after more than three years, dozens of community meetings and testimony from well over 2000 Canadians, the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls inquiry delivered its final report to the federal government. The report included many recommendations to government, the police and the larger Canadian public to help address endemic levels of violence directed at Indigenous women and girls.

Another terrible problem we have here in Canada is Human Trafficking. The middle of May 2019 the Canadian Centre to end Human Trafficking launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline.

The hotline provides the following services

- crisis response to people being trafficked
- referrals to social services providers and law enforcement (as requested)
- tip receipt and reporting
- general information provisions
- Tools and resources to build community responses to trafficking 24/7 service

If you are a victim/survivor of forced prostitution or forced labour or believe someone else might be call hotline at **1-833-900-1010**. The hotline Response Advocates will connect callers to support and service and will take tips, answer questions and forward information when appropriate to law enforcement.

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline responds to all forms of human trafficking including both sex and labour trafficking. The hotline provides assistance to and on behalf of minors, adults, males, females, transgender individuals, gender non-conforming individuals, citizens, permanent residence and foreign nationals.

Learn more about the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at:

www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca

May Our Lady of Good Counsel Guide us as we Work for God and Canada.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Steiner

Chairperson of Communications Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

I don't have the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (but I have just ordered a subscription for the online version because there are literally thousands of new words added each year. In my outdated version, the definition of Communication is the exchange of information, or use of a common system of symbols, signs, or behaviour, verbal or written language, systems, for example, telephones for communications, a system of routes for moving troops ... WHAT! Show this to your kids and they would wonder what planet you are from!

Communication has now become techno driven. Social media, smartphones, and tablets have become the master of our lives. Some of these devices can now give you a record of how much time you spend in a week on your device. I was listening to a documentary in my car the other day on this very subject, and the presenter said that she realized that the social media Monster had taken over her life. She took 4 months offline and devoted her time to volunteering, spending social time face-to-face with her family and friends and visiting her Mom more often. When she came back online, she only used social media to research useful information.

As members of the Catholic Women's League I think we can lead the way in this movement to take a Social Media Detox and use the internet to benefit our councils and to support the national initiative of planning strategically. Do you see this as an elephant in your house? If we see an elephant we automatically run away because it is too much to handle. Why not change it to a burglar in your house? Fists up, because we really must do something about this NOW! So, when thinking about the decline in membership, let's use the burglar approach and act now on speaking to our catholic friends on why we are members and what league does for us to grow spiritually in Faith, Service, and Social Action. As members we show our allegiance to the League by having the courage speak up face-to-face to whomever we meet up with on our position on euthanasia, abortion, homelessness, drugs, human trafficking, prostitution and the like.

In my first communique I mentioned that I make a point of saying hello to everyone I see on the street, in a store or elsewhere. They always smile back, what a joy. I recently was in Toronto and was out walking with a friend, we were stuck at a light and I said hello to a Muslim woman; my friend said, "I love your beaded dress. The woman said I am coming from prayer and food ... I am too fat, and I need to diet. We piped in "We were just talking about that". She said I will pray for you, I said we will for you too and I hope that you will remember us when you reach out for food that you should not be putting in your mouth. She took my hand and said I will never forget you. I think and pray for her every day. Face-to-face communication really works for me.

Dear proud Sisters in the League, be not afraid, use your gifts and talents to promote the League with excitement and enthusiasm by speaking up, reaching out, and witnessing to the truth.

This concludes my Report
Thank you.

Sylvia Jurys
Chairperson of Communications

Education and Health Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019

My father was allowed to marry my Mom if he became a new Catholic (the rites of Christian initiation) and raised the children in our faith. This meant that he got each of the five children baptized and confirmed, took us to mass every Sunday, and said the prayers before and after meals. We said the opening prayer, “Bless us O Lord...” three times a day, even when Dad wasn’t there.

This brings me to my enthusiasm for the new-ish Canada Food Guide. Besides the health-based recommendations to eat more plant foods, we are encouraged to eat together. Our opening prayer provides us with a focus on Christ and the gifts that He has given us, bringing faith practices and awareness of Our Lord three times a day. Faith, Education and Health!

One of the gifts of our Committee is the Education and Health Resolution of 2018, which encouraged us to promote the establishment of a national standard of testing and labelling of products to be marketed as “flushable”. In my own Council, we were discussing this, and someone was made aware that cotton balls shouldn’t be flushed. Reading labels sometimes helps, but it is best to just flush the 3 P’s.

The League is a proud supporter of the Canadian Blood Services Partners for Life program. New and regular blood donors are asked to consider registering for the program under the League’s unique partner identification number (CATH011269). Please consider using this number when giving.

The Catholic Health Association of BC advances the healing ministry of Jesus through advocacy, education and partnerships. We are encouraged to join this organization, either as individuals or as Councils, in support of our Catholic values and actions.

