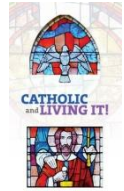


# PEI Catholic Women's League Christmas Newsletter December, 2022



Dear Friends:

In the first paragraph of Pope John Paul's letter, The Gospel of Life, dated March 25th 1995, The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, The Holy Father writes:

“The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus' message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as "good news" to the people of every age and culture.

At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: "I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this "great joy" is the Birth of the Saviour; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21).”



The birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ at Bethlehem changed the course of the world — and the course of our lives. May we prepare ourselves well for Christmas. Let us strive to live each day to the full, to grow in holiness, and to keep our gaze fixed on eternity.

Let us join Immaculate Mary and St. Joseph on the pilgrimage to Bethlehem. A Most Blessed Christmas to you and all you love.

Sincerely in Christ , Fr. Danny Wilson



Sister members, Provincial Executive and Father Danny Wilson.

Let us take time this Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

My wish for Everyone is that this Christmas Season will be safe, merry and peaceful.

Merry Christmas to you and yours.

Leah Kinch

Community Life Chairperson.

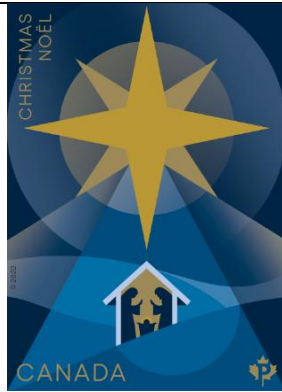
I wish to extend a very merry Christmas to all our members. As Convener of Education and Health , I wish you all good health and prosperity for 2023.



Please continue to do all your good work for The League and your community.

Thank you,  
Donna McIver





Celebrate Christmas in 2022 with this booklet of domestic rate stamps from our Christmas Nativity stamp issue.

This stamp issue features a creative rendering of the Nativity, with an emphasis on the star that led the Magi to the infant Jesus.

Merry Christmas to All from your Communications Chairperson!  
Crissy Czank

**And to think I almost didn't pick up the phone..... Elaine Black**

I was online with a zoom call when my phone rang. Even though I have children in Ontario with an area code of 613, we always call by WhatsApp, so seeing those 3 numbers made me hesitate....a scam call perhaps? Likely pushed by the Holy Spirit I reached for it and heard a lovely voice on the other end, "Are you Elaine Black and a member of the Catholic Women's League?" "Yes," I said, and immediately relaxed.

A CWL sister is ALWAYS to be trusted. She was relieved too because it seems like she had trouble finding a number of a member on PEI. Since I had worked on a project of the Strategic Implementation Plan, she saw my name somewhere and Googled my number. "What can I help you with?" I asked. "Well, my name is Linda Chartrand and I am the president of a council in Stonecliff, Ontario. We are only 10 members with about 5 being active. We don't even have a parish!" "Really!?", I offered. "No church and you are still active. Good for you!"



"We all saw the pictures and heard the stories of the devastation on PEI as a result of Hurricane Fiona and wanted to do something to help. So we held a bingo and raised \$600 to help people there in need," she blurted. "What? Wow! I am totally impressed and touched that such a small number of you would do such a thing for us." I said. "Do you want your donation to go to CWL members?" "No, not necessarily, just to people you deem needs it the most." she explained. "Once again I have to say how deeply touched I am and my sister members will be. It goes to show what a small number of generous, faith-filled women can do," I told her. "You will be blessed for your kindness."



Not many days lapsed before I received an envelope with a nice note in it to give to our provincial president, Gay Garvey, with the cheque for \$607.50! Let us spread the kindness of these 5-10 women into a ripple effect.

## Goodbye from Corran Ban



On October 31, 1927, St. Michael's Council, Corran Ban received its Charter as a Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. Our first President was Mrs. John J MacDonald and our first Secretary was Mrs. John W. MacDonald.

Now, ninety-five years later, we are saying good-bye. Our last President is Gail MacPhee and our last Secretary is Beth Mullen. Our parish church had been closed in March 2020 because of the Covid 19

Pandemic and would have been opening around May of 2022, but after several meetings, in the Spring 2022, our Parish voted to close. Our CWL will be handing in our Charter the end of this year. Our closing will be at our annual Christmas gathering as we prepare our records for the archives; look through photo albums that are records of our history and our activities within the parish; reminisce about all the things we have done and the fun we have had and remember those who are gone. So many changes!

As individuals, we will now have to decide if we will continue to be members of the League and how we will continue our work "for God and Canada." Will we join another parish council? That is a choice for next year. Please keep us in your prayers at this uncertain time. Have a Blessed Christmas everyone.

