



# *Living the faith of our mothers*

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3, SEPTEMBER 2006

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## The Family Issue

### 5th WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

### VALENCIA 2006



Pauline Victory (Australia) en ingles

*We come from Australia to tell you, Holy Father, that the families of the vast Oceania are with You in raising testimony to the world of the Christian values of the family.*

Bernard Victory (Australia) en ingles

*Filled with joy, we ask from Your Holiness a very special blessing for the youths that are preparing themselves for marriage, so that they may experience the beauty of founding a family called to be a community of life and love.*



## President's Report



Catholic Women's League Australia is celebrating Family in this Newsletter and we extend congratulations to Pauline and Bernie Victory, Australian representatives at the World Meeting of Families 2006, and special thanks for their reporting within.

As well as our close nuclear and extended family, we belong also to family-like groups such as Catholic Women's League, part of which, CWLA's National Council, met 29 –31 August at St Paul's Monastery, Glen Osmond, SA.

Inspiring Masses celebrated by National Chaplain Fr Maurice Shinnick developed the 'Living the Faith of Our Mothers' theme: Motherhood - Strength and Tensions, The Blessing of Sharing Faith, and the Vocation to make a difference in Church and Society.

Jo Grainger from Sydney joined us for Dinner and spoke with conviction, of World Day of Youth 2008 when Pope Benedict XVI will visit Sydney. She left us with copies of the WYDO8 DVD together with Prayer Cards quoting the theme chosen by the Holy Father: "You will receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come and you will be witnesses." Acts 1:8 and " Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians pray for us."

Wednesday was an intensive day of Business and Reports which record the depth and wide ranging work of Catholic Women's League members throughout Australia and Overseas and I thank you all.

On behalf of members I congratulate and commend Madge Fahy NIS who has received the Phyllis Schafley Award (Eagle Forum, USA ) for her pro-family, pro-life work at the Commission on Status of Women Sessions at the United Nations.

Motions and Recommendations passed:

- to support alternate routes for heavy vehicles in country regional centres where applicable;
- urge Amnesty International Australia not to change its present neutral stance to a pro-abortion stance;
- seek information on credibility of reports regarding the "harvesting of organs" in China;
- lobby Federal Government to provide more appropriate places for younger persons with major Disabilities; and
- CWLA to launch a National Project: "Mothers and Daughters in Action 2007" to raise funds to support MaterCare International.

Guest Speaker Dr Elvis Seman spoke to us on MaterCare in particular its hospitals and work to repair Obstetric Fistula. Its primary purpose is the prevention of Childbirth injuries and death and it works with Pope John Paul II's 'encyclical on life at its heart'.

*Life* was central to the Mid-Term deliberations and a letter of protest was signed and sent to Federal and SA State MP's regarding grave misuse of Parliamentary Privilege in a Parliamentary speech providing information about suicide.

An evening "Speakers Forum and Meet the Speakers" session was enjoyed with Wine and Cheese. We welcomed these speakers:

- ◆ Geraldine Hawkes - Chair Commission for Participation of Women in Catholic Church;
- ◆ Madge Fahy - CWLA NIS and CSW participant;
- ◆ Brenda Finlayson - WUCWO Vice President General and Board Member Australia;
- ◆ Dr Prue McEvoy - SA Catholic Church Child Protection Council;
- ◆ Sr Margaret Honner IBVM - ' Finding Life for Families' suffering addiction;
- ◆ Melanie Gohl - Director CWL of SA Inc.'s Childcare Centre;
- ◆ Jan Ruff O'Herne - distinguished for her work for peace and forgiveness, among many honours Dame Commander of the Order of Saint Sylvester, who kindly graced our Peace Poster for the WUCWO Assembly and spoke of her experiences. Jan was presented with flowers before all mingled.

It seemed such a time as mentioned in the Intercessions at Mass to "rejoice wherever life, love and faith is present".

**Mary Schultz**  
National President CWLA Inc.

## Editorial Panel

### Editorial Team

Mary Schultz, Pat Madigan, Marie Lally, Maureen Clark, Helen Rodriguez, Pauline Victory, Aileen Solowiej

Contributions for the National Newsletter Issue 4, 2006 close on **27.11.06**.

