

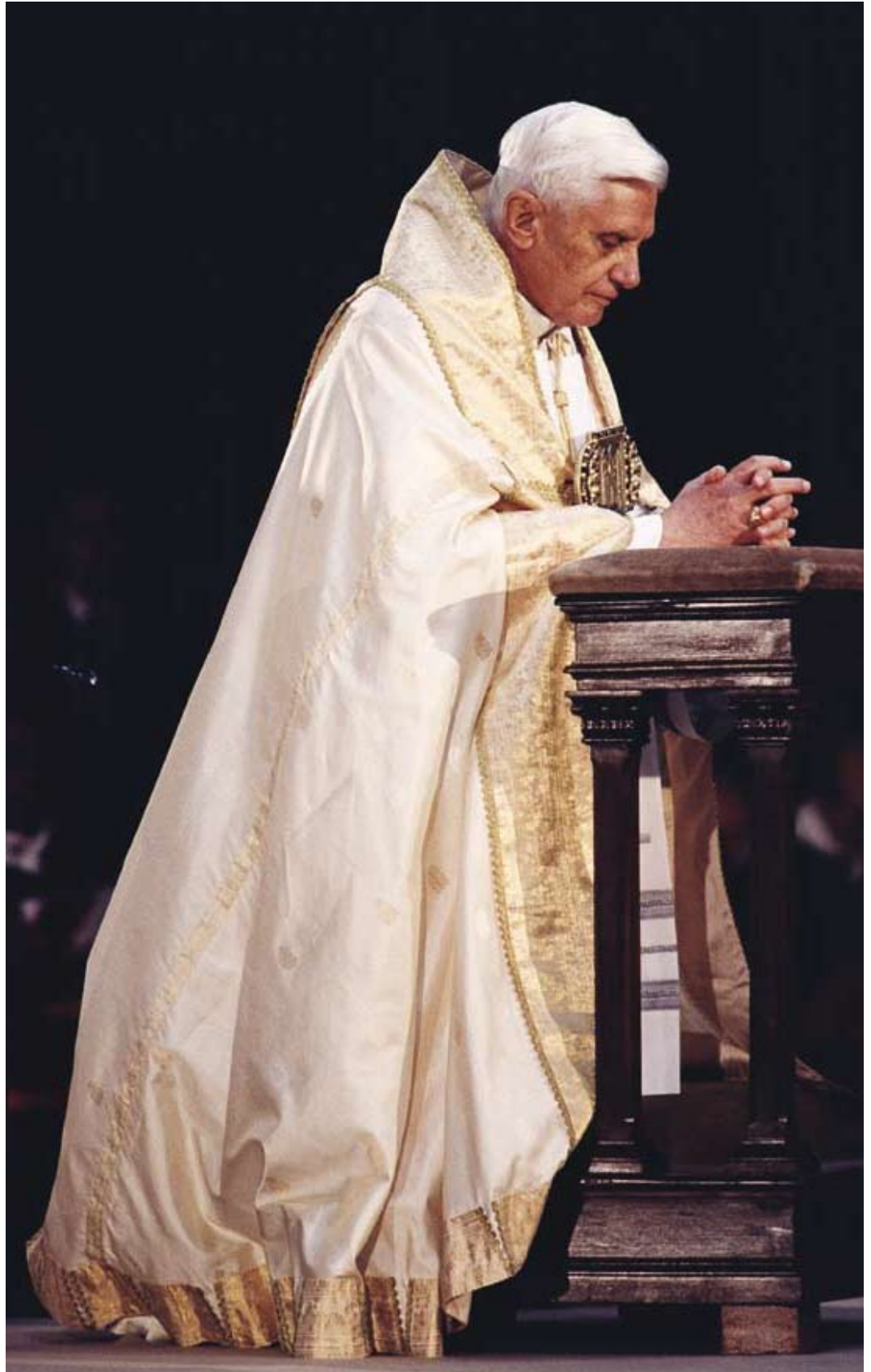


Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

"IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO TOUCH THE HEART OF ANOTHER, NOR IS IT EVER IN VAIN" *Pope Benedict XVI*
"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" *John 10:10*

National Newsletter

Issue 2
June 2010



From the National President



Dear Ladies,

Winter is upon us and it seems that it has come around much quicker this year or is it that I am just slowing down! Autumn and spring are my favourite seasons. In autumn, we experience the wonder of nature as the colour of leaves change day by day until we end up with bare branches and then a few months later, spring brings forth new life on these trees. Of course at times we complain about having to pick up the leaves, but when I watch my little 18 months old grandson bringing me those leaves as if he has found something wonderful and exciting, then one soon forgets the mess the leaves make.

Today in our Church, we too have something exciting happening. While it has taken much longer than a few months, the new translation of the Roman Missal is awaiting approval of the Holy See. Archbishop Denis Hart of Melbourne, Vice-chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) has advised that an interactive DVD titled "Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ" and other preparation materials will be issued as soon as the final Roman approval is given.