From your Annual reports,

- many Parish councils have bursaries, and up to 82% of the Parish Councils held events for the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care:
- most Councils engaged in recycling, including using green bins where there was societal support, and reducing the use of Styrofoam cups, eliminate plastic water bottles, and reduce the use of plastic stir sticks:

I am grateful for each and every Education and Health chair, with special thanks to the Diocesan chairs who are retiring *from this committee*, **Carol Ann Taphorn from Kamloops Diocese**, **Carol Handfield from Prince George Diocese**, and **Murita Chua from Vancouver Diocese**. I hope that you will find ways to realize God and Canada in your lives. Welcome to the new Education and Health chairs, **Kathy Dahl from Kamloops Diocesan Council**, **Amabile DalMonte from Prince George Diocesan Council**, and **Conchita Bambilla from Vancouver Diocesan Council**. If I can help you with your efforts for your members, please contact me.

A reminder - Remember to send in your Water Challenge Pledge Forms to National Council before June 30!

We are blessed by our faith, renewed by our prayers, and guided by the Holy Spirit. My parents taught us to also say the traditional meal closing prayer:

“We give the thanks for all our benefits, Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever. May the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.”

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Weswick

2019 Legislation Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019

What words do you hear from members when they hear the word, ‘Legislation’? “Don’t pick me!”, “I can’t do that job”, “Why did she give me that standing committee?”, “Oh, dear God, please, don’t let me get Legislation!” Sound familiar? Many of you may have uttered these words at election time in your parishes or at the diocesan level or even at the provincial level! I wasn’t totally surprised when Gisela ‘gifted’ me with this portfolio last June. And yes, it is a gift! I have never had legislation before, but I have tried in this last year to live up to the challenge of this position. I have tried to be open with the possibilities that this standing committee can bring forth and the new learning curve that it presented. Was there a lot to learn? Heck, ya! Did I know anything to start? Not much. Have I learned a lot? Tons!

I believe that anyone can handle this position, with a bit of help and/or guidance. A few tips:

- I was in touch with the previous legislation chair within the first few months of receiving this portfolio; you are never working alone
- I read through the Executive handbook, reports, Constitution and Bylaws, Leading the League, communiqués, convention books, Canadian League magazine
- Got familiar with *Legislation at a glance* & leg.bc.ca
- Tried to stay up to date on Bills/petitions that relate to our CWL mandate
- Wrote many more letters and signed more petitions on current issues

Are there challenges to this position? Certainly. One of mine is that I still work 4 days per week and felt that I could not keep abreast of current Bills on a daily basis. A suggestion that I will consider for the second year of my term: form a sub-committee assigning such duties as watching the provincial/federal parliament sessions on television or monitor the progress of a Bill. This standing committee is so important and can effect change that is a big part of what the Catholic Women’s League is all about. We have a voice with the provincial and federal governments.

I encourage you to take on this standing committee with a renewed sense of adventure! We need to always be keeping our minds active and challenged. And as a very wise Life member, Ann Devlin, once said or still is saying, ‘I got my university education by belonging to the CWL!’

This concludes my report,

Sheila Doherty
Legislation Chairperson

2019 RESOLUTIONS ORAL REPORT TO CONVENTION JUNE

In 2009 when I was gifted with the Resolutions Chair at the Vancouver Diocesan council, by Gisela Montague, my only experience was attending resolution dialogues and hearing and taking part in debates on convention floors. Little did I know how God would use this experience as one of the defining moments of my life.

Referring to the Executive Handbook and the corresponding Resolution Supplement I learned that resolution workshops at every level should be regular events.

With the help of one of my mentors, Marianna, we presented a workshop, which resulted in a small study group. The results saw two women, who were new to the League, create two resolutions - National archived 2012.01 which asked Canada to create the Nordic model of law and Provincial 2012.01 asking our government to create safe supportive homes for children too young to go to Covenant house. While the intent of our national resolution was achieved in Canada in 2014 with our law, Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons act work still **must be done** in defending and the enforcement of this law.

While President my resolution and community life chair and I attended a meeting of what has become the Archdiocese of Vancouver Anti Human Trafficking Committee. The original goal was to educate Catholic communities on the true victims in prostitution. Using our Pornography Hurts cards as our guide, we sent over 10,000 postcards to the Prime Minister, Justice Minister and others supporting the League's request for the Nordic Model.

In early 2017 I visited my MP to invite him to an event. I learned he had little knowledge on the issue and felt our new law hurt those in prostitution. What followed is what I call my Easter Miracle. In the fall his office called me for a meeting. I learned that he was a member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights and that they would be holding hearings in Vancouver. I was asked to recommend groups to present to this hearing, and all of my recommendations were chosen. I was encouraged and assisted in how to write a brief and the Vancouver Diocesan Council was invited to present at these hearings. Five resolutions were presented, and the voice of the League is now reported in the national report Moving Forward in the fight against Human Trafficking and my MP has thanked me for educating him.

God calls us to discipleship may this example inspire each of you to action.

In the words of Saint Mother Teresa "God will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness".

