

2020 Easter Communicator



I have seen the Lord



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

Easter Issue Number 41

"Do not be afraid, Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me" Matthew 28:10

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 and Councils throughout British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

***The deadline to submit articles for the Summer Issue Number 42 is
July 20, 2020***

*"A Century of the History of BC & Yukon
Provincial Councils"*

Start gathering your Charters and Photographs now!

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Dear Ladies

Greetings from the still snowbound Elk Valley. I suppose that if one lives in an area that makes a lot of its income out of being a ski resort, then one should expect the snow to stay slightly longer than elsewhere!

It seems a bit hollow to say, 'I hope this letter finds you well' as the chances are that this pandemic will hit many of us indiscriminately. So, I will simply say that, whatever life is throwing at you just now, I hope that you will be aware of God's love for you and the collective love that the CWL has for all its members. And I know that what is being thrown at you might be in terms of physical health, but it might also be in terms of spiritual health as so many are cut off from their usual ways of praying, or mental health as our society is stressed and tested.



“It is as though we are living a long Good Friday.”

Bp. Mark, the bishop of my home diocese of Plymouth in England, writes:

“Although this time so often feels like a long Good Friday, in God’s good purposes, it already contains the hope of brighter and better days to come. [...] Our sharing in the Son of God’s dying, in this long Good Friday, is a real participation in His redemptive act of love for all. It will bring forth fruits, unknown now, for each of us, for our Church and especially for our world. In this, is our hope.”

When I read it, this description of the time we are living through as a “long Good Friday” instantly rang a chord with me. A time when we fast, but not from our earthly food, but from the Eucharistic food. We also ‘fast’ from so many other things that make up our normal lives, from socializing, from popping around to friends for a coffee and a chat, from visiting our loved ones, from ministering in the parish, from joining with others in church for prayer. So many things. It can, indeed, be a very long Good Friday.

Just before writing this I was listening to a press briefing by the government in Britain and all the reporters were asking what comes after the ‘lock-down’ and the current restrictions. The answer the government spokesperson repeatedly gave was that he does not want the focus to go on that just yet as it might distract people from the task at hand of overcoming the virus by social distancing and a vigilant attention to cleanliness of the hands. Similarly for us as Christians, as I write this we are not yet at the end of Lent, we have yet to celebrate the Passion and death of Christ, so we

must not take our focus off this, but we do know what comes next in our liturgical cycle, we have the great joy of knowing that soon we will be celebrating the Resurrection of Christ! Yet as we approach this great feast, I am conscious that in our daily lives we are still fasting in our “long Good Friday”, and this will go on for some while yet.

But we can look to the patterns of the Church to help us understand the patterns of the world. In the same way as our faith in Easter helps us understand the meaning of Lent, so our faith in the Kingdom-to-come must help us mould our understanding of our present – *somewhat confusing* – situation and enable us to look to the future with hope.

Lent is about dying to oneself; Easter is about being reborn in Christ. So, if we are living through a secular Lent, a very long Good Friday, then we have to hope that the fruits of this will be a reborn society that has new life.

I believe that the rebuilding of our society after this pandemic will be an opportunity to build our world into a more compassionate society where we recognise that while the good and the great have their place, so too do all the other people whose efforts are so often overlooked. And it goes without saying that the leadership given by the CWL at all levels is so important in this task.

As I have said before, while at a time of widespread illness we obviously think of our noble health workers, in this pandemic we have also become very aware of those who keep our supermarkets functioning, those who keep our water, electricity, internet and other vital services going, those who clean our buildings, and the myriad of other people who do jobs without which we would not be able to live the comfortable lives that we are blessed with. And that is before the others who telephone us when we are alone, who run errands for those who cannot leave their homes, and the legions of people who just show kindness in so many ways. These are equally indispensable and so need to be acknowledged and valued.

And more than this, all the above is based on function, that is, the jobs we do. But in our new world we must look more deeply than this. I have known a good number of families that have had a disabled child as one of the family, and my experience is that in these families the other siblings who do not have disabilities are often graced with a gentle and caring nature exactly because they have grown up with someone who was so vulnerable. As the L’Arche communities show us so clearly, it is not just the functioning who give to those with disabilities, there is a stream of grace that flows the other way. I can think of one family in particular where the big strapping teenage boys of the family who could so easily have been brash adolescence, instead showed a softness and visible love in their dealings with their frail sibling that was so moving.

So, our acknowledgement and our valuing of people in our society must go beyond our function. Hopefully, a pandemic that strikes our Prime Ministers and our Royalty as well as our loved ones and our neighbours, will perhaps awaken a sense that all life is precious, regardless of function.

And another aspect of this strange time we are living through that interests me is how our ‘fallowing’ [as they are calling it in Britain], has given the environment a break from its usual onslaught of pollution from travel and heavy industry. So, my hope is that

because of our love for **all** people, not just those we see every day, then the rebuilding of our world after the pandemic must be a rebuilding of a greener world.

I believe that a society that has a greater sense of interconnectedness, which values the part that all people play, which emphasizes the importance of being a good neighbour, and shows love for God's creation will, without doubt be a society that takes us one step closer to the Kingdom of God. And how do we gain the insights needed to guide our society towards the Kingdom? By the power of the Holy Spirit which was poured out on his Church at Pentecost, but that is a good few weeks away, and as the government spokesperson said, we don't want to get distracted by that just yet!

My prayer is that by the end of this Easter season, that is, by Pentecost we will all (*at least have started to*) be together in our parishes again, so that as an assembly standing side-by-side we will welcome the Holy Spirit anew in to our lives to enable us to build a better world, to build up God's Kingdom on earth.

I do hope that over this Easter time you too can give a bit of space and focus to the events that are central in our faith: Christ giving us the Eucharist, then the giving of His life on the Cross, His time in the tomb and then His rising to new and everlasting life.

With a promise of prayers for your wellbeing in every aspect of your lives,

Fr. David John (And Thumper)

*(Top photo: the river of the Corbin Valley just east of Sparwood on 5th April this year.
Below: Thumper the same day in the same valley.)*



Introducing Thumper!

Just a little update. I now have a new assistant in the parish. After the sad loss of Ranga, we now have **Thumper** helping us out. Thumper is a complete novice and has no qualifications yet, except an incredibly cute face and he is a Labrador puppy!

He was seven-and-a-half weeks old when I went to pick him up and weighed in at a healthy 11.5lbs (5.2kgs) and he is a pure-bred yellow Labrador and it was a chilly minus 20°C that day.

He was born in southern Montana within sight of Yellowstone National Park.

He loved car ride and made the nine hour drive up from Montana without any worries. Already on day-one he met the Ghostriders hockey team (*while they were playing very loud music*), and he survived that.

On day-two, he visited both the care home and the funeral home, so there has been little honeymoon period for him.

There is obviously a big ‘back story’ to how this pup ended up with me, but I can bore you with that another day. Just to say here, when I write “we”, I now probably mean “Thumper and myself”.



