

May, 2013 Issue24

From Provincial President: Barb MacFarlane

To my sisters in the League,

We have seen the Lord! What a wonderful message to bring to the world through our councils. We have just completed our 91st Provincial Annual Convention. We were very fortunate to have our National President, Betty Anne Brown Davidson, with us to share her reflections on the theme *We Have Seen the Lord*. Sister Audrey Brocklehurst helped us highlight our provincial theme focus, imprisonment in all its forms, and Marion Murphy led us in discovering our spiritual colours.

Provincial Council is very grateful to Linus Gallant for designing a provincial logo for us featuring the National Theme. Provincial Council is now on Facebook. We try to keep it up to date with current news. To join us, simply ask to be a friend at PEI CWL Council. We have two more Catch The Fire Workshops to do before our summer break. We will be at St. Peter's Bay on May 25th and St. Mary's Hall, Montague, on June 15th. I want to remind councils who have not done so, to send the pink copy of your instructed vote to National. Dr. Wally from Matercare International will be on the Island in October for the National Pro-Life Conference. He is willing to speak to groups of councils on October 28th and 29th. More information will follow.

Congratulations to those councils celebrating significant anniversaries in the next few months. Celebrate your history and embrace the future with enthusiasm. My wish for all members is that you have a relaxing and spirit-filled summer. May you return in the fall energized, enthusiastic, and renewed in your commitment to do the Lord's work.

At the PEI Provincial Annual Convention, National CWL President, Betty Anne Brown Davidson presented a workshop on the theme, "We Have Seen the Lord!" which she has chosen for the years of her presidency. She quoted from a book, *Start with Why*, by Simon Sinek, "Those who know their Why are the ones who lead. They are the ones who inspire." Betty Anne named some Biblical and historical women who have encountered the Lord and how they understood the paths that were laid out for them that they would go forth to touch others whom they would encounter. Catholic Women's League members, because We Have Seen the Lord, are challenged to lead, to inspire, to fill life with the breath of the Spirit, to stimulate and to animate as we follow the paths laid out for us. We have been sent on a mission: To touch those whom the Lord wants to touch through each one of us.

Book Review

Following God One Yes at a Time by Connie Cavanaugh

Connie Cavanaugh, in her book, has much humour and compassion in the everyday life stories she shares with her readers. She believes that life is a pilgrimage. Reading about her journey helped me to evaluate my own life and apply God's wisdom to enrich my life. She tells us that God's purpose is identical for every believer: to make us more like Christ as we follow Him. He

will never ask us to do anything that does not lead to our progress in godliness and more goodness for others. She helped me realize that we all have enough faith to do what God asks of us in our life. Just as we feed our bodies, we must also feed our faith by what we do and by our saying yes to God. Learning to ask God for direction and then actively listening for God's response helps us pursue God's dream for our lives. Once we say yes to God's dream, we are lead one simple, immediate, possible yes at a time, in the direction we were meant to go. Of course being human, we collect many obstacles during our life. Connie can help you realize that by following God one yes at a time, barriers such as fear, doubt, and rivalry can be overcome by the freedom experienced by growth in Christ.

Connie Cavanaugh speaks at conferences, seminars, and retreats all across North America and beyond. She uses her warm wit to tell life-changing stories everyone can enjoy and benefit from. *(Thank you to Louise Doiron, Provincial President-elect and Organization chair, for sharing her thoughts on this book!)*

I Saw Jesus

I saw Jesus this week. He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt. He was shoveling the snow on the street. He was alone and working hard. For just a minute he looked a little like my neighbor next door, but it was Jesus; I could tell by his smile.

I saw Jesus last Sunday. He was teaching a Children's Liturgy class. He didn't talk real loud or use long words, but you could tell he believed what he said. For just a minute, he looked like our Sunday school teacher, but it was Jesus; I could tell by his loving voice.

I saw Jesus the other day. He was at the grocery store talking to some friends. He then put his arms around them to comfort them. For just a minute he looked like the lady from our church, but it was Jesus; I could see the compassion pouring out for a family who lost a Dad.

I saw Jesus yesterday. He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick. They prayed together quietly. For just a minute he looked like our parish priest, but it was Jesus; I could tell by the tears in his eyes.

I saw Jesus this morning. He was in my kitchen making my breakfast. He then fixed me a special lunch to take with me to work. For just a minute, he looked just like my husband, but it was Jesus; I could feel the love from his heart.

I saw Jesus today. He was outside watching to be sure I was safe. Then he said good morning and asked how my day was going. For just a minute he looked like my CWL sister, but it was Jesus; I could tell by those caring eyes.

I see Jesus everywhere...And for just a minute, I think he's someone else I know,

But it is always Jesus...will you see him today?

(from Ontario CWL web site and shared by Betty Anne during her presentation)

Corpus Christi Catholic Women's League

Members Go on their Annual Trip

Coming up is the tenth annual trip for Corpus Christi CWL. The farthest we have travelled is Old Quebec and on to Sainte Anne-de-Beaupre where Fr. Brendon Gallant celebrated Mass with two of our members serving. Angela Sharp did the readings and Betty Boyle served as lay minister.

We always start off our weekend with a spiritual time on Friday evening. We pray the Rosary while travelling and before retiring for the night. We attend Mass in different churches and are welcomed from the altar by the priest.

Sister Edna Walker and Sister Mary Walker were members of our council for many years and came on many trips with us and still join us for all or part of the weekend when they can.