## Year End Gathering Holy Redeemer CWL

Every June we gather at Papa Joes to celebrate the end of the year. Besides a social time, we conduct any unfinished business before the summer break. We also give out a small card with a Christian



message and sign our names to them. They are collected and passed out again. Everyone will get someone else's name and you are to get together over the summer to go out for coffee or ice cream. If it is not possible to go out, you can also choose to pray for your partner. This activity will help us keep connected

over the summer. As you can see from the picture, a good time was had by all who attended.



Advent is the time before celebration. A time

to thank God for what he has blessed us with and to share our blessings with others As we light each advent candle, we must renew our pledges of Hope, Peace, Joy, and most of all Love. Wishing you a most holy season of Advent and a joy-filled experience of our Lord's Nativity. Merry Christmas! Cheryl Boom

Blessings,

Cheryl Boom, Treasurer  
PEI Provincial Council  
The Catholic Women's League  
of Canada

**The Tignish Catholic Women's League** recently put on a Community Fall Bazaar which St. Simon and St. Jude parishioners and surrounding areas were happy to attend. 200 roast beef dinners and lobster rolls were available for takeout or to eat in. In addition, a white elephant table, chip bingo, lottery and 50/50 tickets and a bake and fudge sale were enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to the many, many people who helped make this wonderful day happen!

Merry Christmas everyone and wishes for a joyous and safe New Year



Wishing all my sisters in the League a very blessed, happy and safe Christmas Season. In these busy days, let us take some time to spend with family and friends. It is the time of year to focus on making time for God in our lives. I am looking forward to seeing what the New Year will bring and I wish you all a healthy and positive 2023. May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over us.

Gail MacPhee, Provincial Recording Secretary



## A TIME OF CHANGE

The Fall Conference at St. Joachim's marked the welcoming of our new Provincial Spiritual Adviser, Father Danny Wilson and our thanking and saying goodbye to our Provincial Spiritual Adviser of the last five years, Father Brian MacDougall.



Gay Garvey, Provincial CWL President presented Fr. Danny with the CWL Spiritual Advisor Stole. Fr. Danny celebrated the opening Mass for both the Fall Conference East held at St. Joachim's, along with Fr. Brian and Fr. Jim Willick, and the Fall Conference West held at St. Paul's. Fr. Danny encouraged us all to read "The Gospel of Life" by St. John Paul II and suggested that over the next year or so, we use this Encyclical Letter for our reflections.

## EMMANUEL GOD-IS-WITH US



As we move toward the great feast of the INCARNATION, many signs and symbols are rooted in the Old Testament writings. Most if not all point us to GOD'S desire, GOD'S longing, GOD'S hope, for COMMUNION with us.



Psalm 96:11-13 Let the heavens be glad and earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them. Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice before the LORD who comes . . .

The Psalmist is issuing an invitation to all creation: Be glad and rejoice before the Lord. The creator of all is coming - what other response can there be? In the deepest center of our being, all of creation recognizes the one who tenderly made us. When we get in touch with this awesome reality, there is only one authentic response - JOY. As a great writer (Teilhard de Chardin) said; "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." God's presence is everywhere. Follow the Joy.

God, creator of all, help me to recognize your presence within and around me. May I be a clear sign of joy to others. AMEN!

From the Spiritual Development Chair

A sincere wish for a Blessed, Holy and Joy filled Christmas Season!

Dianne McCarville

### *Holy Redeemer 100 yrs. Celebration and Discussion on "Catholic and Living it"*

The old and new and anyone in between gathered for an afternoon tea on November 27th. We wanted to have members who did not attend meetings to come out and see what we are all about. All members were called using our new phone tree and even if they did not attend, we touched base with all members. Invitations were given out to non-members after Mass. No one from this group attended but we did make contact with them and perhaps planted a seed.

We had the CWL wall hanging and a display from our council on display and of course we had lunch and tea. The women chatted at their tables about the number of years they were involved in CWL and how we strive to be Catholic and Living it. We passed out pocket cards saying, "With God, all things are possible" CWL groups have flourished for 100 years and with God's guidance we will continue to gather as women of Faith. We departed having had a good time and voicing that we should do more things like this. Just getting together and being is enough.



Submitted by Susan Peters, president and communications

*“For today in the City of David a Saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” Luke 2:1*

Dear Sisters in the League:

It is hard to believe that the wonderful gift of Christmas is nearly here. Let us take time from our busy schedules to slow down, reflect and pray on the true meaning of Christmas, “God’s Love for Us - and the World”!