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## Portfolio Reports

### Bioethics

#### Bioethics and Being Catholic Women Today

How difficult is it to be a member of CWLA and to be Catholic today? I asked these questions in my report for the mid term National Meeting. We have many changes to some of our previously held ideas. Advances in medicine mean that we can live longer; we know that our lifestyle can impinge greatly on our health; there seems to be a medication for just about everything; there are more options for our health care and we can choose not to have our life prolonged by 'extraordinary' means. (Providing we let our families know about our choices!)

**Abortion continues to be an area of great concern.** Some of us find that there is an overlap between what the health care system can provide, what research can now discover and the moral stance of the Catholic Church. Examples include the issues of contraception and abortion options. This is one area where it may be difficult to marry our Church's moral teaching and our emotional concerns for some women who have complex reproductive choices to make?

The 'tragic situations' of rape and incest, a young teenage pregnant mother, or a deformed or handicapped child" rightly cause an emotive response in us because we are a compassionate and caring group of women – and this is to be expected. Bishop Anthony Fisher recently gave a talk to some young people in Sydney in which he stated, "For Catholics, passion for justice, peace, life and love can only be complementaries: for there is only one God we serve, one humanity to whom we all belong, one truth about how we are best to belong and serve". The Second Vatican Council asserted, "Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes" (Gaudium et Spes, no. 51).

**The dignity of human life** from conception has been challenged in the past and is currently under attack again as the recommendations of the Lockhart Review Committee regarding the cloning of human embryos specifi-

cally for research purposes are being revisited. Many of the submissions to the original enquiry were against the use of embryonic stem cells because their use involved the destruction of human embryos. The Lockhart committee did not acknowledge the moral status of the human embryo in the first 14 days of life contrary to the Catholic Church. The Prime Minister has announced a 'conscience vote in Federal Parliament on relaxing the ban on therapeutic cloning. Embryonic stem cell research in Australia is currently restricted to the use of spare IVF embryos.

Using adult stem cells or cells from cord blood for research doesn't raise the same ethical issues associated with embryonic stem cell research. Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott announced a four-year funding package towards establishing a National Adult Stem Cell Research Centre earlier in May. Luff and Vargo have noted that the evidence in favor of adult stem cell therapy continues to grow within scientific literature. They also note that despite all the hype surrounding embryonic stem cell research, "there has yet to be a single peer-reviewed article that examines actual benefits in the use of these cells in humans. Compare that to a long list of published studies that demonstrate the successful use of adult stem cells in human patients". One of the concerns not often expressed is the 'use' of women to provide the necessary ova. The possibility of 'abuse' of women's reproductive health is troubling.

During the NSW State Conference in Sydney, we received the good news that The ***Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005*** that was referred by Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja was decisively rejected by a majority of the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee.

Please remain aware of what is happening when there are attacks on the dignity of the human person and be ready to make your thoughts and feelings known to those that make the decisions.

Regards and God bless,

**Margo Nancarrow**  
National Bioethics Convenor

## The Family Issue

### Valencia, Spain – 5th World Meeting of Families Theme : The Transmission of Faith in the Family

There was excitement in the air as the Australian contingent for the 5th World Meeting of Families arrived in the Spanish city of Valencia on Monday July 3rd. And it wasn't just about our arrival. Papal flags and banners proclaiming "Viva el Papa" fluttered from thousands of windows lining the route which the Holy Father was to take upon his arrival on Saturday morning to conclude the meeting and to celebrate Mass.

The excitement took me by surprise because up till now my focus had been on getting through the long plane trip from Australia to Madrid, followed by the bus trip to Valencia which took more time than expected due to a train crash on the Valencia Metro on Monday afternoon.

Our group of 50 pilgrims, lead by Bishop Eugene Hurley and Ron & Mavis Pirola, and ranging in age from 6 years to 83 years – was very tired but delighted to finally reach the Hotel which was to be 'home' for the next 7 days and nights. It was a great shock to all of us the next day when one of our group slipped on a plastic bag in the street, breaking both her wrists and having surgery that night. She and her husband made the decision to stay with the pilgrimage and even attended the last day of the Meeting.