We have visited and stayed in St. Andrews, Shediac, Buctouche, Mahone Bay, Peggy's Cove, Shaw's B&B, Platter House Inn, and Sonata Inn by Victoria Park to name a few. We visited a soap-making shop, toured a winery, walked the Irving Eco Centre beach walkway, and visited the craft shops and local attractions where ever we went. We now take in yard sales and on our return home there is always a lot less room in the vehicles. We have stayed in unique bed and breakfast establishments and have had some great experiences.

This year we are going to stay at Belcourt Centre in South Rustico and we are happy to have Marion Murphy agree to lead us in the spiritual part of our weekend. We have made some great memories and had lots of fun especially when Karen Ellis "initiates" our new members. We all look forward to these trips each year where we enjoy our CWL sisters and have a few laughs. When our CWL stayed in Souris at the Platter House Ocean Retreat, we had biscuits for breakfast and the chef happily shared his recipe which follows here: *(Thank you, Alma & Christine, for sharing this wonderful idea with other councils! Have fun!)*

Platter House Biscuits

2 cups flour

4 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp salt

1/4 cup butter

1 cup milk

Preheat oven to 420 F.

Mix dry ingredients. Grate 1/4 cup butter into dry ingredients and work with your hands to mix together. Add milk. Dough should be a little sticky. Knead dough on floured surface and mix

together (the same as bread). Pat out and cut. Makes 12 biscuits. Bake 12-15 minutes. May also add grated cheese. If you wish brush the top with egg.

Reminder: The deadline for applications for the *PEI Provincial Council CWL Subsidy* is June 15, 2013.

Reminder: Please act on the Provincial resolutions. Provincial will send copies to all MLA's and MP's with a covering letter to inform them of our policy on these issues and will follow up with face to face meetings.

News from Provincial: We bid farewell to Liz Doyle who is re-locating to NB. We welcome Lorraine Savory back. She will be Community Life Chairperson. Irene Gallant has accepted the position of 1st Vice-President.

The purpose of a CWL Provincial Newsletter is to communicate your good news stories with others. Please send stories / pictures to macleanmary@yahoo.ca.

Check us out also at www.dioceseofcharlottetown.com/lay-associations for Catholic Women's League information.

Councils Celebrate

St. Joachim's Council of the Catholic Women's League, Vernon River, is celebrating our 90th anniversary this May.

Our 132 members are coming together to celebrate those ladies whose perseverance, service and good will to the Catholic Church and their faith over the past 90 years has laid the foundation for us today.

In 1929, membership fees were \$0.50 and 153 members were enrolled.

The needs of the parish have changed over the years and our programs have changed to meet those needs.

The CWL continues to support many local charities, national commitments, and parish activities.

These past two years has seen the completion of our new Parish hall and through catering to various events, our council has made many contributions to the Parish, especially towards the debt on the new hall.

St. Joachim's Council remains a committed, supportive and caring group of women who each contribute her own special skills and talents for the betterment of Church and community- hence our motto---"For God and Canada" (*Thank you to Nancy Gill, St. Joachim's CWL!*)

St Cuthbert's Catholic Women's League, St. Teresa's, will celebrate its 80th Anniversary on Sunday, June 2nd, 2013 . We now have 60 members.

The League was established at St Cuthbert's on February 11th, 1933, when the first meeting was held. Mrs Frank Murray, Charlottetown, Provincial President at the time, was present and explained the roles of the League, on the Parish, Provincial, and National levels.

The first President was Mrs Peter O. MacDonald and the first Secretary was Mrs Marguerite (Bradley) Donnelly. Father Basil Croken was the first Spiritual Director, and remained in that position for 28 years. In the early years League members filled many roles within our parish community. Their efforts were directed to many areas of Church life such as cleaning, cooking for church suppers, and other fund raising. I am sure these dedicated women found spiritual satisfaction and spiritual growth in their work and they were much appreciated by fellow parishioners.

Today our Catholic Women's League looks much different. At our monthly meetings our focus is on the Spiritual growth of members. Our concerns for our neighbors is no longer just the people next door but people suffering from hunger and oppression world wide. We join with other Councils to petition Government for better health care and pain relief and for better programs for our youth who are at risk.

Within our Parish we promote devotion to Mary, Our Lady of Good Council, and celebrate her feast days frequently inviting other councils to join us. In May we have the First Communion class crown the Blessed Virgin before Sunday Mass usually on Mother's Day. Our members take part in all the Sunday liturgical ministries.

As most other Councils we struggle with low attendance at meetings. It is difficult to find new people to take on a leadership role. We have hope in the future, for 80 years women of our Parish have come forward when they were needed. We pray this will continue to happen through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel (*Thank you to Maureen Grant, St Cuthbert's CWL.*)

St. Lawrence-St. Theresa Catholic Women's League, Morell, will be celebrating its 70th. Anniversary on Sunday, September 15th. All CWL members from across the province are warmly invited to attend our celebration. Mass will be at St. Theresa of the Little Flower Church at 9:00 a.m. followed by a reception in the church basement. (*Thanks to Anne Morrison, St. Lawrence-St. Theresa CWL...also for the following*)

Some Chuckles...

Q. Why should a dog not eat table scraps?

A. He will get splinters in his tongue!

Q. Why can't elephants be allowed on the beach?

A. They won't keep their trunks up!!