



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

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From the National President



I had the great privilege of attending the recent state conferences in Victoria, NSW, Tasmania and Queensland. Guest speakers at each conference provided League members with much to reflect upon. Some significant resolutions were passed and I pray that the desired outcomes are achieved. I continue to be inspired by the dedication and faithfulness of League members seeking to create a more just society through prayer and action.

I was delighted to be part of an inter-generational contingent representing CWLA at the 63rd United Nations Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organisations (DPI/NGOs) Conference held in Melbourne from 30 August to 1 September. Our team included Thora Regan, Anna Krohn, Betty Roberts, Catherine McGrath, Marcia Riordan (Melbourne Archdiocese Life, Marriage and Family Office) and Olivia Meese, a young medical student from The University of Notre Dame. Advancing Global Health: Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), was the theme of the Conference. NGOs such as the League have an invaluable role to play in advancing global health goals, particularly of women and children. An article about our experience at this significant UN Conference is on the following page. I also commend to you, Anna Krohn's article about the concerted pro-euthanasia campaign that has emerged since the Federal election.

Our reports from the Conference will be available on our website along with a copy of the Declaration which was agreed to by the 1,600 participants representing over 350 NGOs, from more than 70 countries. Only five people voted against the Declaration. It was presented to the UN General Assembly during the recent MDG Summit at UN Headquarters in New York.

For those members who have received the latest *Women's Voice* magazine, you may have read the Editorial by Brenda Finlayson about the remarkable Catherine Schaffer, who represented WUCWO at the newly formed United Nations Organisations from 1946. Catherine played a vital leadership role in the campaign to have the principle of representation by NGOs incorporated into the United Nations

Charter. WUCWO was the first international Catholic organisation to receive UN recognition as an NGO. WUCWO was also a force in the creation and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. To this day, faithful Catholic women continue to work at the highest levels of civil society for the 'common good'.

A great account of Catherine Schaeffer's notable contribution to the UN can be found in *Unchartered Territory: The American Catholic Church at the United Nations, 1946-1972* by Joseph S. Rossi SJ. I hope that Catherine's legacy inspires future generations of women to join the League and also use their genius to combat the culture of death.

Heartfelt congratulations to Brenda Finlayson, WUCWO Board Member Australia and WUCWO Vice-President General, who has most deservedly been awarded the Papal Honour of Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in recognition of her service with CWL Victoria & Wagga, CWLA, WUCWO and the community. Brenda will be invested by Bishop Peter Connors at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat, in November.

On behalf of CWLA, I sent an email to the CWL President in New Zealand to let her know that we are praying for those who have suffered as a result of the earthquake in Christchurch, NZ. Many of us will have also watched with horror, the images of the millions of displaced people in Pakistan as a result of devastating floods that covered an area the size of Italy. With the flood waters now receding, diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever and gastroenteritis are rapidly emerging threats. Let us pray that aid quickly reaches those most in need.

Locally, South Australia has been badly affected by wild weather and flooding. While in Victoria, floods have ravaged towns causing untold damage and sadly much of this precious water has flowed out to sea. In this 'land of droughts and flooding rains', we pray that our Governments will have the courage and vision to act to save this precious resource.

With our trip to Jerusalem fast approaching, I ask that you keep those travelling to the WUCWO Centenary Assembly in your prayers. Twenty eight members and three husbands will make this pilgrimage and some will then travel on to Rome for the canonisation of Mary MacKillop. Pictured on the front cover is the entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which we will walk through in just a week. One of the holiest shrines in Christendom, this Church was built over the sites of the Crucifixion of Jesus on Golgotha as well as the Tomb of Jesus. It seems very fitting that this Centenary Assembly is being held in the birthplace of our faith.

Madge Fahy

Youth and Hope at the Recent United Nations Department of Public Information/Non-Government Organisation Conference

Over many years the Catholic Women's League Australia, which has maintained its consultative (Roster) status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, has been a face of the "culture of life" at many complex and sometimes antagonistic debates which take place on the floor of United Nations' Conferences.

Most women in the League will remember the important interventions made by Pope John Paul II and Mary Ann Glendon in the heated debates over "gender politics", reproductive rights in population policy at the Cairo Conference in 1994 and again at Beijing Conference on Women 1995.