The function centre 'Feria Valencia' is an enormous facility. Plenty of space surrounded the 9,000 seats which catered for those attending the Meeting. In atypical fashion for a Catholic meeting, the front seats were most sought af-

ter and filled first. It helped that we had the very athletic young people named McCaughan in our group. The family of 12 from Sydney carried the Australian flag and staked out our area each morning. They were also very popular with the Valencian Media – a family with 10 children coming from the other side of the world was a truly amazing effort. And Cardinal Pell was justifiably proud of them!



The 4 days of the Meeting had everything: some great speakers; frustrating technology which intermittently allowed translation from Spanish to English; poor time management of the timetable; and an amazing area and range of activities for those children lucky enough to have their parents attend the Meeting.

**Professor Michael Waldstein** from Austria presented one of the best talks for the week. He spoke beautifully about **the importance of children for the hearts of fathers**, and **the importance of fathers for the hearts of children**.



And I quote from Professor Waldstein :

*"Children are important for the hearts of their fathers, because children are excellent teachers of their fathers. Children have the ability to form and to free the hearts of their fathers. They have very little interest in the goals of the civilization of things, but they are amazing experts in the science and practice of love. This expertise seems to be part of their nature from birth and it rises up powerfully already in the first few months of their lives. They have great sensitivity for personal relations, for warmth or coldness. At the same time they are transparent and unyielding if something is not right in those relations. They want love and they ask for it. They have love and they give it. They also have what is required to inspire love in the hearts of their fathers."*

*"The hearts of fathers are important for their children. If there is one thing developmental psychology shows, and if there is one thing crime statistics prove, it is the crucial role of the father in the formation of a child's personality."*

*There is a conspicuous and massive sign of the failure of fathers in this area, namely, the teenager. The teenager is not an inevitable natural or God-given phenomenon, but was invented, fashioned, permitted and promoted in the period immediately after World War II by the generation of our parents and grandparents. It is truly amazing how this radically new phenomenon came on the scene with overwhelming success.*

*History shows that cultural and religious continuity between parents and children is the normal condition of human life. Our massive failure in passing on our cultural and religious heritage to our own children is without precedent.*

*There is a proverb that fits what we tend to spend much of our energy on, "Time is money." A more important truth is "Time is life." A father who wants to turn his heart toward his children must in the first place spend much time with them.*

*When fathers truly turn their hearts to their children, this has a deep impact on the father's relationship with his wife. You know the proverb, I am sure. "The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." One could add, it is to love their mother exactly as a mother, as the origin, together with*

*himself, of new life. Being such an origin of new life is a gloriously good thing. It has the power to do what only a great good can do, namely, be a cause of great love."*

### **Grandparents**

At the '**Seniors Congress**' which ran concurrently with the main assembly, the role that grandparents play in the transmission of the faith was strongly endorsed.

*"Grandparents often have a vital role with their grandchildren in the nurturing of faith and love, a role which has new dimensions when both parents work and grandparents stay healthy longer.*

*The grandparents also issued a beautiful communiqué after their conference reasserting their faith in Christ, acknowledging that God's love is more powerful than their sins and re-dedicating themselves to work for marriage and family." (George Cardinal Pell)*



And **Pope Benedict**, in his address at the end of the Meeting reiterated the words of the speakers with the following statement : *"I would now like to say a word to grandparents, who are so important for every family. They can be - and so often are - the guarantors of the affection and tenderness which every human being needs to give and receive. They offer little ones the perspective of time, they are memory and richness of families. In no way should they ever be excluded from the family circle. They are a treasure which the younger generation should not be denied, especially when they bear witness to their faith at the approach of death."*

### **Vigil of Prayer**

On Saturday July 8, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict finally arrived in Valencia. A Vigil of Prayer was held at the Valencia 'City of Arts and Sciences', commencing as the sun set.

*Continued on back page...*

# Pictorial Feature— CWLA Inc. Mid-Term Meeting



Jan Ruff-O'Herne speaks to CWLA Inc.



Left:  
Mary Schultz,  
CWLA National  
President and  
National  
Secretary—  
Maureen Clark



L—R Brenda, Kath, Margaret and  
Anne Marie



L— R Guests Barbara Mathews, Melanie  
Gohl, Dr Prue McEvoy and Sr Margaret  
Honner



L—R Jan, Joy, Kath, Joyce and Betty



Above: Madge Fahy, NIS  
addresses the meeting



L—R Joyce, Eileen, Jacqueline and  
Anne



Dr Elvis Seman from  
MaterCare International  
and CWLA National  
President, Mary Schultz



L— R Madge, Margaret, Noreen,  
Jeanette, Corry

NSW & WA did attend no picture—sorry!

