



St. Pius X Catholic Women's League December, 2011 Newsletter

*The Executive of the St. Pius X
Catholic Women's League wishes you
and your loved ones the
Blessings of Christmas
now and throughout the New Year.*



The CWL Theme for the Year, is depicted in the above logo. A subtheme selected by the national CWL is "Women Against Poverty". Below is an excerpt from a presentation by Ruby Sharpe, President, to the CWL Provincial Winter Meeting, March 18-19, 2011 on the issue of poverty:

Who are the poor?

I believe we all have certain images that come to our minds when we think of the "poor".

- 1) We think of the children with extended bellies from Third World countries;
- 2) We think of the homeless person with a tin can next to them on the street corner;
- 3) We think of the person living in substandard accommodations in houses that we could not imagine having to sleep in for just one night.
- 4) For some of us, we even stereotype and think of particular neighborhoods in our cities and towns.

There is another group of "poor" that we tend not to include when we talk of the poor, nor do they



create images in our minds - those who are poor in spirit.

- 1) Is it not a form of poverty when one has no friends, no family; when they live in social isolation?
- 2) Do we think of those who have no faith in God?
- 3) Do we think of the many children who are raised without a faith-based education either at home or in the school system?

The children of today are our leaders of tomorrow; they are the same children who may never know the God who loves them; who teaches love, kindness, compassion, respect, forgiveness, to create, to imagine, to dream, to strive to do their best and to love their neighbor.

These poor are not captured in the textbook definition. The poor walk in all pathways of life - it is all around us.

With a compassionate heart and a warm smile, you may help a person you meet on your pathway.

Now I ask you, who are the poor in the world?

Charitable Donations

In keeping with its theme, your CWL made monetary donations to the following groups locally and internationally:

- Thanksgiving Dinner for Gathering Place Guests
- Red Rose Café for Residents of St. Patrick's Mercy Home
- Parish Christmas Bazaar
- MacMorran Centre Literacy Program and Back to School Supplies for Children
- Gift Certificates for four families
- Buy-A- Net Program
- National Voluntary Fund
 - Cody institute
 - Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
 - Catholic Missions in Canada
 - MaterCare

St. Patrick's Mercy Home

As we do every year on March 17th, CWL members, bedecked in St. Patrick's day colours and hats, served tea and muffins for the residents of St. Patrick's Mercy Home. It was very special to have several of our former members, who are now residents at the Home, attend and share tea and memories with us. Those who were unable to join us at the Red Rose Café were visited in their rooms.

Visitation to Sick and Home Bound

Upon request, a visitation committee of the CWL makes home visits to members and parishioners who are sick or unable to leave their homes, especially during the winter months. Several of our members bring Holy Communion to parishioners in their homes, and also to those residing in senior residences.

St. Pius X Parishioners Protest Child Victimization and Pornography

The White Ribbon Campaign was held the weekend of October 15/16, 2011. Parishioners and friends of St. Pius X Parish expressed strong support of the fight against pornography in all forms, especially on the WEB. A letter enclosing the signed ribbons was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office for necessary action.

The letter was copied to Hon. Jack Harris, MP - St. Johns East and to Hon. James Moore, MP, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Office Languages

National Family Week

National Family Week, observed October 3-9, 2011, was celebrated by St. Pius X League CWL by arranging something special for a family in difficult circumstances. With the assistance of a Social Worker at Eastern Health, a non-identifiable family was chosen to receive a \$50 supermarket gift card, plus a \$50 gift card for an activity which the family would pursue together, e.g. bowling, swimming, or attending a movie.

Below is a prayer to the patroness of the CWL, Our Lady of Good Counsel, that you can pray each day for families: *Our Lady of Good Counsel, fill with joy and hope all the families of the world. We entrust to you the joys, plans, anxieties, and desires of every family, but especially the families of St. Pius X Parish. We turn to you each and every day, ask you to be near our families during good times but also in times of need. Welcome us all into your heart and guide us in togetherness on our way to the heavenly Homeland. Amen.*

In Memoriam Service

An In Memoriam Service for deceased members was held at the November 15 General Meeting. Special prayers were offered for three of our members who passed away during the year. They are: Patricia Allston, a Founding Member and Past President; Ruth Kielley and Dorothy Sinnott.

Advent Celebration and Dinner

This year parishioners of St. Pius X were extended an invitation to join us in celebrating through prayer the beautiful season of Advent, followed by a catered dinner and entertainment in the parish hall

Parish Activities

Fr Bolton and the Parish Council requested that the CWL suggest ways to enhance parish liturgies and activities. At a general meeting members brainstormed ideas which were then forwarded to the Parish Council. A selection of these ideas are listed below:

- Encourage young people and families of young children to become more involved in the ministries, especially at 11pm Mass;
- Re-establish a youth choir and youth mass;
- Separate ceremonies for First Communion and Confirmation
- Have children receiving first sacraments more directly involved in the ministries (choir, readers, offertory, etc)
- Have at least one retreat a year- consider retreat facilitators who appeal to mature parishioners and another for younger folks;
- Religious education programs for parents and adult parishioners;
- Become more of an advocate and activist for elder care
- Have a plan to welcome new parishioners and new Canadians
- Respect and protect our planet - Stop using Styrofoam cups, paper cloths etc at social events
- Encourage younger parishioners to become involved in caring for the flower beds
- Refurbish the kitchen