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Ciebin

Spiritual Development Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019

Ladies you are amazing! You are an inspiration and your enthusiasm is contagious! One day you will all have a special place in Heaven because of all you do for God and Canada.

What have I done since January? I have with God's help accomplished many things, I tallied the deceased members from BC and Yukon, verified them with national and entered them in the Book of Life. This was such an honour. Their years of service really touched my heart

I have done a great deal of praying, writing and reading. I have written a number of speeches, an article for the provincial Communicator and sent out communique #4. I have done a great deal of reading as well. My favourite books are my prayer book, my Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and a book on the lives of the Saints. We cannot "Witness to the Truth" unless we know our faith. I urge every League member to have these books in their homes.

Also, because our national theme is Care for Our Common Home with the sub-theme water. I encourage all of you to have a holy water font at your front door. St Teresa of Avila once said nothing keeps the devil away like holy water.

I made a guest appearance on your behalf on behalf of Gisela Montague at the Knights of Columbus State convention. It was a lovely evening!

A very exciting event for me personally was receiving my 25-year pin on Mother's Day from my parish council. As some of you know I have always held an executive position during those years on either parish, diocesan or provincial. Those 25 years have been filled with rich experiences, friends, spiritual and personal growth.

How did I feel when I was elected Spiritual Development chairperson and 1st vice president? I was thrilled and honoured! And yes, a tad scared. The fright quickly subsided when I realized my Sisters in the League and Father David were there to give me all the information, I needed to do the job to the best of my ability.

What is there left to do? On a global scale as the Baroness Catherine Doherty said "We need to bring the world back to Christ" I urge each of you here to make small sacrifices, pray and fast to accomplish this amazing feat.

On a personal level I still have another glorious year as your Spiritual Development chairperson. I hope to continue reading writing and praying so I can come up with some creative spirituals for the mid-term meetings and next year's convention.

This concludes my report
Catherine L'Heureux

Diocesan Presidents Oral Reports to Convention

Kamloops Diocesan President Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

As the new President for the Kamloops Diocesan CWL, I stand before you filled with new fears and self-doubt; however, these feelings are squelched from the excitement and anticipation of what the next two years hold.

Our Convention in April was a great success with 5 resolutions presented and passed, Sylvia Jurys was in attendance helping us find out which Saint we were most alike, and we had a very interesting presentation on Human Trafficking. Fr. Andrew gave us an inspiring talk on the new theme “Speak Lord.... I’m Listening” and elections were held allowing us to install a new slate of officers.

At our winter meeting in February, Dorothy, proposed a water project, asking each council to consider contributing to the purchase of a new water system through Chalice Canada. The response was amazing, and we were able to purchase 6 water systems at \$750.00 each!

I was excited to hear that three of our members accepted positions on Strategic Planning Implementation teams. They will be doing their part to help spread the word and to assist in training needed for any changes coming our way. We had the new Strategic Plan Update Workshop presented at our summer meeting and hope to share it to all councils. We are also happy to learn that our Diocese will be represented at the 2019 class of the Catholic Women’s Leadership Foundation Program.

As we prepare to move forward in our new positions, we hope to focus on CWL sisterhood and relationships between councils and other levels of our organization. Our Diocese is spread over a large area, making it a challenge to come together personally, but our members hearts are just as large, and the love for God and the league keeps our hearts strings tied tight as we work for God and Canada across the miles.

This concludes my report.

Diane Nadeau

Nelson diocesan president Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

The Nelson diocese is alive and well! Looking at the strengths of the Nelson councils, one thing I was flabbergasted at is the number of pies these councils typically make and sell during the fall season. One council alone makes over 400! This is woman's genius in operation!

More seriously however, there doesn't appear to be much correlation between the size of a council and the fruit it gives. A council of 50 does what a council of 125 does – fall bazaars, numerous fundraisers, monthly soup kitchens all alongside our “usual” activities of funeral lunches and various service ministries. One council of only 13 ladies managed to pay a \$5600 bill for church sidewalk repair. All this on top of providing an enriching spiritual program.

No, Nelson diocese may be spread over many kilometres, but our ladies are doing marvelous things! As one council president stated, “The CWL's in our diocese make things happen Without us, where would we be?”

However, all this work involves balance: Balance between our CWL initiatives and our community work, Balance between our spiritual development and our parish work. Simply put, the balance of faith, fun and fulfillment.

The councils in Nelson are eagerly, excitedly and expectantly awaiting the changes instore for the League so that this balance may be more easily achieved, especially if some younger legs can be added to our numbers.

One of the wishes noted from parish councils is to feel more connected to the League, especially those councils more physically isolated from their peer councils. They want to see more of the diocesan executive. As can so easily happen, sometimes what was done in the past can somehow be forgotten or just slowly faded away. This is the case with “traveling workshops”. I am planning on having workshops presented by the “local diocesan executives” (and perhaps with a life member or 2) throughout the 4 regions of the Nelson diocese. Last year I was only able to reach 2 regions. Distance and weather make the window of opportunity small so it's a matter of delegation – spreading out that workload!

