

CWL PEI NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Christmas: The Closeness of God A Message From Fr. Brian MacDougall

At Christmas, we celebrate the **Incarnation of the Word**. Jesus is the Word made flesh. When we pray the angelus prayer we say: “ **And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us**” . Then we pray “ **Hail Mary full of grace...** ” Thus, the **Hail Mary** prayer highlights the central role played by the Blessed Virgin Mary in God’ s plan of salvation.

It is from Mary his mother that Jesus received his flesh and blood. That he became like us as in everything except for sin. In 1 Jn. 3:5 it says: “ **you know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin**” . Jesus is indeed the sinless one. He who is without sin came to save us from sin and death. In fact, the name Jesus means **God Saves**.

Christmas is a celebration of God’ s love for us and of **God’ s closeness to us**. Jesus is **Emmanuel** which means **God is with us**. In Jesus the **light and life of God** has been made manifest to us in the **Christ child**.

Admittedly, life in this world is not easy. There are lots of struggles, sufferings and challenges. Nevertheless, we do not journey alone. Emmanuel, (God is with us) is with us as we make our pilgrim way to God’ s heavenly kingdom. **God is truly close to us. He loves us**. He has given Jesus to us to lead us safely home to the House of God our heavenly Father. This Christmas (2021) let us rejoice and give thanks to the Lord. Let us open our hearts to him, because God (in Christ Jesus our Lord) is truly close to us. Merry Christmas!

SACRED HEART C.W.L. ALBERTON, P.E.I. 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Sacred Heart C.W.L., Alberton, P.E.I., celebrated its 100th anniversary September 19th, 2021. Our council was formed on that exact date, September 19th, 1921. Our priest Father Brendon Gallant cooked a fabulous meal for 30 people. Provincial President Gay Garvey and a guest attended with 4 local C.W.L. Presidents and 24 of our local council members.



Photo: Council President Jean Cahill and Provincial President Gay Garvey

An Inspirational Evening with Senator Brian Francis on Truth and Reconciliation

On November, 4th, our St. Francis of Assisi CWL was honoured to have Senator Brian Francis speak to a full church (abiding by COVID guidelines) with 84 people in attendance. Our church capacity at present is 85.

He talked for an hour about Residential Schools in general and his own personal experience attending an “Indian Day School” here in PEI. He spoke about the government’s decision to remove Indigenous children from their homes and families and place them in residential schools, where they were often taught by either nuns, priests, or ministers. These children had no contact with family for years.

Some of them were as young as four years old when they were taken from their homes. They lived together, boys being separated from girls and siblings separated from each other. Many were abused, physically, emotionally, sexually. Sadly they often grew up without being shown any love, tenderness, or compassion. Hence, when they became adults and had children of their own, they found it difficult to parent.

Senator Brian talked about the lasting effects that generations have suffered, and continue to suffer today, because of the trauma and abuse that were experienced at these schools. He said that, though it was likely difficult for those in attendance to hear the facts about what had happened to his Indigenous brothers and sisters, it was also very difficult for him to talk about it.

Those who attended the session are still reflecting on what an informative, educational, and powerful session it was. I think that we all admired Senator Francis for having the courage and wisdom to help educate and enlighten everyone on what really took place in Residential and Day Schools.



Submitted by
Cathy Favaro:
Organization
Chair
St. Francis of
Assisi CWL,
Cornwall

Greetings and Merry Christmas from St. Simon and St. Jude Parish, Tignish.

Our membership has been especially busy this year as we celebrate our 100th anniversary.



Diane Gaudet and Gay Garvey

Lots of activities have occurred and are currently happening including our dinner celebration, CWL celebratory mass, collect a coat campaign, ticket draws, Christmas donations and our adopt a seminary program.

We look forward to 2022 and we pray our endeavors to serve God and our community will continue to make a difference and touch lives. We hope that Jesus's birth be a time of renewal for you and your families and that you be continually blessed with His peace and joy.

Diane Gaudet, Tignish CWL President



Diane Gaudet, Fr. Molina and Diane's Mother

News from St. Pius X Council

We award Years of Service Pins to our members each year. Pins awarded this year were as follows.