I think he will be an incredibly good assistant!

Fr. David

Spiritual Communion Meditation

Often, we may return to our pew after receiving Communion and sit and think rather than pray. Yet we all have so much to pray for, we all know so many things that need to be lifted up to God. But perhaps most importantly, in these moments we need to start by thanking God for his gift. That can be hard, perhaps because at that moment we do not think that anything has changed as we cannot see the grace for which we are giving thanks to God.

The priest Fr Mike Schmitz wrote: We realise that here is the God of the Universe, who has not only come down onto the altar, but He stepped off the altar in the Eucharist, into your life, into my life, into our very body and soul.

Yet now, in this strange time, as we sit with our hearts so clearly turned towards God, we do not have access to the Eucharist, and so there is no quiet moment after Communion to sit and pray and give thanks. So odd! How we long for that moment of sitting and praying after receiving Communion! Probably a moment that so many of us rarely remembered to value before it was gone.

I invite you to stay with that thought for a short time be still and remember that moment in the pews after Communion, that moment of peace. *(Pause)*

That thought and appreciation of the moment after Communion has come to us because we are 'fasting' from the Eucharist. While we did not choose this, it is still a 'fast'. And the fruits of this fast is a longing – a longing for our Communion with God and with one another, a longing for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, a longing for those moments of grace after Communion.

So, before we go any further, let us now thank God for all the times we have received the Eucharist in the past. *(Pause)*

And let us also thank God for all the Eucharist we will receive in the future. *(Pause)*

Fr. David John
Provincial Spiritual Advisor

Message from the Provincial President

Easter 2020

My dear members of the Catholic Women's League of BC & Yukon Provincial Council I am honoured to bring you news of our Spring executive meeting at St. Nicholas Parish in Langley. The beautiful parish is nestled between whispering trees and a gorgeous church that brings the outside in with furnishing built from felled majestic trees from yester-year.



L to R Retiring Diocesan Presidents, Christa Grilmair, Victoria, with President Gisela Montague and Debbie Cloutier, Nelson

In this the last year of the current year of office and it being an election year, the Spring meeting was a time of perhaps seeing some officers and chairperson retirements or those stepping up to an adventure to accept a nomination. Mixed feelings all around no doubt!

This Spring meeting was different though, an extremely contagious virus from China was lurking in the background that was causing concern around the world and in the forefront minds of all attendees. But with a stuff upper lip we moved forward with the agenda as

planned and accomplished so much in anticipation for the six diocesan conventions and the provincial convention and its plethora of planning details that had to be attended to.

We experienced beautiful weather and held evening prayers, recited the Rosary, prayed the Stations of the Cross, carefully prepared by our chairperson of Spiritual Development, Catherine L'Heureux, with each station powerfully and diligently read with purpose by the officers and members.

We were fortunate that we were able to gather for our Spring meeting, we certainly managed to go through our business sessions and listen to guest presenters:

Pat Deppiesse presenting the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe who was decreed by Pope Pius XII as Patroness of all the Americas on October 12, 1945 and her intention to submit a proposal to the Catholic Women's League of Canada National Council in the next few months.

Marc Vella from the Christian Civic Affairs Committee explained to us how to attract pro-life candidates to run in each party for the federal elections.

Neysa Finnie, executive director of the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation gave a historic outline of the organization with an update on previous participants in the program.

Father David outlined in the Old Testament where people constantly disobeyed God, except for Abraham, Noah, John, and Mary. They not only believed but evangelized by putting their beliefs into action.



Fr. David and Thumper with the Executive and Chairpersons hanging out on the stairs at St. Nicholas School.

In his closing remarks Father David captured the sentiments of how everyone was preoccupied by the Corona Virus throughout the meeting and reminded us that our voice is to be a voice of peace. We need to be a voice of good. Our society desperately needs the positive and we need to lift people up. Each one has strengths and weaknesses and each one of us a child of God. We are the ones who build up.

As I look back on my second year of office as president it has been so rewarding to see the results of the national implementation plan and the hard work of the first year teams who completed the goals on time and with much success. I am so proud that many members from our province and territory are contributors to this project. Thank you!

I am grateful that almost all officers were able to attend, the agenda was full, and participation was lively. Catherine L'Heureux, Spiritual Development Chair always delivers a wonderful program and Fr. David keeps us calm and focussed during his spiritual reflections and prayers.



Secretary Laura Esposito presenting the Affirmation Angel to Suzanne Eng in acknowledgment of being a quiet dedicated friend with an angelic voice, having a patient listening ear and a huge helpful heart.

As we journey through these uncertain times, let us pray for our sisters in the League, for the elderly and the homeless and for a cure for the virus in the world. I thank God for all the blessings we have received and are receiving every day. May we always search for the truth and be His witnesses, embracing our provincial theme: "Witnessing to the Truth".

Postscript to this report.

As you all have been informed, all conventions this year have been cancelled pending the decisions of the health authorities and the National office of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Remember we are in this together, let us bond together as sisters in the League, let us take care of each other in prayer every day and put our trust in Jesus Christ Our Lord and Our Patroness of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Gisela Montague
President, BC & Yukon Provincial Council

Barbara Gobbi

Rest in Peace Dear Sister



The example of Christ and his teachings inspire all Christians to be better versions of ourselves; likewise the example of members we meet on our League journey can have a strong impact on the way we conduct ourselves in our work for God and Canada. They become our role models, and when we seek out their help, they become our mentors. Such a one for me was Barbara Gobbi, former Prince George diocesan president who died on January 11, 2020

At her funeral which I was privileged to attend, her daughter Vanya gave a beautiful eulogy focusing on Barbara's witness to the Christian principles which imbued her marriage and family life. Mine dealt solely with her CWL service and also contained comments I received from members serving at all four levels of the league, expressing their respect and admiration for Barbara's service. Without exception each member attested to her strong defence of life, from conception to its natural end. One said, "She was a walking encyclopedia of prolife information, and was deeply passionate about the wonderful God-given gift of life." Another remembered how she participated in orderly and respectful outdoor placard demonstrations, and candlelight vigils in defence of life. She wrote many well-constructed and informative letters to government officials to educate them of the dangers of abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide. Many others were written in support of the family unit. Her letters also supported resolutions which were presented to legislative committees, provincial and federal ministers. Topics included marriage, violence against women, childcare, anti-depressants, the need for improved palliative care, hospice, antibullying programs and inadequate labelling of pesticides. The topics she addressed were not always easy, for example, The Human Reproduction Act and its regulations regarding the use of human cells, but her intelligence, courage and research skills carried her through, resulting in convincing arguments.

In 2005 she and husband Greg moved to Sechelt where she joined Holy Family CWL council, impressing its members by her industry in research, updating of archives, letter writing, resolutions and encouragement of prolife activities such as Forty Days for Life. You should have seen her well-organized boxes of files amassed during her long years of League work in faith, service and social justice. I saw these when she and Greg kindly billeted me on my way to diocesan events in the Lower Mainland. It was during these years that she served on my sub-committee. I greatly benefitted from her knowledge of convention protocol, and was continually inspired by her example of dedication, perseverance and righteousness.