The women are also asking for more social times versus meeting times so when the diocesan executive meet with the parish presidents this fall, we will explore this more deeply and see what changes can be done to make this possible.

I would like to end with a quote from past national president, Agnes Bedard. This will be my final goal, and huge task, for the remainder of my term.

“That every woman finds within this blest sisterhood, acceptance, encouragement, love and support.”

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Cloutier

2019 Prince George Diocesan President Oral Report to Convention

Greetings from the Diocese of Prince George, which covers 133,000 square miles.

Our 13 Councils are scattered in a number of smaller communities with a considerable distance between them. And although not all aspects of the League are accomplished in each and every one of our parishes, **collectively**, we address them all.

Over the years I have found it very interesting that not only is each person very unique, but also, that each Council is very unique with its own personality, talents and gifts.

One council may be very politically motivated, yet another has no interest in politics whatsoever. A certain council may be Super Hostesses, yet another is very low key in that area. From all the reports that have come in, I have noted that the CWL is the “Heart” of each parish, CWL members are lectors, Eucharistic ministers, church cleaners, bereavement ministers, parish council members, music ministers ... and beyond.

All our councils include prayer and a Spiritual Program in their monthly meetings. They address any major issues that come to them through communiques. Several councils brought in guest speakers addressing issues such as mental health, health and fitness and palliative care.

It is noted that when guest speakers are brought in, the attendance at meetings is higher.

Our Diocesan Convention in April took place in Prince George and was hosted by Christ Our Saviour Parish. This was a huge feat, as they only have 21 members. Father Pier Pandolfo, our Spiritual Advisor, gave a beautiful Spiritual Presentation called “Engage in all Challenges with Joy”, Gisela Montague did a fun workshop on “Saints” to help us “Prayerfully Discern our Giftedness” and Maria Tejero gave a very informative and interesting Presentation called “It is All in Your Head”, namely addressing the function of the human brain from DNA to how we are influenced and formed through our life experiences and teachings.

At our convention, Linda McClinton, a long time, and very hard-working member, was awarded her **Life Membership**. I am so pleased to say that she continues to serve on our Diocesan Executive as Spiritual Development Chairperson.

Elections were also held during this year’s convention and I am happy to report that we have a full slate of officers.

Most of the councils in our diocese participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care in a variety of ways. The most impressive was Christ Our Saviour Parish in Prince George who started off at 7 am with Prayer and Meditation, followed by Mass, then saying the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, to celebrating ‘The Way of the Cross Today’, focusing on sickness and dying. These were done throughout the day with intermittent refreshment breaks, a simple lunch and more prayer and reflection.

Terrace organized and hosted “40 Days for Life”, with silent and prayerful walking with placards in front of Mills Memorial Hospital from 7 am to 7 pm every day for 40 days, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. Other Terrace Christian denominations participated as did a few of the Kitimat ladies.

The ‘Water Challenge Pledge Forms’ were sent to each of the parish presidents and from there distributed to the members, mainly at their year-end banquets. (So far with only Kitimat and Terrace, we have collected almost 100 pledges.)

My hope and prayer is that each CWL member would bring one new member into the League in 2020 and that the Holy Spirit would breathe new life into the League so we can continue the work of the Lord **for at least another one hundred years.**

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia DeSousa
Prince George Diocesan President

2019 Vancouver Diocese Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention

It is a great honour and pleasure to be here in Nanaimo representing the Vancouver Diocese.

In April, our Diocese hosted a wonderful convention in Abbotsford, with inspiring guest speakers, great reports and personal testimonies and a rejuvenating spiritual program.

The last day of our convention, I was elected as president of the Vancouver Diocesan council. Elected with me were 5 returning executive members, and 5 brand new executive members. As you can imagine, there was some nervousness as my new members gathered together for the installation of officers, many wondering what the next two years will bring. Some wondering what they had gotten themselves into, and I'm sure that many of you here can remember that feeling. I'll admit that I was one of the nervous ones!

Many of us were wondering if we have the capability needed for the job, to be a successful leader in the CWL. Personally, I remember my first Diocesan meeting, looking at that impressive executive council and thinking that they were the elite, the bigwigs, the crème de la crème. They were not like me at all, they were successful CWL leaders.

Except that now standing up here, I realize that at one time, they were just like me. And my new executive members, as nervous and hesitant as they are...they are just the same. We are all ordinary women doing things that may seem ordinary to us, but they all add up to an extraordinary group of women who get things done.

So, for the next two years, I hope to get some things done. I plan to steal an idea from our Archbishop. Archbishop Miller has been making parish visits throughout the Diocese of Vancouver, he will be visiting every single parish. I hope to be able to do the same, visiting every single parish council. So far, I've visited 4 out of 57, so I have my work cut out for me over my term. Wish me luck!

Something else that I hope to do for the next year, is to listen to our members. We often talk at our members. But do we listen? Do we really hear the feedback? Listening to our members is how we learn what they need from us. And the Diocesan councils are here to serve the parishes, not the other way around.