I recently purchased a book from Amazon titled '*Praying the Mass – The Prayers of the People*' by Jeffrey Pinyan. It is a guide to the new English translation of the Mass. It is easy to read while giving a very clear explanation of the current and the new translation. Hopefully, League members will be at the forefront in promoting the changes to the Liturgy.

Some within the Church may complain about these changes. However, we have witnessed such a drop off in Mass attendances over the past few decades and this change may be what is needed at this time. Archbishop Hart recently noted: "Pope Benedict has written much about the beauty and transcendence in the liturgy. There is a desire to make the celebration of the Mass more reverent and less susceptible to popular culture" (*AD 2000 June 2010*).

As you may be aware, the Australian Women's Coalition (AWC) did not receive funding from the Federal Government this time around. Prior to the Government's decision, AWC had commissioned a report on human trafficking which was prepared by the Anti-Slavery Project, University of Technology (UTS) Sydney.

Much has changed in this area over the past five years and the AWC had called upon the Government to look into the following areas and amend the Criminal Code to:

- Introduce new offences of servile marriage, forced marriage and forced labour and the deceptive recruiting for labour services.
- Amend the definition of exploitation in the trafficking in persons offences to include forced marriages and practices similar to slavery and,
- Clarify the meaning of coercion.

The full report can be downloaded from the AWC website at www.awcaus.org.au.

WomenSpeak, which received funding from the Federal Government, is now officially called Equality Rights Alliances (ERA). It now has a membership of 47 organisations of which we are one.

CWLA Inc has collaborated with South Korea and New Zealand with two resolutions and amendments to the WUCWO Constitution and BYLAWS for the WUCWO Assembly in Jerusalem. We are now waiting to see if the WUCWO Committee responsible for the Resolutions accepts them.

As previously advised, Brenda Finlayson will not be seeking re-election as the WUCWO Board Member Australia at the Centenary Assembly in Jerusalem. However, Brenda has been accepted by the Holy See as one of the two candidates for the position of WUCWO President General. Congratulations to Catherine McGrath who has been nominated as our candidate to follow Brenda as WUCWO Board Member Australia. Please keep both Brenda and Catherine in your prayers.

With the conclusion of the Year of the Priest, let us not forget our priests and bishops and especially the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI in this time of trial. I encourage League members to spiritually adopt a priest and pray for him each day.

Holy Mary Mother of God, Pray for us.

Madge Fahy
National President

From the National Chaplain



Dear friends,

The theme that has been chosen for this year: 'It is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain', fits very well with the Year for Priests proclaimed by our Holy Father which concluded on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart this year.

Priests encounter people in all sorts of circumstances, in all sorts of places and with very different needs. Priests are very conscious that every personal encounter that we have with another person can 'touch the heart of another' and each opportunity is 'never in vain'. Such reflections stem from what we believe the priest is in our Catholic tradition.

In Catholic theology we say that the priest is 'another Christ', who makes present the ministry of Jesus among us. Apart from his sacramental ministry, his very presence in a parish or community is a visible and tangible reminder of the risen Lord among us. Jesus has not forgotten us, and He gave us the priesthood so that His work on earth might continue to the ends of the earth.



The priest is not just here to be an administrator, a builder, a public speaker. He is not just here even to offer the Mass and the Sacraments to us. The priest is here firstly as the representative of Jesus Christ among us, and that is why every encounter with a priest can 'touch the heart of another'. This is a good and salutary reminder for the laity, and also for priests. The Pope has offered this Year to priests so that we may be more conscious of the great gift

that we have received, the gift that we hold on trust and the dignity that belongs to the office that we hold as ministers of Christ on earth.

Members of the League are scattered all across our country, and are active in all sorts of apostolate in the Church and local parishes. You may come into contact with priests more often than many other Catholics do. You are more conscious of the work and the demands that are made upon priests in these times. This Year for Priests was an opportunity for the entire Church, but particularly for members of the League to pray for, to support and encourage your priests. You might suggest to your families and friends that they might continue to make an extra effort to pray and support their priest. Take a moment to thank them for what they do, to encourage them, to do something extra to help them.

This Year for Priests was for the whole Church: priests and laity. As members of the League, let us work together to strengthen our priests, and in turn to be strengthened by our priests.

Fr David Cartwright
National Chaplain

SPREADING THE KINGDOM

In the experience of the Apostle to the Gentiles, whom the Lord called to be a "minister of the Gospel," vocation and mission are inseparable. He therefore represents a model for every Christian, particularly for missionaries *ad vitam*, in other words, those men and women who dedicate themselves totally to proclaiming Christ to those who still do not know him, a vocation which has retained its full value. This missionary service is carried out in the first place by priests who dispense the Word of God and the sacraments and who manifest the healing presence of Jesus Christ to all, especially the sick, the lowly, and the poor through their charitable Apostolate....Let us pray that the ranks of those who decide to live the Gospel radically with the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience may be ever more numerous. They are men and women who have a primary role in evangelization. Some of them are dedicated to contemplation and prayer, others to a multi-faceted educational and charitable action, but they all have the same goal in common; to witness to God's primacy over everything and to spread his Kingdom in every social milieu....Finally, it should not be forgotten that the vocation to Christian marriage is a missionary vocation: indeed, the spouses are called to live the Gospel in families, in work contexts, in parish and civil communities. In some cases, they also offer their valuable collaboration to the mission *ad gentes*.