## Around the States

### New South Wales

#### Armidale Diocese

Branches in the Armidale Diocese are Children's Mission Partners and raise money to donate to this worthy charity. They had a beautiful letter from the National Director of C.M.P. Father Bell, telling them about the people of Budaka Uganda, a small area of the work of the Mission, where the people are mostly below the poverty line. Disabled children from such families are seriously lacking in health care, good nutrition, education and rehabilitation. The Budaka Rehabilitation Home cares for these very poor children with disabilities, ranging in age from babies to 16 year olds, suffering from polio, club foot, cerebral palsy, cleft palates and bone infections and offers pre and post-operative care, orthopaedic aids, rehabilitation before and after hospital, and education. One child, Zakayo aged 11, youngest of seven children, suffered from post-polio paralysis, could hardly stand and crawled around on all fours, was brought to the Home. His health improved and following surgery was able to straighten his legs and later had callipers, boots and crutches fitted to increase his mobility. Zakayo is now able to attend school and is in Year 5. It was pleasing for members to hear this story of their money well spent.

They are always very busy in Armidale Diocese with **Warialda** Branch planning CWL Centenary Celebrations with other community organizations and also planning a Pink Ribbon breast cancer fund raising morning.

**Tamworth** Branch still industrially knitting "Wraps With Love".

#### Broken Bay Diocese

Two members from **Epping** Branch represented the diocese at the 124<sup>th</sup> Convention Luncheon of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at the Salvation Army Conference Centre. The President of the Temperance Union welcomed guests and spoke on the theme of "Free will plus God will work together" and guests were also entertained by a Korean Women's Choir with beautiful singing and looking magnificent wearing their lovely colourful national dress. **Manly Vale** branch had had some interesting speakers at their functions including Fr. Paul Glynn, Marist Father who spoke on his book "The Wayward Stream" dealing with reconciliation. Another speaker, a retired member of NRMA, provided in a power-point display, helpful and interesting information for the senior driver.

#### Sydney Archdiocese

On the second Tuesday of each month CWL Sydney hold a Luncheon Club meeting with an interesting Guest Speaker, a nice lunch of sandwiches, slices etc. (and excellent company as well!) for \$8 pp on

8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Polding Centre, Liverpool Street, Sydney. CWLA members are always welcome to attend but bookings are essential Ph.9390-5153. 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. Carmel Duncan Guest Speaker- International Star and Fund Raiser for the Royal Hospital for Women. 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. Pink Day for Breast Cancer -Guest speaker from Breast Cancer Australia - come along and enjoy!!

#### Wollongong Diocese

Mass to celebrate International Day was held in St. Patrick's Church, Berry on 26<sup>th</sup> July and being the Feast of Our Lady's parents, Joachim and Anne, Father Richard Healey spoke of the role grandmothers and mothers have played in handing down the faith and values to future generations. Luncheon was then served in the parish complex, complete with birthday cake to support 100 years of CWL in England and former Diocesan Presidents, Peg McEntee OAM, Mercia Mulligan and Monica Howard and current President, Carmel Maloney shared in cutting the cake. Guest speaker, Mrs. Diana Lyon spoke of her life growing up in South Africa and at the end of her presentation all stood and sang the South African National Anthem, which is the prayer God Bless South Africa. This was followed by a rousing rendition of Advance Australia Fair.

In 1993 a willing band of workers commenced CWL Wollongong's involvement with the project "Wrap With Love" and since that time 2,337 wraps have been sent to the head office in Sydney to be distributed throughout the world, wherever there is a need - 750 are ready to be sent to an orphanage in Russia. In July 118 rugs were parcelled up for transport. One member, Maureen Anderson and her husband faithfully oversee this project, transporting the wraps to Sydney in the family car.