So with the assistance of all of these great leaders on the Provincial council, and the support and prayers of my members, I will do my best to calm my nerves and be one of those successful leaders that so impressed me when I first joined the League.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Renaud

2019 Victoria Diocesan President Oral Report for Provincial Convention Victoria Diocesan President – Christa Grillmair

A huge part of our diocesan focus has been on preparing for this convention. I'm glad you're all here and hope you're have a great time.

Our strategy this year has been to build on our diocesan theme, *Solid Rock, Living Waters* and to tie it in with our national and provincial themes and the CWL core values of faith, service and social justice.

At our interim meeting in March, we learned about the history of the CWL and that standing up for social justice is as important today as it was when it began almost 100 years ago. Another workshop guided everyone through the diocesan website and encouraged sharing the works of service that councils provide in their parish and community. And, we were reminded that the solid rock of our faith is the value that we share as we do God's works and something that gives us a point of reference for our lives, a place of certainty.

At our diocesan convention in May, the diocesan committee chairs and parish presidents shared their view on how the national, provincial and diocesan themes can be translated into action plans in our parishes and communities. They talked about being good stewards of our environment, about the impact of climate change and the challenge to create a balance between development and the natural world.

One of the highlights of the past few months has been the launch of a new CWL council in our diocese – at Trinity Catholic in Nanaimo. I am thrilled that Trinity's new president, two vice presidents, secretary and treasurer are all with us at our convention.

In addition to my duties as diocesan president, I am also on the national marketing implementation committee. This committee has been tasked with developing the strategies and plans to market the League. This will keep me busy for the next five years!

After this convention, I look forward to going to Calgary to whoop it up at the national convention. Then in September, my husband and I will be going on a six-week European adventure to celebrate our 50 years of marriage.

When I return, we will host a fall team meeting where our executive and parish presidents will be addressing key issues, learning new things and planning for 2020.

Being part of the team on Vancouver Island is both an honour and privilege and I thank my team for their unwavering support.

Respectfully submitted,
Christa Grillmair

2019 Whitehorse Diocesan President's Oral Report to the 72nd BC & Yukon Annual Provincial Convention, Nanaimo BC, June 13 – 15, 2019

This time last year I was a different person, preparing for the provincial. This year I'm back to my old self and blessed to be addressing you for the umpteenth time as president of the Whitehorse Diocese.

Unlike the hibernating animals, we never sleep, thanks to CWL. January found us the recipients of 180 pairs of winter socks from St. Dominic's in Oakville, thanks to a referral from Jeanne Wilson. We received them at our meeting which was held at my house and presented them to Maryhouse for distribution to the needy in our coldest month. You may have seen the photo in the Communicator. Then we passed out popcorn and settled in to watch 'Fatal Flaws' with great discussion afterwards.

In the following months we took part in the One Million Petition to end Human Trafficking gathering many signatures, one million rosaries for aborted babies, we helped organize the World Day of Prayer and an Open House because our dear Fr. Marc is trying hard to refill the pews.

We sent in postcards for Pornography Hurts, we Walked for Life and led the 12 Hours of Prayer vigil, did the city wide food drive, made gift baskets for Mother's Day for the Teen parent centre, made First Communion cards and gifts and gave money towards the celebratory meal, provided back to back funeral receptions, completed annual reports and other paperwork as we fine tune the combining of our parish and diocesan councils.

As all this energy is being poured out, we are nourished by enriching spiritual sessions at every meeting from Dawn Kobewka, the Spiritual Development chair. She takes guidance from National and more recently from Sherray Duran's sharing. Father Slawek joins us for a portion of every meeting and he'll probably continue as we just gave him a nice cheque to help with needs in the rectory with ongoing renovations.

What happened after the convention last year though was a small miracle. The CWL is looked at with opened eyes. Our Bishop and priest see us in a new light thanks to all of you who came to us! Since then, I have been invited to join in the pastoral retreats. 4 of our members are pastoral workers in the Diocese. When we ask something of them, such as participation in the 12 Hour Vigil for Palliative Care, we get it. Mass and Adoration was part of our program, and I have to tell you that when Bishop Hector and Father Slawek knelt shoulder to shoulder before the Blessed Sacrament, my heart just filled with joy.

I especially want to tell you about the Walk for Life 2019. Each year we meet in a park beside the Old Log Church, we listen to a guest speaker, pray, and begin our walk. We pass the Federal Building where the 'others' are standing and staring as we pass by. This year they gathered across the street from us, so they heard our powerful speaker, and watched us pray. When we reached the Federal Building, they were there with their signs and looks of defiance. Silence on both sides. That night I went to hear the speaker again, and she told us a few more things, such as, she had 3 abortions in her early years. She kept saying "Don't they see that abortion is killing our babies?" I'm pretty hardnosed when choosing my role models and heroes and wondered why she didn't accept some of the responsibility for those abortions. In the question and answer period, I said, "Every year we walk, every year we meet those defiant eyes and folded arms. How can we come together and start the dialogue in peace?" An American tourist spoke to me afterwards and said they are immovable as far as innocent life is concerned. You have to focus on the harm to their own mental and physical health and you'll catch their attention. That is why I recommend the film 'Hush' be shown to your councils. That is why after seeing the trailer for "Unplanned" we want to organize a screening in Whitehorse as it's not being distributed by other means yet.

