



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

**Grouard-McLennan  
Diocesan Newsletter**  
(edited for the web)  
**Newsletter #2 – January 2010**



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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 20, 2010 Spiritual workshop in Bezanson  
April 24, 2010 Diocesan Convention in Sexmith  
April 26, 2010 CWL National Day of Prayer  
theme: *Women of Peace and Hope*  
May 28-29, 2010 Provincial Convention in Fairview  
Date TBA Fall Education Workshop in Grimshaw

**CWL Diocesan President's Letter to Members**  
January 2010

1. As we focus on the Year of the Priests we have had many exciting and successful stories across the diocese. Many councils have taken the time to get to know their Priests on a personal level to find out about family, their dreams, their ideas for CWL. It has been most exciting. Grimshaw council has named it: Your Time to Shine! In McLennan council, members are taking turns writing to their priest and Archbishop Pettipas each month as faith partners. It is a letter of affirmation for their work. A member from Fairview has recommended to us the book: *Dear Father* written by Catherine D'Heuck Doherty.
2. As a follow up to our work within councils, we are holding our Spiritual Workshop on February 20th, 2010 on the subject of affirming Priests, and the speaker is Father Raymond Guimond who is the brother of our dearly beloved former Bishop Arthé Guimond. Father Guimond is a modern day prophet and will inspire us greatly.
3. Many councils have been focusing on euthanasia and life issues and were happy to see Bill C-384 die a sudden death due to parliament being prorogued.

4. Planning for the Provincial Convention the last weekend in May 2010 has gone very well so far, and many councils and individuals have stepped up to offer help. It is a wonderful effort and we greatly thank Dorothy C., Past Diocesan President, who is spearheading this effort. She has a wonderful way of bringing people together.

5. Members had a lot of fun in October at the educational workshop in High Prairie with Provincial President Fran L. and their sister members. High Prairie has been making many moves to be a very modern day council and they have restructured their CWL so that at least every second meeting, there is no business but an interesting guest speaker. Recently, for example, they invited their MLA, Pearl Calahasen, to speak to them about health care. They are inviting members of the other churches to join them. A small group of women there are very dynamic and they welcomed us in a wonderful fashion to their community for the Fall Workshop.

6. Many councils are already planning for April 26th when we celebrate CWL's patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel, this year with the theme of: Women of Peace and Hope. Many councils are already choosing a Sunday a month and doing the readings and other ministries and wearing their CWL scarves and greeting people to tell them about the CWL.

7. A big thank you to Donna P. who is writing in the Diocesan newsletter some news from 3 or 4 councils each time and she is trying to give ideas of what is happening across the diocese. I am sure she will get all the councils in eventually, due to her dedication. She has great ideas and her efforts are very much appreciated.

8. A last piece of business. It is again election year as I offered to help for one year. So open your hearts to see if you could take an office and watch for the official letters coming your way once again to ask for help!

Blessings to you all this 2010!

*Lucille P.*

**Reminders**

1. Send in your updated executive roster to Glenda B., CWL Diocesan Treasurer.
2. Send in your membership to National Office before February 23, 2010.

*... please do so immediately ...*

## Executive Profiles

... edited out for web version ...

Lynne O. - Spiritual Development

Denise K. - Community Life

... see print version for biographical notes ...

music ministry, in fundraising and other activities. We are very active in the community as well. So we are still working for God and Canada.

-Sandra K., President

## News from around the diocese

### *St. Cecilia, Berwyn*

The past few months we have been meeting in the Games Room at the local Seniors' Lodge. Some of the ladies there do not have transportation or have other mobility issues. Permission was granted for the CWL to meet in the Lodge. Some Lodge members have been joining us for the recitation of the rosary and then staying for the entire meeting. Our membership may indeed grow!

Our focus for the next few months will be to continue to assist in whatever we can for the upcoming Provincial Convention in Fairview. Members plan on attending the upcoming Diocesan Spiritual Workshop and Convention.

-Irene W., President

### *St. Joseph, Grande Prairie*

We are aware that many are not so fortunate as us and consequently made special donations to Bernadette T's mission to Ethiopia with the C.O.R.E. project. We also donated to the Youth Program in Grande Prairie at Sunrise House; the Community Village and our own Walk in Ministry at St. Joseph Church. In October, we served 440 teachers lunch for their annual retreat. A group attended the Fall Workshop in High Prairie. In November, we held our Christmas Bazaar, Bake Sale and Tea which was a successful fundraiser. We also held a Fall CWL Raffle, the main prize being a beautiful king-size quilt. We had 13 new members for 2009 and we invited them to our Christmas Potluck Party which we enjoy with the Knights of Columbus. Now we are planning a New Year with a New Executive which should be exciting.