These debates continue to this day at every meeting of different United Nations special interest conferences. However it was the positive presence of young people, especially those inspired and open about their faith which impressed the CWLA delegation who attended the important 63rd United Nations Department of Public Information/ Non-Government Organisation (UN DPI/NGO) Conference held in Melbourne from 30 August to 1 September, 2010.

The League's delegation included Catholic women across generations and backgrounds. Participating in plenary and workshop sessions at the Conference for the CWLA were: Madge Fahy (National President), Thora Reagan (National International Secretary), Catherine McGrath (nominee WUCWO Board Member, Australia), Betty Roberts (Social Issues Convenor), Anna Krohn (CWLA Bioethics Convenor and Anima Women's Network), Marcia Riordan (Melbourne Archdiocese Life, Marriage and Family Office) and Olivia Meese (a medical student from The University of Notre Dame).



L-R: Catherine McGrath, Thora Regan, Anna Krohn, Madge Fahy and Marcia Riordan at the 63rd United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Melbourne

It was the first time that Australia had hosted a United Nations event of this size at which 1600 delegates from over 350 non-governmental aid and health organizations were represented. It was only the third time that the UN DPI/NGO Conference has been held outside the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Conference was hosted by the Australian Government, the Victoria Government and Melbourne City Council

The conference theme, *Advancing Global Health*, was given a sense of urgency because the UN is well aware that it must form successful partnerships with NGOs who are the first to attend to the most desperate people afflicted by the recent natural disasters, population displacements and the global economic crisis. It is also the NGOs who stay long after political and factional differences dissolve government funding or the world's attention.

The delegates heard a shocking roll call of death laden statistics: 1 billion people are without access to food; 2.6 billion lack access to improved sanitation; eight out of 10 have no access to safe drinking water; nearly nine million children die before the age of five; and at least 340,000 women die each year of pregnancy-related causes.

During the Conference, the CWLA women shared their research and took inspiration from the life and example of Doctor Mary Glowrey, the founding President of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga and the Catholic Hospital Association of India (CHAI).

Dr Mary Glowrey was one of the first women medical graduates in Australia and dedicated her life to the promotion of maternal and infant health, the provision of basic resources (food, water and sanitation) and the prevention of infectious diseases such as malaria. These same three health issues are central to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the series of internationally agreed social and economic targets which world leaders have pledged to try to attain by 2015.

Thora Regan was impressed by the way in which young people at the Conference, many of them inspired by Christian, Buddhist and Jewish traditions were so willing to share their time and discussions with each other.

Matthew Restall, a leader with the youth organisation RISE, had some interesting observations about his

time at the UN DPI/NGO Conference: "One of the really important elements to the Conference was the Youth Breakfast Program. Each morning, young people from the NGOs met to share ideas and to network. I was at each one of these and it struck me that there was a great deal of common ground amongst us younger people on the urgent need to overcome poverty. These young people did not all agree with my thoughts about sexual integrity and the right to life, but they all were willing to listen with respect to my contributions."

The Joint Youth Statements can be seen as a strong desire to contribute to the promotion of basic human needs such as water, sanitation, nutrition, economic justice, environmental sustainability and stewardship, and basic maternal and infant welfare. Thora noted: *"Their message to us was: do not be afraid to ask young people to step up and help."*

It was also significant that many of the most memorable media stories to emerge from the Conference, arose from the creative leadership, moral courage and blistering hard work of outstanding Christian women: Sister Mary Owens (IBVN) and the Nyambani Village for HIV affected children and their families (Kenya); the Caritas teams in Papua New Guinea and Salesian Mission response to violence against women, especially amongst women whose lives have been disrupted by forced migration.

Marcia Riordan commented: *"I was delighted and surprised to see the diversity of work being done by so many faith-based NGOs evident at the Conference."*

The concluding Declaration stated that some of the Millennium Development Goals, all of which affect the health of populations, have been difficult to achieve without wholesale support from governments and agencies. The Goals *"are significantly off-track for the poorest and least politically powerful people."* Although there were many well funded NGOs agitating for "contraception, abortion and sexual health rights and programs", the final Declaration steered clear of ratifying their claims.