When I mentioned to my priest my concern about the speaker, he said, "What a great conversion!" and brought me back to thinking like a Christian should. He said something else at our care home mass just the other day which I want to leave you with: You are worth the blood of the Son of God!

Thank you for your prayers and love,

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Vanderbyl

Treasuring the Amazing Sisterhood of the CWL



Ann Dobie, Rest in Peace dear Sister

For many people the notion of the Catholic Women's League evokes baking, food, funeral receptions and fundraising. For others it is powerful advocacy, presentations to the federal government and resolutions. Both components of the CWL, which has withstood many challenges, circumstances and world events in the last 99 years. As the league prepares to celebrate its centenary in 2020 there is much to rejoice about.

The single underlying foundation that has kept the CWL alive and well for so long continues to be its foundation. The sisterhood and spiritual connection between members are so strong that it overshadows all else.

Over the years, women joined the CWL fundamentally for the spiritual development and community of faith. This remains true to this day. The bond of solidarity grounded in faith is what gives strength and determination to members across Canada.

This was evidenced at the funeral of long-time League Life Member Ann Dobie of Star of the Sea Parish in White Rock. CWL Members from across the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the rest of the province came together to celebrate Ann's life and legacy. Cards, emails and words of sympathy have been pouring in with tributes and examples of the impact of Ann's words and actions that have affected others.

One national past president said, "I always felt good about myself after spending time with Ann".

So many remember small events, a word, or some other act of affirmation that was Ann's style. She was the epitome of what it means to be a Catholic woman and leader with her sisters across Canada. It is this sisterhood that stands the test of time and distance. It is what League members mean to one another, offering hope, comfort and joy while they are in sorrow and loss.

The CWL is undergoing change and looking for new ways and strategies to adapt to the sign of the times. These things take time and there is no quick fix. But one thing remains certain – the spiritual connection, the faith component and the amazing sisterhood nurtured and developed over time and at all levels of the League will continue to be the foundation on which all else will stand. It is a characteristic exemplified by Ann Dobie.

Ann received an Archdiocese of Vancouver Stewardship Award in 2015. Her award description read: Past President of the CWL at Star of the Sea, a life member for over 48 years. She has shared her talents generously while leading committees both at Star of the Sea and Holy Cross High Schools as well as multiple parish committees. With her welcoming nature, she invites and encourages others to become involved in the church community. She is known for reaching out to others at meetings and for making sure new members feel connected. She works hard at creating and strengthening personal relationships, continually challenging others to a higher level of excellence. Individually and collectively she builds others up by recognizing and drawing out their special gifts and talents. Her nominator says, "Ann is an inspiration to so many as a spiritual leader, teacher of the faith, great mentor and friend."

Barbara Dowding, National Past President
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Designer of the Madonna and Child Logo



Nina Passarello, receiving worthy recognition for her creative talents



85th Anniversary Celebration at St. Mary's Council Ladysmith

Saint Mary's Council at Ladysmith celebrated its 85th anniversary at their annual Spring Tea. There were several tables set up with archives and memorabilia for new and long-time members to peruse. We enjoyed a luncheon of fancy sandwiches and dessert dainties and of course tea!

We had a representative from Ladysmith Family and Friends speak to us about their center for families and care givers. A good will collection of \$465 was presented to them from the members present.

The highlight of our day was the presentation of a 70-year service pin to our Sister Marion Gourdeau with a gracious smile and tears in her eyes received her pin and bouquet of flowers with much applause



HUG Project at St. Ann's Quesnel

St. Ann's CWL Quesnel BC, participated in the **HUG Project (Helping, Understanding, Giving)**, the National Catholic Women's League's Centenary project. We requested donations of ladies medium or large sized underwear, socks, pyjamas, slippers, toiletries or even cash. Collection of items continued from May until early June. CWL members and members of the parish were encouraged to donate. Two baskets of these items were donated to the Amata Transition House, the local Women's Shelter in Quesnel, B.C.



L-R Mayanne - CWL, Fay - Amata, Yvonne - CWL and Susan - Amata
Photo by Rhonda - courtesy of Amata House

Submitted by Maureen Sanderson, Communication Chair

A tribute to Johanna Kilistoff



At the June wind-up dinner of the CWL council of Our Lady of Good Council Parish Johanna Kilistoff (94) was honoured to receive her 40-year service pin.

Lillian Warlimont, a good friend and CWL Sister, gave a lovely tribute. Johanna joined the league at Immaculate Conception, Delta, then transferred to St. Bernadette's and finally to Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey.