-Jeannette C., President

### *Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hines Creek*

Our Council has decided to disband as we have only two members and have been quite inactive. These members have chosen to transfer to Fairview council. We continue to be active in our church as readers,

## Message from Lynne O., Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairperson

Income Tax time is coming ... January-April  
**Tax Time – AN ABORTION PROTEST – Personal Declaration**

File this, or a similar statement, along with your income tax return!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

Canada Revenue Agency  
Government of Canada

I wish to protest the use of my tax money to support, in my province and at the federal level, the legalized killing known as abortion. I wish to state that, despite my strong protest, I am unwillingly forced to participate through my taxes in the taking of innocent human life.

I would like this statement to be permanently filed with my tax records to show that this involvement is not voluntary and is against the dictates of my conscience.

Signature:

Social Insurance Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DIOCESAN SPRING SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP

*Date:* February 20, 2010

*Cost:* \$20.00 includes lunch

*Place:* Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Bezanson

*Theme:* Women of Peace and Hope

*Guest speaker:* Father Raymond Guimond

Agenda:

9:00-9:45 am Registration

10:00 Opening

10:45 Guest Speaker-Father R. Guimond speaking on the

year of the priest and how we are faith partners bringing peace and hope to all.

1:00 pm speaker continues

2:15 pm Mass

3:00 Provincial convention planning meeting

## A Prayer for Haiti

*A prayer to share and use at your meetings from  
Spiritual Development Committee Chairperson Lynne O.*

Lord, I just want to say *THANK YOU*,  
because this morning I woke up and knew where my  
children were.  
Because this morning my home was still standing,  
because this morning I am not crying  
because my husband, my child, my brother or sister  
needs to be pulled out from underneath a pile of  
concrete,  
because this morning I was able to drink a glass of water,  
because this morning I was able to turn on the light,  
because this morning I was able to take a shower,  
because this morning I was not planning a funeral,  
but most of all I thank you this morning because I still  
have life and a voice to cry out for the people of Haiti.

*Lord I cry out to you, the one who makes the impossible,  
possible,  
the one who turns darkness into light,*

I cry out that you give those mothers strength,  
that you give them peace that surpasses all  
understanding,  
that you may open the streets so that help can come,  
that you may provide doctors, nurses, food, water, and  
all that they need in a blink of an eye.  
For all those who have lost family members,  
give them *peace*; give them *hope*;  
give them courage to continue to go on!

Protect the children and shield them with your power.

I pray all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

-Author Unknown

## Diocesan CWL History Books

There are four Diocesan CWL History Books remaining. If you or your council would like a copy, contact Donna via the Grouard-McLennan e-mail <cwlgrmcl[at]grmcl.cwl.ab.ca>.

## Diocesan Fund Raiser for hosting the Provincial Convention 2010

Metal water bottles are moving quite well. Thank you to all who are helping to sell them. There are more available. If you could use or sell a few, contact Donna via the Grouard-McLennan e-mail <cwlgrmcl[at]grmcl.cwl.ab.ca>. Some ideas are to use them as thank-you gifts for speakers, prizes at your CWL meetings, or as a birthday gift for your CWL sisters.

## Pennies for Burundi

This fund raiser for the poor and needy in Burundi is ongoing and ongoing well! The provincial treasury is this month forwarding \$9,000.00 to Sister Marie Goretti in Burundi. This last amount has been donated by CWL pennies from around the province since February 2009.

In communication with Sister Marie Goretti N. via e-mail and in French, we have discovered that the financial assistance that we send her is used for more than the children in one specific orphanage. The money is transferred to the department of education, where she works, and is used for children's education and medical needs in the district. The sisters help with primary to secondary education fees, uniforms and materials. They have also paid hospital fees for a 15 year old orphan girl and surgical fees for the mother of a fatherless girl. So we are now aware that the fees are for more than a few children in one orphanage.

*-from Donna P., Provincial Past President*

## Diocesan Executive

*... contact info edited out for web version ...*

*President - Lucille P.*

*Acting Recording Secretary - Glenda B.*

*Treasurer - Glenda B.*

*Past-President/Archives - Dorothy C.*

*Christian Family Life - Irene B.*

*Communications - Donna P.*

*Community Life - Denise K.*

*Spiritual Development - Lynne O.*