In 2018 Barb and husband Greg moved back to Sacred Heart Parish in Prince George to the council where she had first begun her long and fruitful journey in the CWL. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Very Reverend Rectorino Tolentino, Jr. and members of three councils formed her Honour Guard.

May the Lord she served so faithfully, grant her eternal rest.

Evelyn Rigby
Past President
BC & Yukon Provincial Council

Why is May the Month of Mary

By Marge Fenlon, writer for the National Catholic Register

It's here.

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics, and making vacation plans.

It's also the Month of Mary.

Having gone to a Catholic grade school run by the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, my early childhood memories include honoring Mary during May – a practice I've continued all of my life and taught my children to do as well. It's as natural and essential to me as my morning coffee (only far, far more joy-filled if you can even imagine that).

I know a number of Catholics who see May as the Month of Mary, and we all get the same question from time to time:

Why is May Mary's month?

Here's a brief explanation.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity.

In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated ludi florals, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

It's common for parishes have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge

celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crownings aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it.

Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.

No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.

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Marge Fenelon is a member of the [Catholic Speakers Organization](http://CatholicSpeakersOrganization.CatholicSpeakers.com),
CatholicSpeakers.com.

To book Marge Fenelon for an event, contact CatholicSpeakers.com at 513-214-1534
or info@CatholicSpeakers.com



Reflections from the past few weeks

Many of us were understandably shocked when we started hearing of cancellations of gatherings of all kinds including our churches in mid-March. In the blink of an eye, our world changed. Surely COVID 19 precautions would not go on through June and the summer! However, we are learning that this pandemic will go on much longer.

Thanks to our CWL leadership for taking those difficult decisions to cancel our gatherings early on. Our disappointment at the cancellations of our Diocesan, Provincial and National Conventions while very real, are dwarfed in the big scheme of world events; the loss of jobs, the loss of income, the increases in poverty, isolation and food insecurity and the morbidity and mortality tied to this pandemic. God has His ways of turning our trials into good at some point.

I wish to thank our Vernon and Kamloops Diocesan team for all the work to date put into planning the 2020 BC & Yukon Provincial Convention. We developed friendships and learned much along the way, skills that will continue to be put to good use for coming events.

We hope that one day we will get back to, hmm, not “normal”, how about “better?” We will, God willing, welcome the BC and Yukon Provincial Convention to Vernon at a future date. The pandemic has not changed the natural beauty that is the Okanagan. The words to our invitation to come song at the 2019 Convention says it all...

(Sing along to the melody of “Ode to Joy”)

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
Show off 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!

We will keep praying for each other and for an end to this terrible scourge of a pandemic.

*"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Matthew 16:18

Jan Hillis,
Co-chair, BC & Yukon Provincial Convention
St James Council
Vernon

A message from Roundfort Ireland. Courtesy of a nun who is the sister of a CWL Member in Kamloops

Here in our parish we were just getting started on our Passion Pageant.

It is 10 years ago since Fr. Paddy Sheridan had done it and we had decided to put it on again.

A great man in our community, Nathy Gilligan had taken on the organising task and he had put in a huge effort just getting everything and everyone together. He had Ger Lyskey directing it and so many people had volunteered for different roles and different other jobs like getting costumes and props etc. They were just ready to start when Corona stuck her head in and shouted stop....

So, this Lent we will not be practicing and this Good Friday we will not be acting it out.

Instead, by the sounds of it from our Government and Scientists, we are actually going to be living it out.

You see **we've been condemned**, not by Pontius Pilate but by a Corona virus **We've been handed our cross**, it's not much different to Jesus' cross, a cross of fear, doubt, isolation, illness, of pain, mental pain, physical pain, spiritual pain, of suffering and bereavement and loss.

I've no doubt but that **there will be times when we will fall**, I'm sure at least 3 times, but please God, we will get up again and carry on, no matter how hard it will be; and by the sounds of it; it will be hard.

Again, if we are to believe what is being told to us by the experts, **there are going to be sorrowful moments like when Jesus meets his mother Mary**; we too will worry for our parents and grandparents and for all our vulnerable people.

We're very lucky to have people in our community like Veronica, people who wipe the face of Jesus like our Community Nurse Olive and our Doctor Willie and all our wonderful home helps that we have in our community and all the other wonderful people who look in on their neighbours. People also who go to work in our hospitals and medical centres and other places and people who give so generously of themselves to others, while often sacrificing family time and maybe even putting their own health at risk....

And then there are **those people like Simon of Cyrene**, the people who are already ringing me up asking 'How can we help' We're here and we want to help...And like the soldiers did, we have to find out now what the best way is for people to help Jesus carry his cross; what is the best way to help those who will be carrying crosses of fear, doubt, self-isolation, vulnerability, illness, pain, suffering and maybe even bereavement and loss.

There are other Simons too who will keep the emergency services going, serve in our shops, mind our children, keep the economy going and so on, often also at risk to their own health.

Then **we're also going to need people like the women of Jerusalem**; people who will be there to support, comfort, maybe pick up the phone and listen to and maybe even cry with those who are carrying their crosses and above all to pray for everybody. We are all going to need the strength of prayer to carry us through.

Remember when Jesus was stripped of his dignity and nailed to the cross...We'll need to be there for those who will feel naked and hurt, naked maybe because they feel ashamed that they picked up the virus; hurt, maybe because people nail them to a cross by blaming them for passing it on, even if they didn't intend or mean to. There is sure to be a lot of anger around as people come to terms with the changes in their lives. We will need to be there for those people and at those times also.

There will be good thieves and bad thieves around also. Good thieves who maybe realise the error of their ways and ask for forgiveness and bad thieves who even in the midst of a pandemic and the biggest crisis to hit our world in years, in the midst of great illness, isolation and death will still only be able to think of themselves as they stack the toilet rolls and the pasta in their cupboards and may even look for selfish gain out of a desperate situation.

Then if we are to believe the experts there will be death. There already has been. Great darkness, sadness, gloom, maybe even despair.

Who will take them down from the cross? Who will bury them? Will we be able to have a funeral? Will we be even be allowed to hold each other or will we be in too much danger of picking the virus up ourselves. So many questions, so much confusion, so few answers.

And yet only one answer is important and that is **the message of Easter**.

For years we have been celebrating it in our churches, maybe we did not understand the full meaning of it.

Light will overcome the darkness!

Hope will overcome despair!

Life will overcome death!

Community will bring us all together and bring us all through it!

The love of our God, Our Father; the sacrifice of our brother Jesus; the living breath of the spirit within us will bring us all through....

Just like the generations before us came through famine, plagues, pillage, penal laws, wars; so, will we.

We will not know the strength of our community until we are put to the test; Irish people have never been wanting when it comes to generosity/sacrifice/ loyalty/care/toughness/ & love. It is in our DNA...It is in our bones...

