

SUBMISSION:

Marla, Surrey CWL

WHO IS SHE?

She's a young, single mother, lonely and a little scared. She's new to the parish and sitting in a pew with her children.

She's an older, newly widowed woman who has always depended on her husband and their group of friends outside of their church. Now, she's sitting in her pew alone and realizes she doesn't know anyone. They simply spent their Sunday mornings there and went off to live their lives outside of that world.

She's a woman happily sitting beside her husband in their favourite pew. Her children are now independent, and she wants to make a difference in her parish, community, and world.

A simple invitation from a CWL woman to come to a meeting made a profound difference in their lives. Each found sisters who understood their state of life and embraced them as part of a larger family in The Catholic Women's League of Canada. They were listened to, heard, and encouraged that they were valued in whatever gift they had. They have finally found their tribe, a place where they truly belong.

Making a difference in someone else's life by sharing your own involves sacrifice. There will be a hundred times you will look for a reason not to, and truth be told; there usually are all kinds of reasons: between getting the kids off to soccer practice, getting the budget finished for work, or just spending some "me" time in front of your favourite show. But that one time you do say yes, you are blessed. Some blessings bring healing to your heart and a broken world. It's tangible. You feel it in your soul, a warmth that can't be explained.

Being stretched, pruned or challenged as a member of The Catholic Women's League can seem daunting. It often means stepping out of your comfort zone, learning new skills, or facing unexpected situations.

These moments feel intimidating because you are pulled into unfamiliar territory where you might fear failure, judgment, or simply not knowing what to do.

However, these experiences are valuable because they foster personal growth and resilience. When you're "stretched," you develop abilities and strengths you didn't know you had.

Being "pruned," much like a plant, removes what's unnecessary and helps you focus on what truly matters, improving your effectiveness and clarity. Challenges build confidence as you overcome obstacles and realize your capacity to adapt and thrive.

Ultimately, these moments of discomfort are stepping stones to fulfillment. These moments lead to deeper connections with one another, a greater sense of purpose, and a more profound impact on a cause you're passionate about. While the process might be daunting, the personal and communal rewards are well worth the effort.

Then, perhaps, one day after Mass, you'll find yourself reaching out to that woman in the pew, with a simple invitation to "come and join us".