Perhaps the greatest surprise for the CWLA delegates was the tone of the closing session. Madge Fahy commented on the spirit of hope and cooperation captured in the closing statement by Dr Mary Norton, Chair of the 63rd Annual UNDPI / NGO Conference. Dr Norton recited the "Irish Blessing" and declared that the prayer was a vital part of her family's tradition. Although many of the philosophical debates will continue on these important international

events, this was a Conference at which women of faith were both visible and effective.

A link to the Conference Declaration is on the CWLA website in the 'Features' section.

Olivia Meese interviewed by Anna Krohn

What were your impressions of the Conference?

It was very clear to me that some of the NGO-sponsored workshops had definite agendas based on their particular interpretation of human rights. Many groups asserted that sexual and reproductive rights are equivalent to the basic human right to health. For instance, I attended a workshop on *"Incorporating Gender into Health Care."* Someone declared that there are 15 genders, including heterosexual, homosexual, asexual, transsexual and goodness knows what else, and that these should all be recognized equally in society and law!

Wandering around the different displays and stalls I was able to chat with many exhibitors, several of whom acknowledged the presence of two central philosophical cultures at the Conference—one insisting on "sexual and reproductive health rights", a euphemism for the right to abortion, and the other representing the protection and promotion of basic health for *all*, including the unborn child.

I also found it very odd that although Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 is to reduce infant mortality rates, access to abortion has been declared one measure towards achieving MDG 5 (i.e. to reduce maternal mortality rates).



Olivia Meese

Were you able to make a contribution?

I did make a contribution at the end of the workshop mentioned above. I followed the arguments of one of the presenters but I couldn't accept her definitions of gender or the role of religion in the lives of women.

She had made the very broad claim that religious practice was a suppressive and oppressive force against women. She also attacked the Vatican for its role at the Cairo Conference on Population and Development (1994), in which it attempted to prevent the term 'gender' being defined as anything other than the traditional biological description of male and female. She claimed the Vatican was attempting to enforce a patriarchal conspiracy against women with their male God, male priests and male heads of the family unit.

In response, I stood up and declared: "I stand before you as a Catholic woman who has had every opportunity in life. I have completed an arts degree, traveled overseas, and am currently studying medicine. I hold and support all that the Vatican teaches and have never once felt suppressed or oppressed by these teachings. In fact, the only time that I have felt discriminated against has been not on the basis of my 'gender' but on my 'religious identity' as a Catholic".

To my surprise, the audience clapped and I heard murmured agreement. Several women from different faith backgrounds congratulated me for my stance. Another woman tried to tell me I had the wrong interpretation of the way the Church imposes its power. It certainly provoked some debate and made people respond. I hope I deflected the bigoted blow that this woman tried to inflict, and that she will think twice before making similar false claims about the Church in the future. I also hope it showed people that Catholic women are neither push-overs nor pushed-over.

How did your time at Campion College and the University of Notre Dame assist you in this?

While living and studying at Campion, we used to remind ourselves that outside of our "Campion bubble" is a big angry secular culture that we would one day have to deal with and oppose. Knowing this, we applied ourselves to developing the intellectual weaponry necessary for the task. Our study of philosophy particularly honed my reasoning skills. I became much more adept at following an argument, analysing the validity of its claims and identifying flaws in logic, all of which came in handy at the Conference! The atmosphere and culture of Campion, hidden from the ugly secularism of Australian society, allowed me to build confidence in our Faith, confidence enough to declare it in a room full of critics. Being a doctor in training and studying at a respected medical school, like Notre Dame, gave me some credibility given the nature of the Conference.

Has it inspired you as a young medical woman in any way?

Yes. It has renewed my interest in one day becoming involved in health policy development and bioethics. My experience also reminded me of the importance to "know thy enemy". We need to be informed about those who oppose our position in life issues in order to overcome them. The response I received in the workshop also reminded me how as Catholics we need to be more vocal in defending our Faith. It only takes a few words, written or spoken, to remind the world that we exist, that we have the Truth and that we are not going away!