25 year pins - Gloria Batchilder, Faye Doucette, Joan MacDonald, Marie MacDonald, Carolyn Phelan

40 year pins - Jean Fontaine and Noreen Mullins

50 year pins - Rose Condon 60 year pins - Corry Klomp, Marg Fitzpatrick, Marjorie McInnis, Mary McInnis, Mary Gaudet

70 year pins - Muriel Murtagh and Eugenia McCarville

Congratulations to all those members and thank you for your service. We want to wish all our fellow parishioners a holy and blessed Christmas as well as good health and happiness for 2022.

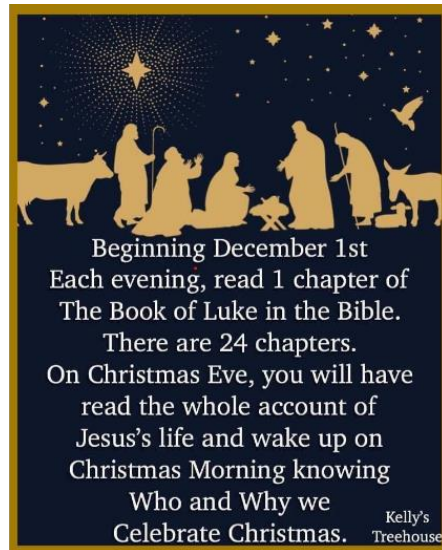
Covid Times

by Eileen Stewart~ St. Pius X Council

Covid times are still with us,
And yes, still making quite a fuss.
As members of the CWL
What can we do to make things well?
We need to be kind and pray each day
That many Blessings will come our way.
Call on Jesus and Mary and the angels
above
To help each of us spread God's love.

This is a great message about a manageable way to enjoy any of the Gospels any time of year. Just like anything else, when you divide up the task, it doesn't seem as large.

Thanks Dianne McCarville for this submission.



One of the things our CWL did this August -September was organize a Back to School Drive for our parish. The proceeds went to our local school - Donagh Regional - which is a K to 6 School. Attached is a picture of most of the supplies. We also received \$140 in cash.
God Bless.
Isabel Quinn of St Patrick's CWL in Fort Augustus



St. George's CWL Council planting our tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary of CWL in Canada. We planted the tree May 30th and had eleven members present which was wonderful.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Pray for Us

Submitted by: Maggie Campbell

Annual Rosary and Pilgrimage to the Canadian Martyrs

The Knights of Columbus and the Provincial CWL Executive worked together to hold the Annual Rosary and Pilgrimage to the Canadian Martyrs on Saturday, September 25th (actual Feast Day is September 26th). It was a very peaceful and prayerful mass and service with Fr. Ashok giving a beautiful sermon on the faith and work of the Canadian Martyrs and what it means to be a missionary. A collection of \$338 for Pro-life intentions was presented to Pat Wiedemer, Executive Director of PEI Life. COVID protocols were followed with thanks to St. Peter's COVID team. A special thank you to Carrie Rogers for her beautiful music. There were 53 registered attendees. Many thanks and Blessings to all who attended and made the day memorable.



In the picture above, Cheryl Boom PEI Provincial CWL Treasurer is giving the money collected to Pat Wiedemer, Exec. Director of PEI Life with Dan Miller, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and Gay Garvey, PEI CWL Provincial President present. Submitted by: Marilyn Gay Garvey

In keeping with our theme of "Caring for our Common Home", with an emphasis on water use and the provision of clean water to all, the members of our council at Holy Redeemer Parish raised funds to help provide clean drinking water to a community in Kenya. With the help of "Farmers Helping Farmers Inc.," and Global Affairs Canada, our funds were used to help purchase and install a 5,000 liter water tank for the family of Hellen Makena Rigiri who lives in Timau (near Meru), Kenya. This tank was installed in January of 2020 and collects and stores rain water. The members of the family now do not have to transport water on their backs, can use stored water in dry spells for growing vegetables, and have clean water at all times for drinking, cooking and washing.

This photo shows members of Hellen's family with the water tank displaying the names of the sponsoring organizations, including the name of Holy Redeemer Parish.



May we all experience the true meaning of Christmas, find time to spend with family and friends and be thankful.

Leah Kinch: Provincial Chairperson for Community Life



I would like to wish all my CWL Sisters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I hope that 2022 will see our lives getting back to normal and that we all have a safe, healthy and happy Christmas Season and we continue to be kind to one another. May the birth of Jesus remind us of what the true meaning of Christmas is all about and may this blessed season bring each of you joy, hope and peace!