She was always an active member when her health allowed her to be. She shared her many gifts and talents one of which is sewing and crafts. She sewed curtains /drapes, altar cloths, gowns for altar servers and made alterations for priests' vestments.

Johanna donated many handmade articles to the CWL fund raising projects, and upon downsizing donated many items and fabrics from her sewing room for the council's use.

She always enjoyed being part of the League and is a truly dedicated member. Thank you, Johanna, for all your contributions to the council and the League. Ann Sheffer was pleased to be present

for this special occasion of her sister Joanna.



St. Ann's Quesnel Lenten Project

St. Ann's CWL, Quesnel donated a rocking chair for the Child Development Centre's Pregnancy Outreach Program as a Lenten Project. Baby bottles were handed out after mass to be filled with spare change. These were accepted both by members and other parishioners. The new rocking chair replaces a much repaired 13-year-old one.



Photo left to right: Peggy and Bev from POP and Janis and Audrey from the CWL
Photo: Printed with permission of Heather Norman Quesnel Cariboo Observer by Heather Norman

Trinity Catholic - Nanaimo

by Huguette Fox

Nanaimo has a new CWL Council! The members of the executive at Trinity Catholic were installed on May 26, 2019, and on June 8, 2019, they held their first function, a Spring Fling where members and prospective members had the opportunity to grow in faith with a presentation on the women of the Bible, to learn about CWL's service and social justice initiatives and to get to know each other better. Starting in September, meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.



L to R: Christa Grillmair, Louise Coombe, Nora Loftus, Melinda Franklin, Father Jozef Kobos, Swedini Halliday, Cathy Patterson, Jane Wardrop, Huguette Fox

Since it is Summer, here are some favourite recipes from our members to whet your appetite – Enjoy!

Black Bean Salad

*(A great salad to take on a picnic – it keeps well ...
and can be made the day before!)*

Yield: Approximately 8-12 Servings depending on size of portion

Ingredients

2 – 19-ounce cans of **Black Beans**
1 **Green Pepper**
1 **Red Pepper**
1 **Yellow Pepper**
1 **Orange Pepper**
1 Bunch of Chopped **Green (Spring) Onions**
1 – 12 ounce can of Whole **Kernel Corn**

Dressing

1/2 Cup of **Corn Oil**
4 Tablespoons of **Lemon Juice**
3 Tablespoons of **Chopped Parsley**
2 Teaspoons of **Salt**
2 Teaspoons of **Chili Powder**
1/2 Teaspoon **Ground Black Pepper**
1 Teaspoon **Ground Cumin**
1 Teaspoon **Ground Thyme**
1 Teaspoon **Worcestershire Sauce**
2-3 Cloves of **Crushed Garlic**

- * *Drain and rinse the beans and put them in a large bowl.
Toss the beans with the remaining salad ingredients.*
- * *Put all the dressing ingredients in a shaker jar, blend or
food processor to blend. Pour over the salad and toss to coat well.*
- * *Refrigerate several hours or overnight before serving.
(You can add a little more coarsely chopped parsley if you wish)*

Sylvia deSouza

Cherry Tomato and White Bean Salad

1/4 cup olive oil
3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
3/4 cup very thinly sliced red onion (about 1/2 a small onion)
1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic (about 1 large clove)
2 pints cherry tomatoes, halved
1 (15-ounce can) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/2 cup shaved Parmesan (about 2 ounces)

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Stir in the red onion and garlic and set the dressing aside to marinate for 15 to 30 minutes at room temperature.
2. Place the tomatoes, white beans and parsley in a large bowl. Pour the dressing over the salad, toss well, then gently fold in the Parmesan. Serve at room temperature using a slotted spoon.

Sylvia Jurys

Cucumber Salad

Catherine L'Heureux

3 English cucumbers, unpeeled and sliced fairly thin
1 Medium onion chopped fine

Salad dressing:

6 tbsp Canola oil
6 tbsp. White vinegar
2 tbsp. Sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

Mix all ingredients together in a glass or ceramic bowl, cover and let marinade in the fridge for at least 2 hours. Toss twice during the cooling time, serve and enjoy.

Fabulous Grilled Root Vegetables

Ingredients

12-15	Small whole carrots
20	small red and golden potatoes
1	white onion
1	head garlic (about 7-8 cloves)
1 Tbsp	olive oil
1-1/2 tsp	smoked paprika
1-1/2 tsp	garlic salt
1 Tbsp	butter
2 Tbsp	Fresh parsley, chopped (optional)

Instructions

1. Preheat your grill to 350F degrees then turn off one side
2. Peel and cut carrots on the bias (2-inch pieces)
3. Peel 1 head of garlic. No need to mince or chop it, just separate the cloves from its wrapping and leave them whole.
4. Peel and cut one large white onion into 1-inch pieces.
5. Spray the bottom of a disposable aluminum foil cooking tray with cooking spray.
6. To the pan add the carrots, garlic, onion and the potatoes (buy small potatoes and leave them whole).
7. Add 1 Tb olive oil and toss to combine.
8. Add 1 1/2 tsp smoked paprika and 1 1/2 tsp garlic salt, toss to combine.
9. Cover tightly with foil and set it on your grill on the side that is turned off.
10. Cook for 20 minutes, then carefully unwrap and stir.
Rotate the pan, cover and cook for an additional 15-20 minutes or until the veggies are crispy tender. Keep a careful watch so they don't burn.
11. Add 1 Tb butter, and 2 Tb freshly chopped parsley (optional, but wonderful).
Give them a taste and add more garlic salt to your liking

Note: you may also roast the veggies in your oven.