Anna Krohn
Bioethics Convenor

PILGRIMAGE OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI TO THE HOLY LAND

How much the Church in these lands owes to the patient, loving and faithful witness of countless Christian mothers, religious Sisters, teachers, doctors and nurses! How much your society owes to all those women who in different and at times courageous ways have devoted their lives to building peace and fostering love! From the very first pages of the Bible, we see how man and woman, created in the image of God, are meant to complement one another as stewards of God's gifts and partners in communicating his gift of life, both physical and spiritual, to our world. Sadly, this God-given dignity and role of women has not always been sufficiently understood and esteemed. The Church, and society as a whole, has come to realize how urgently we need what the late Pope John Paul II called the "prophetic charism" of women (cf. *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 29) as bearers of love, teachers of mercy and artisans of peace, bringing warmth and humanity to a world that all too often judges the value of a person by the cold criteria of usefulness and profit. By its public witness of respect for women, and its defence of the innate dignity of every human person, the Church in the Holy Land can make an important contribution to the advancement of a culture of true humanity and the building of the civilization of love.

*Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Holy Mass,
International Stadium, Amman,
Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10 May 2009*

BIOETHICS



Billboarding & Mainstreaming Euthanasia: Lessons to Learn?

In a recent promotional campaign with more twists than a riveting police drama, euthanasia doyen Philip Nitschke and his activist group *Exit International* have achieved almost daily media attention.

Nitschke has not yet convinced Australians, still less the Australian Medical Association, that he is a trusted medical authority, but he certainly has a nose for the publicity main game. Nitschke's sound bites and appearances revolve around the simple message that he and his group will be intensifying the message about the legalisation of assisted euthanasia and voluntary euthanasia. It is a fascinating case of self-promotion really: advertising that you will advertise!

One volley of media appearances involve Nitschke's revelation that he has taken inspiration from two fictional advertisements aired on the ABC's satirical forum on the advertising business: *The Gruen Transfer*. The segment (called "the Pitch") commissioned two leading advertising houses to "soft-focus" the mandatory medical termination of the elderly, to sell the unsellable: compulsory, *non*-voluntary euthanasia for all Australian citizens at the age of 80. We thought that Nitschke was an advocate of "voluntary" euthanasia?

So impressed was *Exit International* that within two weeks, it had hired one of the advertising firms and commissioned a short film clip which almost instantaneously made its way to YouTube and then was discussed on myriad blog sites and international news centres. Nitschke also described plans for still-shots from the ads distributed on billboards along the Hume Highway.

Needless to say the subsequent controversy and the banning has given Nitschke even more media space and public sympathy, this time as a victimised

hero of free speech. One article in the Sydney Morning Herald on the campaign was aptly titled: "*No Publicity is Bad Publicity*". All round, it has been a remarkably successful self-generated "public awareness" campaign so far.

However, this move is not an isolated one. While Nitschke has been occupying the national media highwire, other state based euthanasia movements have been working for a D-Day landing of legalisation on voluntary euthanasia and medically assisted suicide. Bills have been planned and introduced in the states of Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia. In the last few days the Greens leader, Bob Brown, has unveiled his plans to revive the legislation in the Territories. In fact it may well be one of the first Bills tackled by our delicately balanced Federal Parliament.

In each state and nationally for many years, the Catholic Women's League has taken an active role in monitoring, researching and submitting an alternative to euthanasia and medically assisted suicide. While many other groups seem to have been worn down by the endless waves of pro-euthanasia activism, the CWL members have continued to contribute to submission writing and public discussion.

Are there any lessons or ideas we can glean from the recent strategies of the extensive euthanasia network? Here perhaps are some brief operational principles for League members to discuss:

- a) **Maintain a Grass-roots Presence:** One of the longest established and well organised pro-euthanasia groups resides in South Australia: SAVES (South Australian Voluntary Euthanasia Society). For many years, SAVES maintained local branches of usually older volunteers in city and regional areas. Its rather folksy newsletter details the work of its volunteers who maintain stalls at local and farmers' markets, displays in local libraries, run "awareness days" and, run information stalls at aged and disability care forums. The CWLA member organisations also have branches throughout urban and regional Australia. It is an ideal base for effective parish pump social awareness.
- b) **Know the Figures & If there is a "Good" Statistic, Stick to It:** Recently, pro-euthanasia groups have deployed figures from a 2009 *Newspoll* telephone survey of just over 1,000 randomly selected Australians. It found that between 80-85% (88% for those females aged 18-25 years) of those surveyed were