Pope Benedict XVI
Regina Caeli, April 13, 2008

NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY REPORT



In recognition of the historic 15th anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women NY organised the NGO Global Women's Forum: Beijing + 15. This Forum immediately preceded the 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York 1-12 March 2010 which also undertook a 15 year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action. These events combined to attract NGO representatives, reportedly 6,500 had pre-registered to participate in CSW 54, to assess progress of the implementation of the BPfA, the Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective towards the full realisation of the Millennium Development Goals.

The anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provided an opportunity to renew commitments made during the UN's 4th World Conference on Women. There was a sense that this CSW event would re-inforce the international will to advance the rights of women around the world and that this session could see the beginning of a new UN entity that would consolidate agencies and units within the UN into one strong body. UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon pledged to lead by example. The promise to establish 'a new entity' also being referred to as a 'super agency for women' by September 2010 follows a 4 year campaign that gathered momentum during the Beijing + 15 review. Key pro-life commentators have already expressed concerns about this billion dollar 'super agency'.

The Event coincided with extensive renovations of the United Nations Headquarters, placing an enormous strain on building facilities and space availability for meetings. NGO access was very limited at all official UN meetings of the Commission as well as Parallel Events organised by Member States and UN Entities, with special passes having to be obtained for many events.

CSW 54 NY List of Resolutions adopted at the Session -

1. Women, the girl child and HIV/Aids
2. Release of women and children taken hostage including those subsequently imprisoned in armed conflict
3. Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women
4. Women's economic empowerment
5. Eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through empowerment of women
6. Strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for the support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity
7. Ending female genital mutilation.

The text of these Resolutions is at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/outcomes.html>

WUCWO Centenary General Assembly 2010 Theme: "You will be my witness"

Planned for 5-11 October in the Holy Land, the Assembly will be held at the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Centre and will provide an extraordinary opportunity for members of WUCWO from all over the world as we convene for six days of prayer, study, pilgrimage and participation in the 2010 WUCWO Statutory Assembly. An enormous amount of preparation and planning has taken place, and undoubtedly will continue, to make this Centenary Celebration most meaningful and fruitful for all of us and to lay the groundwork for our organisation's next 100 years of service to the Church and people throughout the world.

Study Days will consist of lectures by renowned speakers, visits to the Holy Places, discussions, celebration of Holy Mass and prayer. May I invite all our members, whether or not they will be physically present at the Assembly, to read "Journey to Jerusalem" the monthly reflections (available on WUCWO's website) on the celebration of the WUCWO Centenary and also take part in the Novena to Mary, Queen of Peace 22-30 September. Conference participants are encouraged to read the Sacred Scriptures as we prepare to encounter Jesus more deeply at this key point in WUCWO's history.

Full capacity has now been reached for the WUCWO Centenary General Assembly.

Thora Regan AM
National International Secretary

SOCIAL ISSUES



The Impact of Annulment

Very few Catholics understand the process that occurs once there is a move to annul what everyone hitherto believed to be a valid Sacrament. The status of the children of the union is also not always well understood. There are hundreds of annulments declared in Australia each year. The process of investigation takes a considerable time and can only commence after the civil divorce, property settlement and arrangements for the custody of children have been completed.

I have seen the misunderstanding, scandal and hurt that may accompany an annulment, leading me to believe that knowledge of the process needs to be more widely known. I will try to clarify the issue as best I can.

Annulment is far from automatic. Essentially, the annulment process examines whether all the elements that comprise a marriage were there at the outset. 'The Church believes that marriage involves many elements, all of which are important for it to be valid or complete in the eyes of God. The conditions for a valid marriage concern a person's freedom to marry, their readiness to make a marriage commitment, their understanding of what marriage involves, their openness to having children, the proper process for witnessing a marriage, and so on.'¹

For Catholics, marriage is the only sacrament conferred by the parties themselves in the presence of a priest. If a person has undertaken to give something he or she is incapable of giving, then they cannot be held to the validity of the gift. When a diocesan Marriage Tribunal receives a request for an annulment from one of the parties to the marriage, the Tribunal then thoroughly investigates the circumstances within which it was contracted. Both parties are invited to give evidence and to nominate friends who are prepared to speak

¹ Divorce and the Catholic Church: Frequently Asked Questions

of their knowledge of the marriage. 'All these 'witnesses' are interviewed privately, and written statements are prepared. There are no public or open court sessions, no cross-examinations or face-to-face meetings between the parties.'²

Based on these interviews and written statements, a Tribunal official prepares a written dossier summarizing the case, which is then presented to the Tribunal for a decision. Tribunal officials include lay people as well as priests. When the formal (and private) sessions of the Tribunal are held, the parties are not required to attend. A Defender of the Marriage Bond is always present to uphold the ideals of the Church on marriage and its permanence. A decision is then made by the judges of the Tribunal, and they will declare either that the marriage is invalid or that the evidence does not prove invalidity with certainty and so, the marriage remains valid.