Members in **Helensburgh** CWL, together with other branches, local community groups and parishioners, celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Mass celebrated by Fr. Patrick Vaughan PP and Father Isaac Koi, MSC. Following lunch Father Isaac, an indigenous Papuan, spoke of his experience of working with the homeless and needy in the Hurstville area. With the help of Bishop Cremin and Sr. Pauline Fitzwilliam he established a house in the Hurstville parish to provide accommodation, food and safety for "the broken ones", young men who have suffered the ravages of drug abuse and are unable to provide for themselves. Members were touched by this humble and compassionate man, dressed in jeans and a flannelette shirt, very much in keeping with the people with whom he lives. He spoke of his Mass kit being a stole and his book - everything else he needs can be gathered wherever he happens to be. Some challenging thoughts for members!!

## Around the States

### New South Wales cont.

#### Women – The Heart of the Family in Crisis.

A new and innovative forum took place in Sydney recently, jointly organised by CWL Sydney Archdiocese, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Women's Organization and Catholic Communications Sydney Archdiocese. Guest speakers were Justice Jenny Boland, Family Court of Australia and Fr Michael Szyjan, PhD Clinical Psychologist.

Justice Boland covered the wide range of family issues reflecting our changing society, using solid facts and figures enlivened with her judicial insights and occasional feminine humour. Among the issues mentioned were: "no fault" divorce, pre-marital co-habitation, recent Family Law reforms, the necessity for two-income families and the affects they had on family relationships particularly with children. In her conclusion Justice Boland stressed that despite all the changes, the family was still fundamental in society: "it has not disappeared, but it is changing".

Father Michael, from his pastoral and psychological viewpoint, covered many different issues and spoke on how we learn to be human in the family. Faith is nurtured in it and we gain a sense of time in family history, but change is constant and the major problems today are divorce and juvenile delinquency. Many put personal fulfilment first which can bring instability to the family. The church is challenged by major radical changes but Father ended on a note of hope.

Moya Potts, President of CWL Sydney and Olya Komyjec from St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Women's Association spoke briefly on their like-minded organizations. Marita Winters from Catholic Communications was facilitator and guided the open forum which concluded the afternoon. The organisers were delighted with the positive response and plan to hold further forums each year.



How do you hang your socks? A witty talk given by Dr Ann Villiers at the CWLA-NSW State Conference, see more on [www.cwla.org.au/pages/nsw](http://www.cwla.org.au/pages/nsw)

**Doreen Ford – Communications Officer  
CWLA-NSW Inc.**

### South Australia

#### Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

The Otherway Centre, previously known as 'St Joseph's Church' in Pirie Street, Adelaide, became the Aboriginal Catholic Community's home in 1980. A small community of Aboriginal people gathers each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist, encouraging each other to attend, inviting new people, and providing refreshments and meals at community gatherings. Fr. Tony Pearson is their Chaplain.

Patrons who gather at the Otherway Centre do so because they feel safe, and will not be exposed to intrusive questioning, furthermore they feel that they will be treated fairly in a non-judgmental way by all staff members. Most people who come to the Centre have heard about it through word of mouth.

Over the last few years the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry has been involved with a group of Afghani Refugees. This has involved the giving of support, as well as a strong interfaith experience for both sides, Muslims and Christians praying under the same roof.

The Otherway Centre exists as part of a network of Inner City Services for homeless people, and has more information and knowledge about other support agencies.

*Support of indigenous and other people include:*

- Advice and referral for accommodation and housing issues and writing of support letters and references for housing.
- Referral to other agencies for support such as St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Completing Certificates of Aboriginality for Housing and other Government and educational institutions.
- Provision of counselling (Fr. Tony Pearson) or referral for more professional counselling.
- Referral to appropriate health and mental health services.
- Referral for alcohol and drug related problems or issues.
- Support with school enrolment into Catholic schools.

The Ministry is approved by the Department of Correctional Services as a Community Service Provider which enables many indigenous and non-indigenous people to pay their fines with community work rather than go to prison.

"The Otherway Centre has evolved into an outreach service for prisoners, the homeless and refugees –



it represents the ideal of equality for all, welcoming people no matter their race, religion or circumstance" *Sr Clare Condon, The Advertiser 2005*

Catholic Women's League supports the Otherway Centre with a weekly volunteer, financially, and encourages people to attend their functions.

## Victoria/Wagga Wagga

The Annual General Conference of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc. was held in Shepparton (country Victoria) in late August. Fr Plunkett officially declared the conference open and received a badge for 50 years service with CWL.