in favour of “lethal” intervention by doctors. It was a fairly superficial measure. The poll consisted of a single yet unexplained question, with no cross check-questions to gauge the respondent’s understanding. For example, did those surveyed believe that the legitimate withdrawal of treatment was as “lethal” as an intended death by fatal dose, since in both cases the patient died? Despite the absence of these important moral, which are also legal, distinctions, the “85%” appears in most media releases and euthanasia websites. It is also quoted as “fact” in every other news story. By contrast do those who oppose euthanasia capitalise on the existing statistics from the Netherlands let alone realise their significance? Are we interested to conduct a more thorough-going inquiry about the confusions which beset opinion making about end-of-life decisions? Are we aware of the statistical traps? For instance that while voluntary euthanasia groups claim that there has been a reduction in some categories of euthanasia in Holland, this is because some forms of “induced death” have been via the gradual and non-voluntary (without the patient’s consent) process of morphine induced coma. The Southern Cross Bioethics Institute reports that in the Netherlands over 30 patients a year are terminated in this fashion but that the figure does not appear under the heading “euthanasia”.

- c) **Realise the Power of Empathetic Language and Images:** Images of suffering and disability are much harder to beat than lots of words. However the choice of phrasing and attitude is important too. This fact is not lost on the euthanasia activists. It is hard to beat the appeal of *Exit International's* “Peaceful Pill” campaign—a blackly effective variation of the problem solving “magic bullet.” In South Australia, there is a petition circulating headed: “*I want the choice of a peaceful death*” (well who doesn’t?). *The Age* newspaper featured a touching story of “a bloke from the bush” who was suffering (but not yet dying) from stomach cancer. In a few lines, “this battler” was able to dismiss the position opposing assisted suicide as “all that caper” of a fear generating “church” and “politicians who have never suffered”. Compassion and true palliation has an image and story too—a truly inspiring one.
- d) **Enlist the Profiles of Ordinary & Outstanding Australians:** The success of programs such as the *ABC's Australian Story* and *Andrew Denton's: Elders* as well as shows like *Master Chef*, reminds us of the importance to

Australians of the personal life story and the authentic attraction of “achievers”. The SAVES website includes a scrolling portrait series of “inspiring” supporters of the legalisation for euthanasia. They include doctors, ex-statesmen, philosophers, authors and Order of Australia members. The gallery includes unsurprisingly libertarian advocates such as Leslie Cannold and Marshall Perron, but also more surprising such “ordinary” mid-day TV personalities as Denise Drysdale and a number of Christian ministers of religion. This sort of profiling carries much emotional “authority” for many people. Do we hear of inspiring people who stand for an alternative to medical killing?



- e) **Convert Just a Few Opponents to Your Cause:** The voluntary euthanasia network in Australia is very aware of traditions and philosophies that have until now prevented euthanasia and assisted suicide from becoming legal: the AMA, activists for disability, palliative care activists and Christians. One of the most effective ways to overcome this opposition is to recruit just a few advocates from the other team. Listed on the SAVES website as: *Christians Supporting Choice for Voluntary Euthanasia*; the political lobby group which ran for the South Australian Upper House called *Dignity for Disability* (which advocates for Physical Assisted Suicide and euthanasia choices); and two working groups, one named (heavily) *Doctors for AMA Neutrality on Voluntary Euthanasia*. Have we had in this country such groups as: *Environmentalists Against Medical Death* or *Atheists For Genuine Palliative Care*?
- f) **Be Aware of Cultural and Political Opportunities:** The significant increase in the Green Party’s primary vote in nearly all electorates throughout Australia during the recent Federal election has provided a timely impetus for a confident surge in euthanasia

activism. While the Greens did not highlight their strong platform in favour of the legalisation of euthanasia and PAS during the election campaign, the huge protest vote they received has given them an apparent mandate for their shadow-side policies. This political fact of life will play along the social change brought about by the growing secularisation of Australian society. There are many other issues such as the fragmentation of traditional family support, the lack of support for volunteers and carers, the pressures upon the health dollar which place additional pressures and fears upon those facing ageing, disability and a protracted or uncertain dying process. Dr Margaret Somerville, an eminent author and philosopher who is also the director of Canada's McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, is an imaginative opponent of euthanasia. She explained that in the Netherlands, the elderly and disabled are so uncertain about their care, that they either cross the border to Germany for hospital care or refuse to be hospitalised. Which palliative care organization made a press statement of her interesting insights? "*Pain and suffering is not usually the reason any individual wants euthanasia. It's social isolation and a fear of being a burden on others.*" Have we thought of opportunities for a culture of life alternative? There may be opportunities to encourage the positive growth of "self-help" groups, the young who are concerned about poverty and social equity, the attraction of alternative therapies, the feminist concern for the social vulnerability of older women, the belief in the dignity of suffering and life held by other faith groups and ethnic communities.