In Australia, the case must then be forwarded to the Catholic Appeal Tribunal of Australia and New Zealand. This Tribunal has the task of reviewing every decision. If the Tribunal's findings are ratified, a decree of nullity is issued. In more complex cases, this review may take quite some time and there is no guarantee of an affirmative decision. 'As Pope Benedict XVI stated, this canonical process is not there to complicate life or to sharpen tensions, but only to serve the truth that is part of the human and Christian journey of each of the faithful (Address to Rota, 2006).'³

The confidentiality of the Tribunal is total and nobody is given the reason for the annulment, that is why there is so much mystery surrounding annulment and some people may be left with the feeling that the Church has behaved improperly. Myths and misunderstandings abound. Annulment doesn't say there wasn't a marriage, in the sense of a meaningful relationship. It says there wasn't a marriage that matched the Church's minimal expectations of what constitutes a valid marriage. However, the children of an annulled marriage remain legitimate under the law.

It is of primary importance that the person receiving the decree of nullity, who has already faced the anxiety and pain of divorce, is not further damaged by news of the annulment. Every effort must be made to convey the Tribunal's decision with pastoral love and a delicate regard for the feelings of the recipient, who is deserving of comfort.

Betty Roberts OAM
Social Issues Convenor

² Divorce and the Catholic Church: Frequently Asked Questions

³ Ibid

BIOETHICS



Fertility Blues 50 years since the “revolution”

This year marks fifty years since the American Food and Drug Administration first approved the medical use of the orally administered hormonal preparation named *norethinodrel*.

This product, a relatively primitive compound of the female hormones progesterone and oestrogen, dubbed simply “the Pill”, was the first of several generations of a product that brought about a worldwide technological and social revolution.

The effects of this revolution are doubtlessly huge. Everyone from the social philosopher Francis Fukuyama to the feminist Germaine Greer has acknowledged the long wake left in society by the Pill. However the Pill’s promoters have also claimed for it, a fair share of grandiose and even mystical powers.

A press release from *International Planned Parenthood* in New York this year claimed that the Pill “has radically changed women’s access to education, to employment and to having the size of family that they want... It completely changed women’s ability to control their own destiny.”

This promise of a goddess-like control of “fertility”, family and even destiny- past, present and future is a mirage. Many young women talk of their struggles to find the economic, sexual or social stability to form any sort of family at all. Increasing numbers of mature and economically advantaged women face un-explained or problematic fertility problems (the Pill can turn fertility “off” but the “on” button is less predictable).

But underlying these serious medical and economic difficulties, sadly neglected, despite or indeed because of the Pill, are deeper existential questions.

An unlikely source of sober reflection comes from

the former super-model, pin-up girl and movie star of the 1960s and 70s, Rachel Welch who recently said: “... For young women of childbearing age (I was one of them) there was a need for some careful soul searching...and consideration about the long-range effects of oral contraceptives.” “Since then the growing proliferation of birth control methods has had an awesome effect on both sexes and led to a sea change in moral values.” She questions the true direction of this sea change, and the type of control and “freedom” touted by the first and subsequent generations of “family planners” who funded, trialled and supported the invention of the Pill.

She wonders aloud whether the pressure, the expectations of convenient female sterility, the disconnect between sexuality and the possibility of pregnancy has created another type of slavery for women. Again Rachel Welch notes: “As a result of the example set by their elders, by the 1990s teenage sexual promiscuity or hooking up with multiple partners had become a common occurrence. Many of my friends who were parents of teenagers sat in stunned silence several years ago when it came to light that oral sex had become a popular practice among adolescent girls in middle schools across the country.”

The popularity of this passive “performance” by such young women suggests neither the pursuit of their own sexual choices nor obviously much place for the magical powers of the Pill.

One journalist reminisced about the early days of her use of the Pill in the London Times: “*The hardest thing to imagine, for a relentlessly consumerist generation, is the lack of choice one had in a pill-free world.*” The real question is: does a battery of different contraceptive devices or substances equal free and informed decision making about the things that matter about fertility and sexuality?

Recent very interesting qualitative studies conducted in Australia and the United States (conducted by public health departments) suggest that many young women favour male condom-usage (with its high “slippage” rate) and emergency contraception “back-up” (that is the so-called “morning after pill”) to regular Pill use.

Why is this? It seems that some women are suspicious of long term side effects or contraindications of “the Pill.” Others are simply ignorant of their own fertility and have sexual encounters in the “dark” in more ways than one. Others fear that chronic health or employment problems such as almost constant antibiotic use or stressful shift

work, makes the Pill unworkable for them. Some women reveal what one researcher described as “a sense of fatalism about the likelihood of stuff ups” whatever type of device they try.

Others, particularly the young, admit that they were not in situations in which they could negotiate the terms of their sexual encounters - either because of effects of alcohol or because of coercion by their male “partners”. In the United States, studies show that in disadvantaged and disempowered groups of women, contraceptive use (either the Pill or condoms) has an especially high “failure” rate, determining that these women cycle not so much from “controlled” fertility to infertility but from complacency to panic.