It comes down through the generations of the Patrick's and the Brigid's, right down to today.

This Holy Week, this Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday we will not be acting it out in a pageant... No! instead...We will be living it.

It is ironic that we may not even be in our churches to celebrate this Holy Week and Easter, like in penal times, but for different reasons; but it will not change our spirit.

Let us ask God for the courage and strength today; for generosity and love to be a truly Christ like, Christian Community in action this Lent and Easter time.

We are not acting the pageant this year; we are being put to the test; we are living the gospel of Christ!

Fr. Michael Murphy. Roundfort, Ireland

Love & prayers



With special thanks to Doreen Gowans, National Chairperson of Communications for giving permission to include this article in this issue of the BC & Yukon Provincial Communicator.

There are CWL councils going through a phase of struggles. I wonder how to fix the situation, thoughts of service with humbleness keep coming to mind. I know the real cause of conflict is 99% due to selfishness and that the opposite of selfishness is service.

I share with you the:

THE PARABLE OF THE SPOON

One day a man said to God, "God, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

God showed the man two doors. Inside the first one, in the middle of the room, was a large round table with a large pot of stew. It smelled delicious and made the man's mouth water, but the people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoon back into their mouths. The man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. God said, "You have seen Hell."

Behind the second door, the room appeared exactly the same. There was the large round table with the large pot of wonderful stew that made the man's mouth water. The people had the same long-handled spoons, but they were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The man said, "I don't understand." God smiled. "It is simple," He said, "Love only requires one skill. These people learned to feed one another. Those who are hungry are greedy people, and they think only of themselves."

This is a powerful parable on the difference between love and selfishness.

Taken from Melanie's Library

*Your sister in Christ,
Sherray Duran
Organization, Vancouver Diocese*



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Vision of the Future Presentation at St Mary's Council

Chilliwack

Sharon Ciebin took time from her busy schedule to present the League of the Future to the Chilliwack CWL Council in March. Sharon has spent many long hours of her time on the Year 1 Working Group, Goal 4. To see the extent of her dedication, click this link:

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Goals-1-4.pdf> and for other important information at www.cwl.ca

Charlene expressed appreciation for the update and thanked Sharon for the informative presentation.



Left to right: Gisela Montague Life Member and BC & Yukon Provincial Council President, Charlene Cranley Chilliwack Council President, Shirley Rollheiser Immediate Past President, Sharon Ciebin Chair of the National Strategic Plan Year One Working Group and Provincial Chairperson of Resolutions.

Submitted by
Gisela Montague

ON THE ROAD IN THE PRINCE GEORGE DIOCESE

By Laura Esposito

My love of driving, travelling and presenting were realized when, at the Prince George Diocesan Midterm held Sept. 20th and 21st, I committed to travelling to parishes in the diocese to make the “League of the Future – Year 1” presentation to as many Catholic Women’s League members as possible in our diocese. Thankfully, Gemma Gillis agreed to accompany me to many of these parishes.

Four of these were accomplished in the fall. Oct 19th, Prince Rupert held a regional meeting where Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert Catholic Women’s League members gathered. Thirty-two ladies and Father Terry were avid and appreciative participants in prayers of various kinds and two presentations – The League of the Future delivered by yours truly and one delivered by Gemma Gillis “Living Laudato Si’: Practical Tools on How We Can Care for Our Common Home” based on a presentation given by Dr. Peter Baltutis at the Catholic Women’s League National convention in Calgary August 2019. The day was very well received by all.

Nov 20th, I travelled to Smithers and stayed with Gemma for three nights, visited many friends, played Scrabble and Farkel and delivered the presentation on November 22nd to twenty-two members and Father Jack. In spite of some technical difficulties, the presentation was very well received with many expressing they learned so much more about the League. I returned home on Nov. 23rd and what a beautiful drive it was. Four hours of majestic mountains, the mighty Skeena and a beautiful sunny day!

Just over two weeks later, on Dec 9th, I headed to Kitimat, stayed for two nights with Sylvia DeSousa, Prince George Diocesan President. Amabile Dalmonte and Leo, Sylvia’s husband, were also there for the scrumptious dinner which was almost ready when I arrived. I delivered the presentation the next evening to forty-eight supportive and very appreciative women. Again, many stated they learned so much more about the League. I stayed another night and set off for Terrace the morning of Dec 11th as I was presenting there at 1:00 pm. Eleven ladies and Father James attended the presentation and again stated how much more they now knew about the League. I returned home that evening – again with the Skeena basking in sunshine which makes it such a wonderful drive.

Gemma, in her article outlined most of our trip together, starting in early February. I will add a few details to what she has written. The trip from Prince Rupert (western end of the diocese apart from Haida Gwaii) to Fort St. John (the northern part of our diocese) is 1173 km one way travelling on Yellowhead 16 to Prince George and then on 97 north to Fort St. John. That is the only way to travel there.

I left for Smithers on Feb 3rd and overnighted with Gemma. Feb. 4th saw us on the road to Vanderhoof (about three and a half hours) where we were presenting that evening. The next morning took us into Prince George where we stayed with Suzanne LeFebvre who not only hosted us on the way to the Peace River area but also on the way back.

This time we stayed one evening with Suzanne LeFebvre who treated us like royalty. We were constantly looking at the internet for weather conditions and road conditions for the Pine Pass. We decided to leave the next morning, Feb 6th as everything looked good to travel at 10:00 am and made it into Chetwynd at 4:00 pm.



Prince George to Chetwynd



In the Pine Pass – lots more snow



Gemma at Chetwynd Limits



Participants in Chetwynd

We presented in Chetwynd on Sat. Feb 8th and then travelled to Fort St. John, stayed overnight and then presented at 1:00 pm on Feb 9th. Later that afternoon we travelled to Dawson Creek and stayed with Carol Handfield, another wonderful hostess. We presented in Dawson Creek on Feb. 10th evening. All three presentations were again very well received and everyone expressed their appreciation at the distance travelled and at the things they gleaned from the presentations. We stayed an extra night in Dawson Creek as we realized it was too treacherous to travel back to Prince George that day. The forecast looked better for the Pass on Feb 12th and there was also a storm forecast for the day after so we started for Prince George at 10:00 am and arrived at 4:00 pm. We arrived safe and sound. Again we stayed at Suzanne LeFebvre's who this time hosted us for three nights. We enjoyed many games and good conversation. Suzanne enjoys company and hosting out of town guests and both Gemma and I were

treated like royalty. Not to mention the food, the accommodations etc. Our presentation in Prince George was Saturday, Feb. 15th. at 1:00 pm.



One night's snowfall in Prince George

We set out for Fraser Lake, our last presentation, later in the afternoon and arrived just before supper.. A wonderful evening was spent with Yvonne Thalheimer and her husband. Monique Roy joined us after supper for some board games. The next morning, Feb 16th we attended Mass, had lunch and gave the presentation at 1:00 pm. A wonderful turnout of attentive, appreciative ladies from their parish who acknowledged how much they had learned about the League and who asked many questions. Gemma and I headed for Smithers after the presentation in Fraser Lake. I again stayed with Gemma, a wonderful host and friend.