The League continues to support activities within the parish and for parishioners, such as:

- Prayer Books for children receiving First Communion and Confirmation
- Gifts for children at Christmas Bazaar
- Flowers for garden in front of Statue of the Blessed Virgin

- Hosting Morning Coffees after 11pm Mass. This fall we also hosted a tea/coffee after the 445 Mass.
- Leading the Rosary before morning and evening Masses during May and October
- Leading the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent

Many of our members are quite active in Parish Ministries and fund raisers.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

Ghandi

Mary Goss Award

St. Pius X CWL was very proud when Provincial announced the Mary Goss Award, to be given each year to the CWL Council with the greatest increase in new members. Mary Goss, brought St. Pius X into the Catholic Women’s League. She was our first President (1974) and the first Provincial President (1980). She served on the National CWL Executive as Chair of Resolutions.

Wouldn’t it be an honour if our own Council could receive this award this year?

Read below to see how you can help.

Membership

January is the time to renew your membership as a member of the Catholic Women’s League. As such you are not only a member of the St. Pius X League but the Provincial and National League. As a member of the National League you receive the **League Magazine** three times a year, and if you have access to the internet you can receive a monthly Newsletter – **Be-League**.

Thank you for being supportive of the St. Pius X CWL during your years as member. You attended meetings, lent a hand for all our fundraisers and socials , prayed with us and for us, and many of you volunteered your time, talent, and treasure in leadership roles.

Now we need you to actively solicit new members for the League. Think about the Catholic women you know – family, friends, neighbours, and their daughters or granddaughters and invite them to join this wonderful organization.

We are depending on you!

A reflection

There are many people who can do big things, but there are very few people who will do the small things. ~ Mother Teresa



Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers

In his oral report to the CWL National Convention (August, 2011), Archbishop Martin Currie, CWL National Spiritual Advisor, said: “We need to look for a generous spirit. Recycling is not healthy. We need to begin to get new people to take on leadership roles and bring their gifts, and ideas”.

The St. Pius X CWL Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations from members for executive positions. Elections will take place at the AGM, January 24th, 2012. Please nominate a member who can share her gifts, experience, and ideas. Consider nominating yourself.

If you are a member and feel you are unable to serve at this time, pray that all positions on the Executive will be filled. For further information, contact Rita Janes, Chair Nominations, 722 3860 or ritajanes@nf.sympatico.ca.

Highlights from Keynote Presentation National Convention, Toronto August 13 -17, 2011

You may wish to reflect on these ideas:

- Members working for justice should avoid “compassion fatigue”;
- The difference between pity (sympathetic sorrow) and compassion (deep awareness of the suffering of another with the wish to relieve it; a keen awareness of the interdependence of all beings);
- The difference between social justice (focuses on equality and solidarity giving dignity to all

involved) and social fairness (focuses on partiality and leaves all involved diminished).

Other quotes of interest :

“God is not a joint ATM machine; put in the right prayer card and get what you want. It doesn’t happen that way.”

“Financial poverty is always easiest to detect. We do not always recognize the poverty of loneliness or the disenfranchised”.

Resolutions

Resolutions are a very important part of the work of the CWL. One of the resolutions unanimously approved at the National Convention was presented by the NL Provincial Council and supported on the convention floor by Rita Janes, Provincial Delegate to the Convention. The resolution addressed the eminent health risks facing our young people who consume “energy drinks”. The amount of caffeine in most of these drinks is well above the safe levels for consumption. We proposed:

- The total amount of caffeine in these drinks be clearly shown on the labels ; and
- There be a program of public education focusing on the harmful effects that caffeine in energy drinks has on children and adolescents.

Further we are concerned that energy drinks (e.g. Red Bull, Monster, RockStar, Throttle) are sold in stores alongside soft drinks and snack foods; also, presently they are regulated under the natural foods act but more sensibly should be under the food and drug regulations. They are even more dangerous when consumed along with alcohol. Remember the Beverage Industry has a very strong lobby in Ottawa.

Other Resolutions passed at the Convention:

- Urge the federal government to prohibit absolutely practices of alteration, manipulation and treatment of human reproductive material that result in the destruction of the human embryo.
- Urge the provincial governments to provide and/or extend support services for children and families of missing and murdered aboriginal women in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children.
- Urge the federal government to establish and implement a national organ and tissue donation and transplantation registry.

More information on these resolutions can be found in the Fall issue of the Canadian League magazine or at www.cwl.ca. There you will also find recommended actions to support these resolutions.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Martin Luther King



Literacy Support at MacMorran

Your CWL, as “Women against Poverty”, realizes as did Nelson Mandela that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”, and “Literacy is, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.” So for the past four years we have supported the education of the children who visit the MacMorran Centre. This year we again provided good quality children’s literature to the Centre’s library and also for the children to take home. At the beginning of the school year we provided school supplies that were needed to get the year off to a good start.

We appreciate the generous support of our members and the St. Pius X parishioners in our efforts to further enhance the education of the MacMorran Centre school children. The children and their families, along with the staff, show their appreciation in many ways and with big smiles when they find a favourite book to read.

“You have to love your children unselfishly. That is hard . But it is the only way.” Barbara Bush

We wish you:

The gift of love. The gift of peace. The gift of happiness.

May all these be yours at Christmas and in 2012.

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings from your St. Pius X CWL Executive