Sylvia Jurys

Soma Salad

Sheila Doherty

- ½ Green cabbage, shredded
- 2 Green onions
- 1 pkg. Ichiban or other Ramen noodles, uncooked (keep the seasoning package for dressing)
- 1 each Red, yellow and orange pepper, sliced
- 5 Mushrooms, sliced (optional)
- ¼ cup Sesame seeds, slivered almonds and sunflower seeds (toasted at 325F for 15 minutes) Cool and add to the salad

Method:

Place ingredients in a large bowl

Salad Dressing:

- 6 tsp. Rice vinegar or rice wine
 - 1 Tbsp. Soy sauce
 - 1 tbsp. Sugar
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - ½ cup Olive oil
 - Seasoning mix from Ichiban noodles.
- Whisk all ingredients together and toss with the salad.

Enjoy!

3 Quick, Easy, and Refreshing Salads

Gisela Montague

1) Watermelon and Cucumber Salad

Watermelon and unpeeled cucumbers, (as many as you like) mixed with balsamic Vinegar and olive oil to taste – very tasty and refreshing.

2) Butter Lettuce Medley

- 6 cups butter lettuce torn into small pieces
- Watermelon and unpeeled cucumbers, cubed (to taste)
- 1 small red onion thinly sliced, to taste
- Mix with store bought poppy seed dressing
- Salt and pepper to taste

3) Zucchini and Broccoli Salad

1 Medium Zucchini
1 cup Broccoli Flowerets, chopped small
1 small Red onion, sliced thinly
6 cups Live butter lettuce (or picked from your garden)
½ cup Dried Cranberries
Salt and pepper to taste

Add all ingredients to a bowl just before serving and mix with creamy poppy seed dressing.

Tip: add 1 tbsp. of dressing at a time until the lettuce leaves just glisten. The leaves should not be wet, nor should there be a pool of dressing on the bottom of your salad bowl.

Enjoy!

Rice Shrimp Salad

1 1/2 cups rice - any type cooked according to directions - cooled
1 - 10 oz pkg of frozen peas - I use corn too
2 cans of shrimp or frozen or fresh - lots
1 1/2 Cups chopped celery
1/4 cup chopped onion

Add Dressing

2/3 Cups salad oil
2 tsp soya sauce
4 tsp. curry powder
2 Tbsp. vinegar
1 or 2 tsp. salt to taste

LET SIT FOR A FEW HOURS or make night before if possible

Right before serving you can fold in:

3 tsp. white sugar
5 oz. chow mein noodles

Sharon Ciebin

Fr. David and Ranga having a Picnic on a Warm Summer Day



This was a picnic on a Friday, so no meat. Normally I would have had a few barbecued chicken or quail or some other light side-dish to go with the hog roast. And if I hadn't been driving, there would have been a flagon or two of French red wine!

I might have chosen some nice crusty French bread, but that had to be fresh and I didn't have time to go to the store, so pita bread was a nice light option.

To put on the bread there was simply: Soft boiled eggs mixed with finely chopped onions and mixed together with mayonnaise; olives stuffed with garlic, blue cheese, some cold tomato bisque soup as a dip, then to cover all bases, some cheesy spread, lots of highly-flavoured chips and some sugar free pop!

(In fact, I had the tomato bisque just above room temperature - thus the thermos). And if you do have a hog roast and a flagon of wine, then a nice comfy air mattress and a blanket is also a good addition. And don't forget a pillow!

(Pictured above is Ranga patiently waiting for me to tell him to "tuck-in!")

Fr. David

In Closing

A sincere and heartfelt thanks to the contributors of this first trial of a Summer Communicator. You outdid yourselves!

While fresh in everyone's mind, I really wanted to profile the 2019 Provincial Convention to report on how the delegates participated in the spiritual and business sections, especially in the opening, daily and closing Masses and listened attentively to the presenters, their participation in the resolution dialogue and unanimously passed the resolutions that were put forward.

A special thanks to the convention chairpersons, the facilitators, and our president, Gisela Montague who made this successful convention one to remember.

I hope and pray that you will start that Piggybank now so that you will be able to come to the 73rd BC & Yukon Provincial Convention in Vernon next year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and may God bless you all for you do for our wonderful organization for God and Canada. Be very proud of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Jurys
Chairperson of Communications
BC & Yukon Provincial Council