I could not have done these presentations without someone being there with me: helping me during the presentations; keeping me focussed and entertained on the drives between parishes; especially in the Pine Pass both going North and then South to Prince George; sharing jokes and stories and themselves. I thank Gemma so much for all she does for the Prince George Diocese and for the Catholic Women's League and for me. She is a good friend, mentor and has a terrific inbuilt GPS, one that is much needed by someone who can be somewhat directionally challenged at times. Am I talking about myself??!! Mille grazie Gemma (in Italian a thousand thank yous) for all that you do and for giving of your time so selflessly. You are a true gem – perhaps one of the reasons for your name!!

Laura Esposito
Prince George Diocesan Resolutions Chairperson
BC & Yukon Provincial Council Secretary

On the Road.....

Travels through the Diocese of Prince George – February 2020

What a wonderful opportunity I was given to travel through the diocese of Prince George, accompanying Laura Esposito as she presented the Strategic Planning update. How blessed we were with the hospitality of CWL members. A welcome awaited us in every community with accommodation and meals provided.

Our first overnight, on February 4th, was in Vanderhoof where Maggie Saito and her family made sure we were well cared for. Eight members and Spiritual Advisor Father Pier Pandolfo attended the presentation, which was preceded by Mass. Those in attendance were open to the new ideas being presented and were eager to have their questions answered.

From Vanderhoof we moved on to the northern part of the province, breaking our drive and staying overnight with Suzanne LeFebvre in Prince George. Again, a wonderful welcome and such hospitality! Two young female hockey players boarding with Suzanne led to some good conversation at the supper table. What a joy to meet two such polite young ladies. On again the next morning driving through the Pine Pass, often a hazardous trip at this time of year. All went well and we were able to admire the beauty of the snow-covered mountain pass. In need of a brief rest we pulled over at a small restaurant at Azouzetta Lake, surprising the lone waitress as she tossed the cinnamon buns for which the restaurant is known, into the garbage. Overcooked cinnamon buns could not be sold, the sign would have to read “Sold Out”!

In Chetwynd George Mallia was ready to welcome us. Supper that night was at the Legion, where his wife, parish council president, Diane Mallia was busy cooking hamburgers. Next day an excellent presentation on Strategic Planning, with seventeen members in attendance, including a few younger ladies. Here the presentation was followed by a video and reflection on Mary, the mother of Jesus. After lunch with the ladies we had to move on. Surrounded by blue sky and sunshine we drove on to Fort St John. Next morning, we attended Sunday Mass followed by a lunch after which seventeen ladies gathered to hear the Strategic Planning update. Once again, the ladies were very receptive and eager to learn more about the League.

Then we were back on the road, facing south this time as we made our way to Dawson Creek. Carol Handfield had a wonderful meal ready for us and we were delighted to have time for a few board games before retiring. The presentation next day followed a pizza meal at the church. Father Venerando and ten ladies attended the presentation and again we were happy to answer their questions.

An overnight snowfall kept us in Dawson Creek an extra day. Many thanks to Carol for keeping us a little longer than planned. The fresh snow made driving a little more hazardous but fortunately we made it to Prince George without incident to be once again welcomed by Suzanne LeFebvre. Three parish councils were invited to the presentation in Prince George. A holiday weekend and a number of events in the community, but twenty-six ladies came to the lunch and the Strategic Planning update and once again the presentation was well received.

Saturday saw us moving on to the last presentation of this trip, which was to be in Fraser Lake. Here it was Yvonne Thalheimer who provided for our needs and once again, wonderful hospitality. We attended Mass on Sunday morning and enjoyed lunch with the ladies before presenting the workshop. Such great interest among the ladies in Fraser Lake! Twenty-seven ladies in attendance, nine of whom were not CWL members but came because they wanted to learn about the League. Two ladies in attendance had travelled from Burns Lake to hear the presentation. Both are League members, but their parish does not have a parish council. Again, we were happy to answer their questions

What an uplifting experience to discover the interest so many ladies have in the League! What a wonderful organization we belong to when we can travel from community to community and be so well cared for in every location! What a great experience to travel through our diocese and see the variety of communities that make up this region of BC! What a truly magnificent province and country we live in! Thank you for the wonderful opportunity I had.

Gemma Gillis
Past President
Prince George Diocesan Council

Visit to Save a Family Plan Family

Are you a sponsor through Save A Family Plan (SAFP)?

With virtually no notice, the Canadian-based, non-governmental agency (NGO) arranged for my husband, Rick, and I to meet our sponsored family.

While already touring southern India, we were put in touch with Quilon Social Services Society (QSSS) in Kollam, Kerala. We were lovingly welcomed by Fr. Alphonse S, Executive Director, who is doing amazing work with at least 25 programs under QSSS guidance. Program coordinator, Austen took us to our family.

With Austen, the Program Coordinator, we see the benefits to the family of stable support over the past 4 years.



District support from Quillen Social Service Society Kathy join the family visit. The Society provides training and support during the 6-year sponsorship.



Grandma, Sasidharan, Rick, Haritha (Gr 3, daughter &

We have great hope for widowed Dad and his 2 children as they continue the final 2 years of their 6-year sponsorship. The Sasidharan family have gone from 1 to 4 cows, so excess milk is being sold. Dad is also doing some plumbing. The special needs son, Sajeew, age 11 attends an adapted school program Monday to Friday about 30 km away and returns home on weekends.



One of 4 prized cows that supports the family as well, and with excess milk being sold!

The daughter is in grade 3 at a local school. Grandparents live next door to assist the family. Dad has recently bought the house where they live. He now has a deed to his family home. Son, Sajeev, is paralyzed and in a wheelchair. He may suffer from the same illness as his mom, who died two years ago.



L – R Visit to Quilon Social Service Society in Kollam India- Fr. Joe Alex, Rick, Kathy Fr. Alphonse, Austen.

All funds from Save a Family Plan go to the sponsored family. It was so exciting to be able to witness the results of this program and to visit our sponsored family. It has inspired me to follow up on house renovations to make the house accessible to Sajeev. We are waiting to hear back from QSSS.

Did you know that SAFP partners with more than 35 NGOs throughout India? The directors oversee the field staff in each of these NGOs, and SAFP staff support the partner families in a variety of ways through the Family Development Program (home visits, employment skills training, access to government funding, etc.). Each family has their own bank account and directly receives monthly support from sponsor donations. The approximately \$1500 funding (\$22 monthly) over 6 years takes families from poverty to property and business owners.

Want to be part of Save A Family Plan, Canadian-based International Non-Profit, with all funds going directly to families? www.safp.org

Kathy Dahl
Sacred Heart Cathedral Council
and
Chairperson of Education and Health
Kamloops Diocesan Council

Questions? Email: kathysdahlhouse@gmail.com

A Necessity in Life

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all so different in character?
How is it possible that I can get along with them all?
I think that each one helps to bring out a “different” part of me.
With one of them I am polite. With another I joke, with another I can be a bit naughty...