Conference highlights:

- The spiritually inspiring Eucharist celebrated at the beginning of each day;
- Fr Tony Hill introducing the first encyclical written by Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est—God Is Love* which has been issued to lay people, available in book and DVD;
- National President Mary Schultz speaking of her time in Arlington at the WUCWO General Assembly and the importance of networking with women from around the world;
- Brenda Finlayson - Vice President General and Editor of *Women's Voice*, WUCWO and her continuing work;
- Tanya Bruty, a young teacher who recently attended a workshop in America called *Teen Star* which urges young people to appreciate and understand there is no such thing as an unwanted pregnancy;
- And plans to celebrate 90 years of dedicated work since the formation of CWL in Melbourne.

**Pat Stanhope**  
Liaison Officer



## Western Australia

**State President**, Karyn Kammann, has initiated a "Prayer for National 2008-2009" in preparation for WA taking on National at that time. Copies were handed to delegates from all states at the recent mid-term National Council meeting in Adelaide and we hope that all member organisations will join us in prayerful support. *Copies of the prayer is included on the back page of this Newsletter.*

Our State Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held at the Redemptorist Retreat House on Friday 27 October – all visiting CWL members are most welcome to join us on this occasion.

**The Archdiocese of Perth** held its AGM on Wednesday 23 August, and as always enjoyed a day of fellowship and friendship at the Catholic Pastoral Centre close to State headquarters. It was a particular pleasure to be joined by State President, Karyn, and Bunbury Diocesan President, Gemma. The theme was *Women as Peacemakers*. The day began with Mass, celebrated in the chapel at the Centre, which was formerly the Convent of our Lady of the Missions and is now home to most of the Archdiocesan agencies. In his homily, our chaplain, Fr Greg Donovan reminded us of how the parable of the labourers in the vineyard warns us against forgetting that the generosity of God is beyond our understanding. After morning tea, Revd Lee Edwards, with whom several of us have worked in Australian Church Women, told us the story of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, started 50 years ago by Indian woman, Shanti Solomon, as a fellowship of prayer for Christian women around the globe. In the business session after lunch Archdiocesan President, Margaret Ker, reported on the growing popularity of Diocesan membership. Although overall membership figures are still static, nearly a quarter of the current membership have joined in the past five years. Branch reports again highlighted the variety of work done in the Archdiocesan branches, often involving a high proportion of non members in projects such as the making of blankets for the wheelchairs which Brother Oilly Pickett sends overseas, or the provision of toiletry bags for women leaving prison or arriving at City hospitals from the NorthWest.

We are now looking forward to our celebration of the World Centenary of Catholic Women's League on 29 October with a Mass and Lunch.

### In the Bunbury Diocese

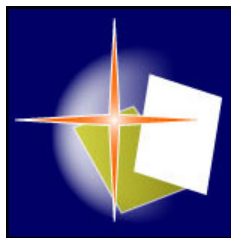
President, Gemma Greaves, reported on the Diocesan Council Meeting held in Boyup Brook in 2005 at which Julie, a young physiotherapist spoke of her work in Ethiopia. Much to Julie's embarrassment at the time a spontaneous whip-around produced a donation for her to assist with her work among some severely disabled children and adults. In a recent email from Julie we read about how the money is being used and the story of a young boy with Cerebral Palsy. His father is illiterate and mother has disappeared. Because of his disability his father didn't know what to do with him so he has just lain him on his back for the past three years and fed him milk, hence the boy could do nothing for himself. With daily therapy he can now sit with support. The chair to assist him to sit is being made at the carpenters as are chairs for others – one a 2 year old orphan girl and another, a 12 year old. These children and many others are being cared by Mother Theresa's sisters. They have many needs for their physical incapacities and Julie has learnt to be very creative in making aids for them with very little funding. The Western Zone members of the Bunbury Diocese are looking at supporting Julie in an ongoing basis.

**Busselton Branch** held a Ploughman's Lunch recently which was attended by 130 people. Following lunch, the Reverend Barrie May, chaplain for the WA State Police Force, entertained guests with his talk on the many aspects of police chaplaincy work - caring for the police themselves, ministering to victims of accidents and other incidents and providing support for all the families involved. The funds raised from the lunch will go towards the annual scholarship which is provided for a student to attend MacKillip Catholic College.