As Raquel Welch hinted at, the qualities of responsibility, dignity and self-respect, the marks of true “freedom” are replaced by a forlorn desire to be desired, the fear that saying “no” to sexual pressure means being “frigid”, that the compliance with male demand and pressure means being truly sexual beings. As Raquel says: Come on girls! Time to pull up our socks! We’re capable of so much better.”

Anna Krohn
Bioethic Convenor

CANBERRA & GOULBURN ARCHDIOCESE

On Saturday 22 May, the Catholic Women's League in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn held their 60th AGM/Conference in the Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla, with the theme *Foward in Hope - With God's Help*. The day began with Mass at 9 am in the adjoining St Peter Chanel's Church, celebrated by Rev Father Francis Kolencherry, administrator of the Cathedral Parish of St Christopher.

After registration and morning tea, outgoing Archdiocesan President, Jacqueline Hipwell welcomed some 50 women, including the oldest serving member of the League in the Archdiocese, Joyce Purcell OAM, who celebrated her 94th birthday in March. Also in attendance, despite her blindness, was Evonne (Vonnie) Sullivan AM. Both Joyce and Vonnie regularly attend branch meetings and CWL social functions and are an inspiration to all. Most branches throughout the Archdiocese were well represented.

The opening para-liturgy had been prepared and was led by Central Region executive and when apologies had been duly recorded, delegates identified and scrutineers appointed, the business of the day got

underway. Just before the Regina Coeli at 12 noon, all positions on the Executive were declared vacant and as Jacqueline was not continuing as President, she kindly agreed to oversee the election of office bearers. The new Archdiocesan Executive for 2010/11 is as follows:

President: Angela M Devlin; Senior Vice-President: Marie Gallagher; Vice-President: Gloria Sweeny; Secretary: Dianne Purcell; Assistant Secretary: Nola Drum; Treasurer: Mieke Foley; International Secretary: Pat Liddiard; Social Issues Convener: Collen Connell; Bioethics Convener: Nola Drum; Public Officer: Lorraiane Birch; Newsletter Editor: Angela M Devlin; Newsletter Co-editor: Evonne Sullivan AM.

Our Spiritual Director, Rev Fr William Kennedy OAM PP, was guest of honour at lunch, together with Dr Ella Stack, former mayor of Darwin, and both agreed to be guest speakers in the afternoon. Fr Kennedy regaled us with stories of early settlement in Australia and Dr Stack spoke quite movingly regarding her time as a general medical practitioner in Darwin and the survival of herself, her husband and three young sons through Cyclone Tracy.

In light of declining numbers of League members, discussion took place on the future of the League in the Archdiocese, but there were no easy answers. A motion on national guide lines for the restriction of the selling of alcohol was passed and will be acted on once the new executive meets for the first time in early June.

All agreed that the one day AGM/Conference had been a success with comfortable and warm surroundings and excellent catering. The closing para-liturgy had been prepared and was led by Country Region executive. The AGM/Conference in 2011 will be at St Clements Retreat Conference Centre in Galong, NSW, on Saturday 21 May.

All present wished Jacqueline God's speed for her return trip to Wales, earlier than expected due to the rapid deterioration in the health of her cousin. A Mass will be offered for her intentions and the intentions of the outgoing Executive.

It is with great sadness that the CWL in the Archdiocese records the death of the beloved mother of our Archbishop Mark Coleridge. We extend to him and his family our sincere condolences at this time. May her dear soul rest in peace.

Angela M Devlin
President - Canberra and Goulburn

NEW SOUTH WALES

Moss Vale 20th Anniversary: On 20 April, the Moss Vale branch celebrated its 20th anniversary. Father Sean Cullen celebrated Mass and 87 guests, five priest and five acolytes joined in a celebratory luncheon at the Moss Vale Golf Club. Moss Vale's President, Margaret Norris, was thrilled with the wonderful attendance including founding members such Anna Zaranski, who acted as master of ceremonies for the day.

During the celebrations, Catherine McGrath (State President) paid tribute to Moss Vale's great involvement in many of CWL's initiatives over the years including the Drought Relief Campaign which paid for school fees and supplies for students in the towns of Tullamore, Trundle and Tottenham. Also highlighted were the recent fundraising efforts to give assistance to Kenyan schools in providing feminine supplies for their students. Congratulations to CWL Moss Vale!

School Days in Sydney: The Sydney Archdiocese has been busy fund raising for their project of the year (building a pre-school in Sri Lanka) and 'reminiscing' over their own school memories. On Tuesday 27 April, a day of fun was had by the Sydney Executive and members along with Parramatta and Broken Bay diocesan members. State President, Catherine McGrath also joined in the festivities. A very convincing classroom was set up, with a lunchbox provided to each 'student' in attendance. Our tuckshop, full of sweet goodies, was also very popular!



At school (L-R) Denise McCaffrey, Chris McKirdy, Helen Buttler, Helen Cook, Moya Potts, Loretta Chester and Christine Britten

Br Pat McCarthy of the Lasallian Foundation spoke of the project in Sri Lanka and provided all members with plenty of information. Principal/Sydney President, Loretta Chester, ran the "Who is this?" guessing game using some fantastic school photos.