I can sit down and talk about serious matters with one.
With another I laugh a lot. I listen to one friend's problems.
Then I listen to another one's advice for me.
My friends are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.
When completed, they form a treasure box.

A treasure of friends!
They are my friends who understand me better than I understand myself.
They are friends who support me through good days and bad.
Real Age doctors tell us that friends are good for our health.

Dr. Oz calls them Vitamin F (for Friends)
and counts the benefits of friends as essential to our well being.
Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and
terminal strokes.

If you enjoy Vitamin F constantly you can be up to 30 years younger than your real age.
The warmth of friendship stops stress and even in your most intense moments, it
decreases the chance of a cardiac arrest or stroke by 50%.
I'm so happy that I have a stock of Vitamin F!

In summary, we should value our friends and keep in touch with them.
We should try to see the funny side of things and laugh together and pray for each other
in the tough moments.

Some of my friends are friends online. I know I am part of theirs because their names
appear on my computer screen often and I feel blessed that they care as much for me
as I care for them.

Thank you for being one of my Vitamins!
The most beautiful thing about friendship is that we can grow separately without
growing apart.

Have an Awesome Day!

Germaine Montpetit
Our Lady of Lourdes Council

News from Whitehorse

As I mentioned a few days ago, I reached out to our CWL members in the Whitehorse missions for some messages about what is happening in the parishes and communities they minister to.

We have 4 members who are pastoral workers:

Pam Janiga (Gregg) in Faro and Carmacks - Catholic Church of the Apostles and Saint Jude's

Irene Morin (John) in Ross River – Saint Michael's

Libby Dulac in Haines Junction – Our Lady of the Way

Denise Grimard (Joshua) in Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek

I heard back from three of them, and news of the Grimard family. Joshua is busy doing work on both Saint Theresa's in Telegraph Creek which is being rebuilt after being lost in the wildfires of 2018, and the newly built log church, Saint Mary Magdalene in Dease Lake.

The family is currently living in Dease Lake as they lost their home in the wildfires. They are expecting their 7th child. There are great pictures on the diocesan website of the family and from the dedication of St. Mary Magdalene if you would like to pull one. Let me know and I will ask for permission from the Bishop.

Libby Dulac responded and was excited to pass on a link for Sunday Mass for Palm Sunday with pastor Victor Borde through Zoom. Libby is thrilled to have this blessing and in awe of the technology that can bring their little faith community together to worship.

Libby is from Our Lady of the Way in Haines Junction, about 2 hours north of Whitehorse, km 1632 on the Alaska Highway with a population of approximately 650. She and her husband Claude were pastoral workers until his passing a few years ago. They now have a resident priest, Father Victor Borde from India. Libby's artwork was featured on the CMIC calendar a few years ago. Libby is still a pastoral assistant.

Irene Morin also sent a message which I will relay verbatim. Ross River is about 5 hours north of Whitehorse. There are about 350 residents, primarily of the Kaska First Nation. The town is accessed by a river ferry connecting the north and south Canol Road. Irene and John minister to a small congregation and only have a visiting priest about once a month for mass.

Irene writes: Everything in Ross River is noticeably quiet. People are still going to Whitehorse for groceries as day trips, but we have not been there since January. People have been most generous by offering to bring us food items. Praise God! And yes, we do have mass online from Loretto Chapel in Toronto, followed by the Rosary, then on to mass with Pope Francis.

A month before Lent started, the Gospel readings talked about making straight a way in the desert, returning to God, and I was wondering how and what gifts would come to us this year...never thinking that the whole world would be turned upside down and under the attack of this silent destroyer. Our generation has never been under an attack of any kind here in Canada. And with the urgent message of staying home to save ourselves, to save others!

And all this during Lent! Why? What is God's message for us through this? These are saint-making days according to one of my daughters. When this has passed, we will hear numerous, generous life-giving testimonies. True that a lot of lives will be lost, but at the same time many will be saved.

So, we join Our Holy Father in his prayers for the world, and, for our families and friends, and for New Life after these trying times.

God bless, Happy Joyous Easter to all!

Pam Janiga and her husband Gregg take care of two parishes: Saint Jude's in Carmacks and Catholic Church of the Apostles in Faro. Their week is split between both parishes as she explains in her message. These communities are about 5 hours north of Whitehorse, with small populations, and with small congregations. See Pam's message in a separate article

We are incredibly grateful to have these women of faith as part of our CWL council. We rejoice when they come into town and we get to see them briefly

Carol Vanderbyl
Whitehorse Diocesan President

News from the Yukon Territory

This has been a grace filled interesting time for us. Easter brings re-birth, new life, JOY! Gregg and I retired from our careers as Elevator Technician and Teacher in 2018.

By the grace of God, we were led right into this new vocation in April of 2018. On Divine Mercy Sunday, we were commissioned by Bishop Hector Vila and the following Sunday (Gregg's birthday) we began our missionary work in Atlin, BC. In October 2018, we were sent by Bishop Hector to Faro and Carmacks where we would spend four days and three days in each community.

After several years of discernment, and by the grace of God, this past fall Gregg began his studies in the Diaconate program. Please keep us in prayer through this journey. Again, by the grace of God, and the precautions for COVID19, Bishop Hector sent us Father Edgar Merel Amaya and seminarian Adrian Zamora to reside in Carmacks to minister to our two communities as well as Ross River.

We were very excited as we were going to have mass every Sunday!! What a blessing!! We were beginning to build strong relationships and continue with catechesis for the sacraments when COVID19 quickly brought gatherings to an end and the closing of buildings and our churches to our faithful.

When we were asked to practice social distancing and/or self-isolation, we were no longer able to gather together as a worshipping community which is difficult for many of us. However, in this new reality, we are trying to provide the best care for our beloved people by communicating by phone and email encouraging families to watch mass on television, providing various available websites and channels that offer mass and other spiritual resources whether live-streamed or recorded and offering the prayer of spiritual communion.

We all know that this is not the same as physically participating and consuming Our Lord, body, and blood, however, it is what our directives are, so we are trying to encourage uniting at the same time in prayer. We are trying to offer hope during this time of uncertainty. We miss our physical church family gatherings as we know physical face to face encounters are the best. However, at this unique time, we provide the best spiritual care we know how. May this time awaken and deepen our thirst and longing for the Eucharistic celebration of mass once again in the most beautiful tabernacles, our churches and embrace physically our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ.

I know God always provides graces and blessings out of trials and tribulations for those who place their trust in the Lord. We are reminded, at this time, of St Paul's words "But however much sin increased, grace was always greater so that as sin's reign brought death, so grace was to rule through saving justice that leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:20-21)

May this Holy week draw us more intimately into the passion death and resurrection of our Lord and bring us renewal and rebirth, new life, and JOY!!