For the Catholic Women’s League, it is also a time to be grateful for all our good and dedicated members and to share some of the highlights of 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally give a BIG THANK YOU to all our members for their humble and unselfish service to their families, councils, parishes, and communities. It is really quite amazing to read the activity reports and see how much good is accomplished by our CWL members and, to realize their volunteer work is above and beyond their family, work and personal responsibilities.

This past year, despite COVID, the CWL resumed many of their in-person meetings and some online meetings. For the first time, our February Area meetings took place with one online meeting on Feb. 26th. We celebrated our 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic Women’s League on Prince Edward Island on May 6 & 7, 2022 in person. We planned for our Annual Pilgrimage to the Canadian Martyrs at St. Peter’s Church, Seven Mile Bay but, instead, Hurricane Fiona arrived on Sept. 24th and it had to be cancelled. Fortunately, we were able to hold our two Fall Workshops in person at St. Joachim’s (Oct. 15) and St. Paul’s (Oct. 29). On Oct. 15th Fr. Danny Wilson was installed during Mass at St. Joachim’s as our new Provincial Spiritual Advisor by Fr. Brian MacDougall. Fr. Jim Willick, pastor of St. Joachim’s concelebrated at the Mass. We are very thankful to Fr. Brian for his 5 years of generous service as Provincial Spiritual Advisor to the CWL and welcome Fr. Danny to this new role. We are very fortunate to have these dedicated priests to guide us in our CWL mission. Our present National Theme for 2022 and 2023 is “Catholic & Living It” and it has permeated through all our CWL activities, programs, and prayers. As of November 27th, six councils had presented workshops or retreats for their/our members as part of the CWL PEI Subsidy Program. Other councils made Ribbons for Ukraine to be presented at the National Convention.

As Provincial President, it makes me very proud and thankful to see so much wonderful work that is being accomplished by our CWL members. There is just not enough space to mention everything.

May the true meaning of Christmas fill your hearts with Joy. Wishing you, your families, and friends Christmas Blessings and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

May Our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel Bless and Guide Us.

Gay Garvey, Provincial President



## Celebrating 100 Years of Service for God and Canada

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, PEI Provincial Council, celebrated their 100th Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting on May 6th and 7th at the Rodd Royalty Inn in Charlottetown.

A special mass celebrating 100 years of CWL in Canada was held on Saturday morning at the stunning St Dunstan's Basilica with beautiful music and a procession of national and provincial executive, life members, local council presidents, special guests, and clergy.

In this photo National President Fran Lucas carries the Canadian flag followed by PEI Provincial President Gay Garvey with the PEI flag and Life Member Barb MacFarlane with the CWL flag.



### *Congratulations Karen!*

Gay Garvey, provincial President, presents flowers to Provincial President Elect, Karen Rossiter, in recognition of her completion of the **Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Program.**

"Faith is salted and peppered through everything at Christmas. And I love at least one night by the Christmas tree to sing and feel the quiet holiness of that time that's set apart to celebrate love, friendship, and God's gift of the Christ child."

~ Amy Grant



Submitted by Karen Rossiter

## Resolution Road Trip to Mount Allison University

A group of CWL members working on a resolution on Lyme Disease travelled to Mount Allison University to meet with Dr. Vett Lloyd and her students. Dr. Lloyd is an expert on the subject and greatly assisted the group in strengthening the resolution. The members include Joyce Whalen whose daughter has suffered from the effects of Lyme Disease, her twin sister Shirley Arsenault, Anne Marie Tomlins, all representing Our Lady of Assumption parish council who formulated the resolution, Gay Garvey, Provincial President, Cindy McCardle, Provincial Resolution Standing Committee Chair, and Life Member Elaine Black. (Dr. Lloyd is 2nd from the right in front.)



*“During this time when we sometimes cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us find ways to be the living embrace of God to our neighbours”*



*I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.*

*Shirley Pierce  
Past President*

Christmas Blessings to all CWL Members

May Jesus fill us all with Peace and a new desire to remain close to Him at all times and also to keep close to our hearts those who are lonely, and dealing with much sickness.

May we all be wrapped in the arms of His Blessed Mother, who held her Son so close to her.

God Bless us all.

Brenda  
Pitre

Christian  
Family Life



**Our Lady of Assumption** was asked to make fifty ribbons with the colors of the Ukrainian Flag and a Canadian Flag for the National Convention 2022 to show solidarity with Ukraine.



We made more of them and asked our members, families and friends for donations. We raised \$305.00 which we then presented to Olena Yechenko an immigrant lady who resides in Stratford, PEI.

Presentation by Community Life Chair, Jane Berkerich.

*Merry Christmas and Blessings for a  
Happy and Prosperous 2023*