Sydney Archdiocesan teams appreciated the great response and involvement from their 'students'. They raised \$1375 for the project.

New South Wales State Conference: The Conference will take place on 20-21 August 2010. The theme will be 'Be joyful always', 1 Thessalonians 5:16. For registration enquiries contact Sandra Kijko at sandrakijko@hotmail.com.

CWLA Parramatta Diocese 50th Anniversary: The League celebrated its 50th anniversary in the Parramatta Diocese on 15 March. A lovely day was enjoyed by all. The League was inaugurated in Parramatta in 1960 by the then State President, Mrs Esther Doyle OAM. Mrs Noreen McLean, one of the 32 founding members, attended the 50th anniversary celebrations. Original works included hospital visitations and fund raising. Today, Parramatta Diocese members administer Chisholm Cottage assisting with short term accommodation for relatives of Westmead Hospital patients. Recently, Parramatta members began the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service in Parramatta Park on Australia Day. Congratulations CWL Parramatta!

Soul of the Sunburnt country: Recently State Vice President, Moya Potts, and I were fortunate enough to be invited to the premiere screening of "Soul of the Sunburnt Country" which is the first documentary to chronicle Blessed Mary Mackillop's life and the ongoing work of the Sisters of St Joseph. Produced by Albert Street Productions, the film has been released in preparation for the upcoming canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop and is an important reminder of her spiritual influence. Sisters of St Joseph from around the world are featured in the film. From Peru to East Timor, Ireland, Scotland and of course from our 'Sunburnt Land' Australia. Their work varies from providing welfare, pastoral care and community development to those who need spiritual guidance or just appreciate a helping hand.

Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Pell, and the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, Sr Anne Derwin rsj, were in attendance along with the film makers who provided the audience with a Q&A session at the conclusion of the film. This insightful documentary helps you walk beside Mary and gives you a real understanding of the challenges she faced and, the inspiration she provided to everyone who came into contact with her - inspiration that sees her legacy continuing through the work of the Sisters around the world today.

Copies of the DVD are available for purchase for

\$29.95 at the Mary MacKillop Museum Shop at North Sydney and at Mary MacKillop Heritage Museums and Heritage Centres across Australia.

“Which Way” Forum Day: CWL Sydney in conjunction with CWLA-NSW present the **“Which Way” Forum Day** to be held on 24 July 2010, 1:30-4:30pm at The Australian Museum, Sydney. This unique forum experience will provide guests with an opportunity to listen to our expert panellists on the relevance of choices and consequences in today’s society. The forum will cover the fields of medicine, policing, bioethics and social behaviour. Guest speakers will include Prof. Gordian Fulde, Director of Emergency Medicine, St Vincent’s Hospital; Deborah Wallace, Detective Superintendent Commander, Middle Eastern Organised Crime Squad; Miranda Devine, Journalist, The Sydney Morning Herald and Anna Krohn, CWLA National Bioethics Convenor. For more information please contact CWL Sydney on (02) 9390 5153.

Emily Potts
Communications Officer - CWLA-NSW

TASMANIA

Our State Council meeting was held in Launceston on 16 March. Some changes were made to our Constitution and a theme was chosen for the next State Conference in September – *“Faith, Hope and Love is our Future”*. An interesting guest speaker was Mrs Mary Binks, a member of the Devonport Branch and former Mayor of Devonport. Mary gave members some helpful advice on the best way to write letters to politicians and the press.

Members have been urged to use this information to write letters to politicians and ask friends to do likewise, to persuade the state and federal censorship ministers not to agree to the video game industry’s move to lift the ban on R18+ computer games. If that were to occur, the type of computer games that would be introduced would contain events of extreme violence and gratuitous interactive sex. As Catholics, we should be ever vigilant and active in defeating these objectives.

Recently, a branch of the League in southern Tasmania has become involved with the Sacred Heart Primary School in Geeveston through a desire to support a children’s orphanage in Cambodia. The seeds of this venture were sown by one of the former teachers at the school who visited Cambodia and nearby countries on a holiday trip. So overcome was he at the plight of the street children, many of the young girls being forced into

prostitution, that on his return, his enthusiasm to help them inspired two parents to become involved. That led to the whole school, with the strong support of the Principal, taking up the challenge. Subsequently two mothers, Fiona and Trish, and their daughters Felicity and Sophie, travelled to Cambodia and their lives were changed forever.



Geeveston's Sacred Heart Primary School children and visitors

They met Tara Winkler, whose story about living and working in Cambodia was screened on the ABC’s “Australian Story”. Tara, a 25-year-old from Sydney has devoted her life to caring for as many Cambodian children as she can in an orphanage. With Fiona and Trish, she has established the Cambodian Children’s Trust, which raises money to improve the lives of these children.

Some months ago, the Principal Sacred Heart, accompanied by Fiona and Trish, paid a visit to Hobart and told League members about the school’s involvement in this project. That established a link between the two groups and in early May the Principal arranged for the school bus to take a group of Josephite Sisters (whose Order first established the school) and CWL members to visit the school, where we saw the building works that are underway. The Sisters were thrilled to learn that the new building will be known as the Josephite Learning Centre. The children and staff welcomed us and supplied a lovely morning tea.