God bless you and your families!

Your sister in the League,

Pamela Janiga

Please check out our other beautiful missions in Northern BC and Yukon through www.whitehorsediocese.ca)

Gregg and Pamela Janiga
Lay Pastoral Associates for
Catholic Church of the Apostles, Faro, Yukon
And St Jude's Catholic Mission, Carmacks, Yukon

Busy Bee Mask Making at St. Ann's Abbotsford!

Directions:

To start we cut folded size of 8 inches length and width of 9 inches

Then sewn the top side i.e. the 9 inch side inside out

Then turn it outside out thus looking like a pillow case with both sides open.

Then pin the 4 strings in each corner. Size of each string is 15 inches.

Pin three pleats so size will now measure 3-1/2 inches in length

Tuck in each of open ends with ties and sew. May sew again about 1/4 next to where you have sewn to secure the ties.

You may have to iron before sewing pleats for it to stay put.

Use narrow elastic if you choose - 6 inches on each side plus in-seam allowance.



Noli, CWL President
St. Ann's Parish Abbotsford

News from the Cathedral of Mary Immaculate Council Nelson

In January, we had our annual Membership Tea which was well attended and at which new members were welcomed. Our current Executive was re-confirmed in their positions, except, unfortunately, for our President.

We need a President and we all pray that someone will step forward to take this position. Different members have offered to chair our monthly meetings, but no one has offered to take on the President's role.

In honour of the 100th anniversary of CWL in Canada, our local Council has agreed to purchase a tree, and have it planted in a local park where it can be seen by everyone who walks there.

We have a copy of the DVD, Fatal Flaws, and this will be shown as soon as we can safely meet again. Many CWL members attended the World Day of Prayer held on March 5th at the Anglican Church this year.

In this difficult time of isolating because of the Covid19, our parish church, The Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, has maintained great communication with our parishioners.

Through a communication system called Flocknote, our parish priest, Father Neil Lustado, and the parish office have sent daily prayers and messages to those who signed up for this. Many CWL members did. Our Church's weekly bulletin is online, and daily Mass is live-streamed from our Church at 12 noon, Monday through Friday, and at 5pm on Saturday.

On Sundays, we are able to watch Mass with The Most Reverend Bishop Gregory Bittman at Immaculate Conception Church in Kelowna. In addition to Mass, Father Neil is live-streaming the Stations of the Cross and Adoration and Prayers.

We appreciate being able to stay connected with our Church and faith and sincerely appreciate Father Neil's efforts in this regard.



Installation of Officers

Judy Tagami
Chairperson of Communications

Apple Pie Marathon Cathedral of Mary Immaculate Nelson

Last Sept the gals at our Councils get together at the annual pie-making fundraiser. This is a time to roll up the sleeves, slice and dice and lovingly make buttery, flakey, fluffy, yummy pie crust!

Here are a few pictures to whet your appetite!



Slice and dice chefs!



Still smiling and all done!

We look forward to this effort every year and it is always a huge success. Well done Ladies!

Judy Tagami. Chairperson of Communications!

Holy Trinity Parish CWL Membership Drive: Flamingo Flocking

Three years ago, our council was thinking of creative and innovative ways to solicit new members. We had always chosen the usual approaches: parish bulletin announcements, pulpit talks after Masses, participating in Parish Ministry Fairs and handing out pamphlets at the entrance/exit of the church but we needed something livelier.

I went online and found a website that mentioned "Flamingo Flocking" is a way to fundraise. The idea was you put plastic flamingos in the potential donor's yard and shame them in to donating to your cause. As each day passed without a response, additional flamingos would appear. Apparently, it was so successful that people got upset when they did not get "flocked".

So, I modified the message, created an invitation and set on my path of invitation by flamingo. The basic text for the message is below. Due to confidentiality laws and availability of home addresses, we were limited to women we knew but who were not currently members and we "flocked" them.

Of the flocking I performed we gained 3 new members, 1 woman who promised to join, and only one woman who threw the flamingo away, thinking it was a hoax. I still have the flamingos in my closet, awaiting the call of a potential new member to flock.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Sibau, President
Holy Trinity Parish Council, North Vancouver

This is what we did when we put the flock on a lawn and left the following explanation on the door:

A membership drive is being conducted by Holy Trinity Parish Catholic Women's League.

These pink flamingos have gathered on your property to roost. In case you did not know, plastic pink flamingos are very territorial and unless they are placed on someone else's lawn they will continue roost on your property for an exceptionally long time.

Removal should only be attempted by trained professionals and fortunately our removal team is highly skilled! Our group is working hard to encourage new members.

We understand if you do not want to join us at this time, but we hope you enjoyed this surprise flocking and appreciate the spirit and goodwill with which it was intended.

Please check the options below that apply and call or email Linda to arrange to have these pesky birds removed.

Name: _____

Check the boxes below:

- ☐ I will attend the next CWL meeting
- ☐ I appreciate the flocking but am not interested at this time.
- ☐ In addition to the above, I would like to suggest the following person as the next surprise flocking victim:
- ☐ I will join the Holy Trinity Parish CWL

Name: _____ Address: _____

COVID HAPPENINGS!

Good Morning, Friends: My husband and I were sitting at the kitchen table figuring out what I needed to buy at the grocery store. He added, "Green pepper. See if you can get a green pepper. If you can't, it's not the end of the world."

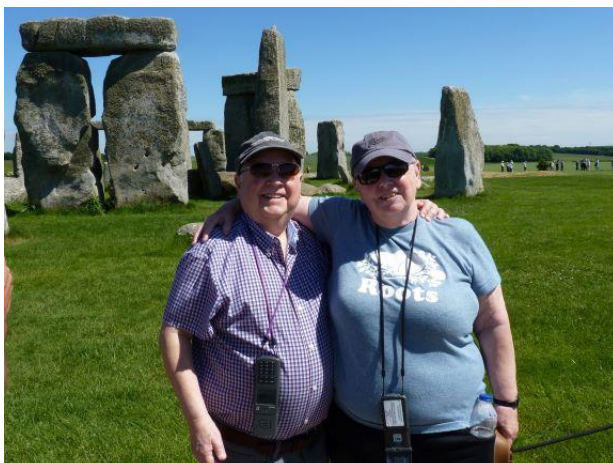
We stared at each other and both said, "No; the virus is!" We laughed and laughed. We found that exchange funny because now this epidemic has caused us (and I suspect a whole lot of you) to re-evaluate our priorities.

A month ago, failure to remember to buy a green pepper was important. Now, staying healthy and caring for our friends, family and each other are foremost in our minds. In other words, this COVID epidemic has forced us to re-evaluate the truly important things and not obsess over the trivial.