**In the Geraldton Diocese** our State's Northern-most branch was recently visited by State President, Karyn. They are very active on the local scene and support the various diocesan and parish groups in the area. Each year the Justice Group is given funds to assist with the production and distribution of "Peace Pamphlets" which give practical "hints" on activities and prayerful ways to speak of peace in the family and the community. Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day cards are made and given out in all the parishes on these special occasions.

## Tasmania

The Tasmanian Branch Of CWL is preparing for the AGM to be held at the end of September.



Usually our AGM is held every second year with a State Conference, and although this combined function is due to be held this year, the State Executive has decided to concentrate on combining the AGM with open and frank discussion on the future of CWL in Tasmania.

Branches in Tasmania are experiencing difficulties with ageing membership, a lack of new and younger members, and in some cases closure of branches. Several branches find that because of age and ill-health, members are reluctant to hold office, while others who are in a one income household, on a single pension, struggle to pay their membership fees in addition to being asked to make donations towards the expenses of conferences held in costly venues. Yet they are proud to be members of the CWL and enjoy the company, friendship and love of women who share their faith.

So our 2006 Annual General Meeting will be held in very comfortable surroundings of Churches of Christ in Hobart with morning and afternoon teas and lunches being provided by CWL branches in the Southern area. Some members are offering to billet members from other areas.

Our State Premier is holding a reception for members, and a dinner will be held at Parliament House.

The AGM will commence on Friday 29th of September and prior to the Premier's receptions a mass will be held at St Mary's Cathedral. The following day we will continue with our discussion on the future of CWL Tasmania considering ways of building the membership to carry this worthy organisation in to the future.

A great deal of thought and prayer has gone into organising this event and we are happy with the wonderful support offered by the branches throughout the State.

**Kath Venn, OAM JP,  
CWL TAS State President**

## Canberra/Goulburn

### Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

In the months since her election Archdiocesan President Jacqueline Hipwell has travelled extensively throughout the Archdiocese visiting the various far flung branches.

Jacqueline represented CWL at the Requiem Masses of Father Joseph Rheinberger DD, STL, MA, VG and Reverend Monsignor John Hoare MBE, OAM, ED held in St. Christopher's Cathedral and at the Farewell Mass and afternoon Tea for Archbishop Carroll.

The League was represented by President Jacqueline and Vice President Marie Gallagher at the Installation Ceremony of Archbishop Mark Coleridge on the 17th August.

CWL was also represented by President Jacqueline at the Australian Family Association's National Conference 2006 at Collaroy, Sydney on the weekend of 5th - 6th August.

CWL Canberra/Goulburn Delegation attended the Mid Term National Council Meeting in Adelaide 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August. Those attending deemed the meeting friendly and inspiring.

The Central Region Executive conducted a very successful Mid Winter "Pot Luck" luncheon. The proceeds went to "Walk for a Rose" for the National Brain Injury Foundation.

The CWL Canberra/Goulburn is presently reviewing and revising the Archdiocesan Constitution and Rules.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
AUSTRALIA INC.**

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2007  
SEPTEMBER 11, 12, 13, 14...**

**More details will be on our website and  
in future newsletters.**

*Living the faith of our mothers*

## Queensland

Hello Australia...

What a blessing it is to be able to get together on this avenue I hope your days are blessing you mightily. The fever is rising here as we make the last minute touches to our State Conference. Being in Mackay we are going to be able to enjoy the weather and all the blessings of this very pleasant time of year, it will be good to share it with you.

The constancy of membership levels and gathering goes on with someone always coming up with new ideas to effectively fly the banner for such a valuable cause. I delight in giving you the news that our newest Branch in Mt Isa has blessed the delegation from the Townsville Diocese with hospitality and encouragement. It is so wonderful to meet new women who have decided to join us in the objects that we hold so dear. We are seeing new avenues everyday where justice needs to be brought to bear, and the hearts of women have this wonderful ability to strike with effect and make their mark for our loving God. Congratulations Townsville for reaching out yet again and to everyone who gives such great witness and encouragement.

With changes in Executive positions around the State it is exciting to welcome varied ideas and be ready to see the new walk even when we love the ones we are used to. Change always brings stimulation and expectation so let us be ready for it.