Later we were taken to the huge craft shop called Juey Bazaar. The word “Juey” means “help” in the Cambodian language. The bazaar is inside the Southern Design Centre, where we also had a lovely home-style lunch in the adjoining restaurant. Money raised in Juey Bazaar is sent to the Cambodian Children’s Trust to keep the orphanage afloat. The orphanage currently houses 33 children, making it overcrowded. We had a wonderful day and the joy was shared by all. We look forward to further meetings both in Hobart and Geeveston.

When we hear of the plight of the children in

Cambodia we realise how fortunate we are to live in Australia; to have enough food to eat, fresh water and beds to sleep in!

For further information on The Cambodian Children's Trust go to <http://www.cambodianchildrenstrust.org/>

Lillian Deane
President - Tasmania

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Here in the West, 2010 continues to be a year of challenges and new perspectives.

Our new State Executive was ratified by the State Council in February and, under the leadership of Bunbury Diocesan President, Jeanine Dowse, as Acting State President for the year, has "hit the ground running". Membership figures are pleasing with several branches reporting new members and an excellent level of activity and interest.

This was particularly evident in the Archdiocese of Perth at our early celebration of WUCWO Day on 22 April and in the Bunbury Diocesan AGM at Mount Barker on 1 May. On both occasions, we were blessed and privileged to have Brenda Finlayson as our guest speaker and this rare opportunity to hear firsthand about the work of WUCWO was greatly appreciated.

The WUCWO celebration on 22 April involved both a Mass in the Infant Jesus Church at Morley, celebrated by Archdiocesan chaplain Fr Roy Pereira, at which we used the prayers sent to us from WUCWO as a post communion reflection, and a shared lunch at which Brenda addressed us. We were delighted with the attendance, which included guests as well as members. Grateful thanks to our large and enthusiastic branch at Morley for their wonderful hospitality.

The Bunbury Diocesan AGM was also a resounding success and exceptionally well attended, stretching the accommodation in Mt Barker to its limit. Attendees stayed not only at the local caravan park (grateful that the weather in early May was still mild) but also at the very innovative Nomads guest house, whose Mongolian theme included some accommodation in "yurts". Again the hospitality of the host branch made for a wonderful weekend of fellowship.

Geraldton, our northerly outpost, also makes hospitality their special concern, with their involvement in Harmony Day celebrations in March

and in the exhibition sponsored by the Office for the Participation of Women in April.

We continue to be challenged by our responsibility to be stewards of CWLWA property, specifically the building that has been our State Headquarters since 1972. Unfortunately, our prospective buyers for the house have now withdrawn from the sale and in consequence we have had to shelve our building plans. However, the very positive outcome from the many months of work is that with the completion of the subdivision of the site, we are now able to offer for sale a vacant building lot as well as the house itself. We are very hopeful of a speedy resolution in this long running saga!

Margaret Ker
Secretary - Western Australia

QUEENSLAND

Hi to everyone from Queensland!

At present Queensland is in the process of organising the State Conference which is to be held in St George from 15-17 September. As there are only four branches in Toowoomba, there is much work to be done by their few members. Recently three ladies came from Roma and met with our State Chaplain and myself at the presbytery in Dalby to discuss progress. Due to the vast distance of some of our branches, it is difficult to get together for meetings, so we met half way which seems to be the best option.

On 9 March, Maryborough Branch celebrated 60 years as a branch and a luncheon was held at the Glanville Sporting Club to mark the occasion. In attendance were Father Harry Bliss who was Parish Priest from 1989 to 2002, Father Anthony Mellor Parish Priest from 2002-2005 and Father Paul Kelly who is the present parish priest and has been in Maryborough since 2002. Father Bill McCarthy, State and Archdiocesan Chaplain, also attended.

Catholic Women's League members from Childers Branch, Hervey Bay Branch and branches from Brisbane were also in attendance as well as past and present members of Maryborough which has a membership of 61. The special anniversary cake was cut by Mary Conaty, Joan Massingham and Denise Elmer who are daughters of three of the original members of the branch.

The day was most enjoyable and the story of the Maryborough Branch was prepared and read by Mrs Carmel Percival a long time member of the branch. Congratulations to Carmel for a lovely story.

More recently, I visited the country branches of the Brisbane Archdiocese and had the pleasure of presenting two members of the Mundubbera branch with life membership. These ladies have been involved with Mundubbera branch for many years and have held positions at branch level during most of those years.

Townsville will be celebrating the Feast of Mary Help of Christians with Mass and this will be followed by a luncheon and cent auction on Friday 28 May.

Joan Armstrong
State President - Queensland

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Tyranny and Delights of Distance: It was a great pleasure to attend several of the Vicariate meetings of the CWL in the Port Pirie Diocese, held during the week of 3-7 May. The host branches of Hawker, Port Pirie and Peterborough provided welcoming hospitality and delicious lunches. The Riverland dinner held at the Bella Lavender Estate in Berri was a most enjoyable evening. The branch reports at each meeting certainly highlighted the dedication and caring nature of our CWL members. Well done Port Pirie Diocese members.