Have I learned anything new other than the details about this epidemic? No. I have always known what is important but now I don't get side-tracked on the trivial as more weighty matters have come forward in my mind. Here are some examples:

1. I don't take it for granted that I'll see my friends and CWL sisters later on. I check on people now and when I ask if they are OK, I really mean it.
2. I don't wait to start my garden in this year. (Every year I say I am going to do this but in the past, I never quite got around to doing it.) I've made a good start so I can share fresh produce with my family and others if they need it.
3. I appreciate my husband even more. After so many decades of marriage, it is easy to think we are just part of the daily routine. I laugh at my husband's jokes more and notice his help and companionship more. We've been self-isolating for the past month and we've yet to argue or snap at each other (more or less.) He's the person I would most want to be with on a desert island.
4. I truly miss my church people and the sacraments. I attend more or less daily internet mass but feel the lack of the physical presence of the eucharist. I try to do the best I can which is all that is demanded of us, yet I long for something more. Now, this is where I am confused about these strange times. I feel I am waiting for something great to happen. Am I experiencing Advent; a time of waiting for the richness of Christ's presence in that stable? Or maybe it is a special Lent where we are stripped of so much in order to walk with Christ in his sacrifice and resurrection? Either way, I believe we will all be stronger when we pass through this dark valley. Be well, my friends, and watchful for the presence of Christ.

... A picture from last year ... not going anywhere this year so here's to next year!



Gerry Haywood
Diocese of Victoria
Chairperson of Communications

My Self-Isolation Quarantine Diary

- Day 1 Can Do This! Get enough food and wine to last a month!
- Day 2 Opening my 8th bottle of Wine. I fear wine supplies might not last!
- Day 3 Strawberries: Some have 210 seeds, and some have 235 seeds.
Who Knew?
- Day 4 8:00 p.m. Removed my Day Pajamas and put on my Night Pajamas.
- Day 5 Today, I tried to make Hand Sanitizer. It came out as Jello Shots!!
- Day 6 I get to take the Garbage out. I'm So excited, I can't decide what to wear.
- Day 7 Laughing way too much at my own jokes!!
- Day 8 Went to a new restaurant called "The Kitchen". You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have No clue how this place is still in business.
- Day 9 I put liquor bottles in every room. Tonight, I'm getting all dressed up and going Bar hopping.
- Day 10 Struck up a conversation with a Spider today. Seems nice. He is a Web Designer.
- Day 11 Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge just said, "What the heck do you want now?"
- Day 12 I realized why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for walks or car rides. I think I just barked at a squirrel.
- Day 13 If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.
- Day 14 Watched the birds fight over a worm. The Cardinals lead the Blue Jays 3 – 1.
- Day 15 Anybody else feel like they cooked dinner about 395 times this month? IS THIS YOU, yet?

Hope everyone is well!

Blessings from my High-Anglican friend Vivien Warr

(Sylvia Jurys) I could not resist sharing this with you.

Novena to the Holy Spirit

Day 1 - Charity

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Charity within us. The great charity of all the host of Saints is only made possible by your power, Oh Divine Spirit. Increase in me, the virtue of charity that I may love as God loves with the selflessness of the Saints. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 2 - Joy

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Joy within us. All the Saints are marked with an uncompromisable Joy in times of trial, difficulty and pain. Give us, Oh Holy Spirit, the Joy that surpasses all understanding that we may live as a witness to Your love and fidelity! Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 3 - Peace

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Peace within us. The Saints were tempted, attacked and accused by the devil who is the destroyer of peace. When we are accused by the devil, come to our aid as our Advocate and give us Peace that lasts through all trials! Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 4 - Patience

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Patience within us. Oh, Holy Spirit, you give lavishly to those who ask. Please give us the patience of the Saints who are now with you in heaven. Help us to endure everything with an eternal patience that is only possible with your help. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 5 - Kindness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Kindness within us. Jesus approached sinners with immense kindness. Holy Paraclete, please treat us humble sinners with the same kindness and give us the ability to treat all others with that kindness as well. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 6 - Faithfulness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a

beggar's heart for Your gift of Faithfulness within us. You, oh Lord, are ever faithful. You are faithful until the end. Though we are weak and distracted, please give us the grace to be faithful to You as you are to us! Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 7 - Gentleness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Gentleness within us. Despite the gravity of our sins, oh Lord you treat us with Gentleness. Dear Holy Spirit give us your power to treat all in our lives with the Gentleness of the Saints. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 8 - Self-Control

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Your gift of Self-Control within us. Your Martyrs had the overwhelming self-control to go joyfully to a painful death without shrinking from the opportunity to join You in heaven. Give us this self-control to have command over our emotions and desires that we may serve You more fully. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Day 9 - Goodness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us bow down in humility at the power and grandeur of the Holy Spirit. Let us worship the Holy Trinity and give glory today to the Paraclete, our Advocate. Oh, Holy Spirit, by Your power, Christ was raised from the dead to save us all. By Your grace, miracles are performed in Jesus' name. By Your love, we are protected from evil. And so, we ask with humility and a beggar's heart for Goodness within us. We want to be like your Saints in heaven. Holy Spirit renew us by your power with your Goodness that we may bring the Good News to the world. Amen. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

About the Holy Spirit Novena

This particular novena was written specifically for www.PrayMoreNovenas.com and it is based on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit and a desire for sainthood.

It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that someone can become a Saint. We can not save ourselves and it is only by the grace of God that we are saved. So, we must rely completely on the power of the Holy Spirit and the death of Our Lord Jesus. That is the essence of this novena.

The Pentecost novena is really THE original novena. The disciples waited in unity and prayer for the Holy Spirit for nine days after Jesus' ascension to heaven. Jesus asked them to pray constantly in the upper room until the descent of the Holy Spirit. "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." – Acts 1:14 Click here to find more novenas like this one. Sign up here to pray more novenas with thousands of faithful people from around the world!

Published with permission of Pray more Novenas. For more information see <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-to-the-holy-spirit>

In Closing

On behalf of the BC & Yukon Council, we extend our thanks to all the contributors of this issue of the *Communicator* and for your invaluable work and dedication to the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

This is an incredibly challenging time in our lives as we try to cope with the anxiety of the COVID-10 Virus that has impacted many of our sisters and brothers around the world with illness and loss.

I believe that we have grown in Faith and Love through all of this and as Mother Teresa says, when we look in the eyes of all who we meet, we see the Face of God.

Our Summer issue of *The Communicator* will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Catholic Women's League of Canada and will be a History of all the Councils in our beautiful Province.

I would like all councils to send the following to me at: comm@bcyukoncwl.com

1. A copy of your Charter
2. Names of your first president, officers and chairpersons
3. Photographs, old and new; 4 from each council
4. A group photograph of a current event
5. Any other item of interest

I will get a price to print and bind this issue so you may keep it in your council archives. I will take orders when you have looked at the online issue.

The Closing date for your submission is July 20, 2020

I am so grateful for the friendships that I have made over the past 2 years and I have loved the role of Communications and it is a wonderful way to get to know you all.

Take care, be well, and remember to smile and say "Hello" to everyone you meet.

God bless,

Sylvia Jurys
BC & Yukon Provincial Council
Chairperson of Communications