A big thank you to the State delegates National Executive and others who shared the National Mid term Council with us, it was such an honour to be present with you and Jan and myself learnt so much. May I say to all members that you would be wise to set your sights on Executive positions that will give you the opportunity to attend these meetings as they are an enormous learning curve as well as blessing, the more that we learn the more we can share with others. Once our State Conferences finish we must set our sights on the next National Conference in Adelaide in 2007. No matter what you do please remember to pray for each State every day It is a good place to start reaching out to each other. Thank you ladies for your support and prayers see you next time.

Enjoy the blessing that He has for you today from all of us here in the Sunshine State.



**Joy Gray**  
State President QLD

## Portfolio Reports

### Social Issues

#### MOTHERS TO PERSEVERE IN PRAYER

Pope Benedict XVI is very much aware of the many difficulties experienced today in family relationships and how many mothers anguish over their children's mistaken ways. The Pontiff reminds us that St. Monica invites mothers "not to be discouraged, but to persevere in their mission of wives and mothers, maintaining firm confidence in God and perseverance in prayer".

We can be constant in our prayers for all those young people who thirst for happiness, seek it in mistaken ways and get lost in dead ends. Much and all as we love them, we cannot be always with our children let alone protect them from the temptations of life. But the God who created them and who loves them infinitely more than we do is with them always. Worrying achieves nothing, it just makes us feel bad. We can replace worry with prayer and say "Heavenly Father he is your child please take care of him" or her as the case may be. There are many who have nobody to pray for them and rather than criticize we can make it our mission to offer a silent prayer as we recoil from reports of their latest exploits.

Through a toilsome journey and his mother's prayers St. Augustine discovered in Christ the ultimate and full meaning of his life and isn't that what we all desire for our youth?

Life's journey teaches us that Christ alone can satisfy the profound needs of the human heart.

Preparations are already being made for World Youth Day 2008 to be held in Sydney. The Pope will be there and at least five hundred thousand young people from all over the world are expected to attend. Let's talk it up and encourage young people to attend this public demonstration of faith. Most of all let us pray that the young will respond and discover the person of Christ in this celebration. I am confident that lots of helpers are needed - maybe you could offer your services to the organisers.



Each Catholic Archdiocese and Diocese in Australia has a representative for WYD08. For more information please visit: [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org)

**Betty Roberts OAM**  
National Social Issues Convenor

# The Family Issue CWLA Newsletter Issue 3

## PRAYER FOR NATIONAL 2008-2009



*If we follow in His footsteps,  
we will never go astray.  
If we take our problems to Him,  
He will hear us when we pray:*

Lord, you can read everyone's heart. Show us, therefore, which of us/them You have chosen to take over the ministry and apostolate of Charity, Work and Loyalty for Catholic Women's League Western Australia.

Help the women you choose to respond to your call and realise, that it won't be by their might or power, but truly by your spirit that many things will be accomplished in these positions.

Open our hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work you have begun in us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen  
Our Lady Help of Christians. Pray for us



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## Families continued...

My husband Bernie and I were invited to be part of the delegation to welcome the Holy Father, which we did on behalf of the people of the Oceania region. We were very privileged to be part of this ceremony with couples representing Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The photo (below) was taken at the Vigil of Prayer. The German family representing Europe, the Panamanian couple representing the Americas, and the Victory's, representing Oceania are preparing to address the Pope.



At this vigil of prayer, Ron and Mavis Pirola, the Australian representatives on the Pontifical Council for the Family, presented one of the testimonies on family life.

### **Eucharist**

The 5th World Meeting of Families concluded on a very hot Sunday morning with an open air Mass at the 'City of Arts and Sciences'. An estimated 1 million people attended. Our Australian contingent was located in a terrible position, where we couldn't see the altar, but it was wonderful to be there. It was a great experience of the universality of the Church. When Mass finished the Pope left the 'City of Arts and Sciences', waving to the crowds, and 'Viva el Papa, Viva el Papa' ringing out from all sides.

All in all it was a remarkable week. Our Australian group gathered for Dinner and farewells on Sunday night. Monday morning saw the group disperse – some to Australia, others to Germany and Ireland, and half the group going on pilgrimage to Montserrat, Lourdes and much more.

**Pauline Victory - ACBC Delegate to the WMF and CWLA Inc. National Publicity Officer**