Cheryl Boom, Provincial Treasurer

Together Again~ Presidents' Workshop



Well, all I can say is Wow! What a tremendous turnout for our Presidents' Workshop in Kinkora on November 6th. There were 33 members in attendance from 23 Councils, plus our Provincial Executive. That is amazing. Thank you so much for your enthusiasm in attendance.



The morning started with a lovely Mass at St Malachy's Church in Kinkora and was led by our Provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. Brian MacDougall. The workshop followed Mass and was held a short distance away at Kinkora Place.



Following Mass, Cheryl Boom, our Provincial Treasurer, led the group in a great icebreaker game that got everyone up out of their seats, got everyone to know a little more about their fellow sisters, and got participants more excited for the morning ahead.

We had a packed agenda with two sessions and 4 separate topics covered in each session. The workshops included Executive Orientation, Welcome Kit, Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, and Community Life and Social Teaching. Session two's education sessions included Annual Online Reporting, Online Memberships, Truth and Reconciliation, and Navigating the National Website. The Provincial Executive stepped up to the plate and volunteered to deliver these sessions. They did a wonderful job as usual. I would like to especially thank Cheryl Boom, my co-chair who was amazing, and all the committee members for their assistance in putting together this event.



Following the sessions, we gathered for a brown-bag lunch and some wonderful fellowship, something we have been missing since the Pandemic started. Tea, coffee, and water were available for all throughout the morning.

The event was over quite well. There were a few minor glitches that we will improve on for our next event. Thank you for your honest evaluations. These will help our future events. We do have some sessions that were not covered in the workshop on November 6. These may be looked at in future events, so stay tuned.

This was such a wonderful day, so informative and educational for both participants and our Provincial Executive. We had the opportunity to meet our sisters once again, meet new members and even got to know one another a little more. Thank you so much, members and executive. The workshop would not have been a success without you. I always say, it takes a village. I am so proud of our little "Village" of CWL here on PEI. I look



forward to our next gathering.

Blessings,

Karen Rossiter,
President Elect/ Organization Chair



Hello, my fellow Organization Chairs
and Sisters in the League.

I am sure each of you are busy getting ready for the upcoming Holiday Season. It will be so nice to be able to share this truly spiritual season with family and friends this year, a true blessing, and a sign that things are slowly starting to come around.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Blessed Spiritual Holiday Season, filled with joy and happiness. May we also take some time to count our many blessings and say an extra prayer for those that need one in our own community and around the world.

I look forward to working with and seeing you in the coming year.

God Bless

Karen Rossiter

Organization Chair/ President Elect

PEI Provincial CWL

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.



Merry Christmas CWL friends!
Shirley Pierce,
Provincial Past President

*From my door to yours, Merry
Christmas and all the best for a
happy and healthy 2022!*

*Crissy Czank
Provincial Communications
Chair*

Hi and Merry Christmas to all our members. May you all enjoy peace and spiritual happiness during the Christmas Season. This past year has blessed our family with 2 new grandchildren and a new home. We are truly blessed. My greetings to you all for a Happy New Year. I pray for good health and peace for 2022.

Cindy McCardle,
Provincial chair of Legislation and Resolutions.



On behalf of Spiritual Development I want to take this opportunity to wish every member across our beautiful Island a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of promise.

You are all being remembered in a special Christmas Novena.

Blessings 🙏

Dianne McCarville

Wishing you all a very blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Donna McIver
Education and Health



**Sending Christmas greetings to all my fellow sister members.
May the Christ Child Bless us all this Holy Season as we keep "Jesus the Reason for the Season"**

Brenda Pitre
Christian Family Life Chair

A Christmas Message from your Provincial President Gay Garvey

Dear Sisters in the League:

As we continue our journey through this COVID Pandemic/Experience, may God's Love continue to LIGHT your way. May PEACE, HOPE, JOY, and the BLESSINGS of the Divine Child, the LOVE of Mary and the PROTECTION of St. Joseph be with you, your families, and friends this Christmas and throughout the New Year. I look forward to working with everyone in the New Year as we follow in the footsteps of Christ.



I leave you with our new prayer,

"CATHOLIC AND LIVING IT!"

Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love for all people, and to your presence with us wherever we go in your name.

Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women's League.

Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building -up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It!

May we imitate you with works of mercy, welcoming the forgotten, suffering, or vulnerable wherever we encounter them.

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith, witnessing to life, peace, and social justice daily wherever we are in Canada.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling, by being Catholic and Living It!

We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.
Amen.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!