Fr Paul Burke helping in the kitchen at the Hawker CWL meeting

Volunteers Grant: In December last year, we received a Volunteers Grant from the Federal Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. This grant is being used to visit branches in Regional areas for workshops on our financial accountability and reporting for Catholic Women's League.

Visiting towns throughout the State has also been very interesting in terms of the history of the areas as seen in the churches, presbyteries and convents which were often quite grand buildings and indicate very vibrant communities.

On Monday 10 May, the south-east Regional Meeting (Adelaide Archdiocese) was held in

Bordertown. This region is made up of the towns of Bordertown, Keith, Kingston SE, Naracoorte and Mount Gambier.

Once again the reports given on the activities of these country branches was very impressive, especially given the tough economic times still being experienced by many in these areas. The hospitality shown was outstanding.

Coming Events in South Australia: The Bi-ennial State Conference for CWL South Australia will be held in June, commencing with dinner at the Buckingham Arms Hotel on Sunday night 6 June, with guest speaker, Mrs Trish Hicks, on: 'Fashion, Football, Family and Faith'.

On Monday 7 June, we will gather at the Sophia Centre, located at Cabra Dominican College, Cross Road, Cumberland Park. Mass will be celebrated at 10am.

Pauline Victory
State President - South Australia

VICTORIA & WAGGA WAGGA

Over the past 18 months, the League in Victoria and Wagga Wagga has been liaising with the Society of Jesus Mary and Joseph (JMJ) concerning the possible cause of Dr Mary Glowrey, Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart. At the request of Sr. Theresia Supriyati, the Mother Superior General of the JMJs, Sr Regina Sinnappan and Sr Vijaya Udumala came to Melbourne in mid-March to discuss this possible cause for sainthood.

Sr Regina and Sr Vijaya stayed at Mary Glowrey House for three days and had the opportunity to meet members of the League as well go through the Glowrey papers. They brought from India, copies of precious documents about Mary Glowrey as well as copies of images not previously seen in Australia. As well as further strengthening the bonds between the JMJs and the League, the visit by Sr Regina and Sr Vijaya helped those League members present to gain a better understanding of the JMJs ongoing vital mission work in India, Ghana, South Africa and Indonesia.

The Society of JMJ is now leading the promotion of the possible cause of Dr Mary Glowrey. The prayer for cause has been translated into several languages and is being distributed throughout India and other countries by the JMJs. Sr. Sundari Singareddy, the JMJ Provincial Superior of Bangalore, met recently with the Archbishop of Bangalore, the Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, who is the Bishop competent

to instruct the cause of canonisation of Dr Mary Glowrey. The Society of JMJ has asked for our prayers for the cause of Dr Mary Glowrey.

Diocesan conferences held over the past few months have been wonderful forums to keep our members informed about the latest issues, particularly in an election year. Many members will be attending our Annual Conference in Colac. A visit to nearby Birregurra, the birthplace of Sr Dr Mary Glowrey, has also been organised.

Our newest Branch, Narre Warren, held a reflection day, *Women in the World*, on the 15 May. Speakers included Dr Orla Morrissy from the Alfred Hospital and Sr Roseanne Murphy from St Mary's House of Welcome in Fitzroy. St Mary's assists people with drug and alcohol addiction as well as people with mental illness. Melissa Saunders from the Young Vinnies spoke about her experiences of running a soup van with nine other young people. While Susan Grout from Caritas spoke about her work and the people who inspired her such as St Therese of Lisieux, St Therese of Avila and Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Robyn Fahy



Donations can be sent by Direct Debit to: Missionaries of God's Love Sisters, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, BSB: 062 913, Account No: 10742643. Cheques or money orders can be mailed to the: MGL Sisters Convent Appeal, 14 Elischer St, Dunlop ACT 2615.

If you would like more information about the MGL Convent Appeal or would like to receive a free newsletter from the MGL Sisters, please contact Sr Patti Jo Crockett at pattijo@mgl sisters.org or on (02) 6258 0319. If you would like more information about the charism and work of the MGL brothers and sisters, please go to their website at www.mglvocation.org.

HELP NEEDED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MGL CONVENT APPEAL

The Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters are a new group of consecrated women founded in Australia. With their numbers steadily growing, the MGLs urgently need a permanent home to house their novitiate, a place to train young women consecrated to God for the spreading of the Gospel. They are searching for a suitable convent/home to buy and need to raise at least \$600,000.

The MGL Sisters live primarily by God's providence. They need your help to raise funds for their Convent Appeal so that their charism of reaching out to bring God's love to the young, the marginalised and the unchurched will flourish.

The MGL Sisters have been a quiet and powerful witness both in Canberra and far beyond. Much of what they do is hidden, and much of it is hard. But they are one of those newer communities that show how new life can stir unexpectedly in the Church. They are a sign of fresh hope. In recent times, they have struggled to find accommodation which is adequate even by their own standards of evangelical poverty. I commend to you their appeal for the funds they will need to purchase a convent.

*Archbishop Mark Coleridge
Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn*

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