- g) Make the News not only Read it:** Although it is clear that many media outlets and personalities are attracted to the supposedly "libertarian" assumptions of the pro-euthanasia lobby, it is not universally the case. Journalists are after all fairly representative of the wider population in both their beliefs and their concerns. The lesson we can learn from *Exit International* and its relatives is that one does not wait to be interviewed by the national and international media. Nor need we limit our media involvement to letters to the editor- which are often vetted in any case. We can create our own news networks too. If we have a compelling story and articulate position (and who can doubt that we do), opinion pieces, interviews, local interest stories (and however old we are) blogspots and other new media have an audience.

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST MEMBER



Jo Grainger is a Registered Nurse with over 20 years of clinical experience. Jo's post graduate qualifications include a Grad Dip in Critical Care and a Master in Bioethics from the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family. Other nursing positions held include management and education at St Vincent's Private Hospital, The Alfred, and Notre Dame University (Sydney Campus).

Jo holds a permanent appointment in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the Australian Catholic University (Victoria) and lectures predominately in the area of ethics and spirituality in health care. In 2009, she commenced her PhD with a key focus being the provision of empathic care to the person with advanced dementia in a residential care facility.

In 2010, Jo was awarded the prestigious Pellegrino Bioethics Fellowship from Georgetown University in Washington DC and the Mary Philippa Brazill Foundation 2011 grant award for education in health care ethics. Jo believes that the opportunities she has been given to be a witness in faith in her professional life is a direct result of the groundwork undertaken by many inspirational Catholic women over the last century, and sees her membership of CWL as following in these women's footsteps for the next generation of Catholic women.

The Holy Spirit continues today to act with power in the Church, and the fruits of the Spirit are abundant in the measure in which we are ready to open up to this power that makes all things new. For this reason, it is important that each of us know the Spirit, establish a relationship with Him, and allow ourselves to be guided by Him.

*Pope Benedict XVI,
Message to the Young People of the World on the
Occasion of the 23rd World Youth Day, 2008*

Stopping The Violence...and the Traffic in Alice Springs

Article and Images by Bob Gosford, *The Northern Myth*

(<http://blogs.crikey.com.au/northern/2010/09/03/stopping-the-violence-and-the-traffic-in-alice-springs/>)

Warning: This article may contain the names and images of Aboriginal and Islander people now deceased.

Earlier today, I witnessed the most powerful and (hopefully) effective public event I've yet seen in my short stay in Alice Springs.

Alice Springs is a town where men, particularly Aboriginal men, rarely make mass public statements that address the issue of greatest concern to most people living in Alice Springs - domestic and inter-personal violence. But thanks to the concerted efforts of a determined group of men that is changing.

The "Stop The Violence" march held today saw several hundred men and boys march through the centre of Alice Springs to join a large group of women and supporters to rally at the Alice Springs Town Council lawns. The march stopped the traffic in town and hopefully lifted just a little of the malaise and downheartedness that often seems to be the dominant sentiment in this troubled town.

Domestic and inter-personal violence pervades too many areas of life in the Northern Territory and the last week of the recent Federal election campaign for the two NT lower house seats was marred by an undignified spat centered on allegations of domestic violence against candidates from both sides of NT politics.



John Liddle rallies the troops on The March

And in a horrible coincidence just yesterday the NT Supreme Court in Alice Springs sentenced Joachim Golder to life imprisonment for beating his wife to death in an attack that Justice Judith Kelly described in her sentencing remarks as:

"...a cowardly and vicious attack on a defenceless woman who should have been able to look to you

for protection. You have offered no explanation at all for attacking her, other than that your counsel says you were very drunk at the time. You have a lengthy criminal history, including a conviction for manslaughter in March 1993 for the unlawful killing of your brother and a conviction for unlawfully causing grievous harm in 2005, when you stabbed your then de facto wife. Both of these crimes were committed when you were intoxicated."



Daren Hayes from Santa Teresa community at the front of the march

And just last night, NT Police had been called out to a fracas at a local town camp:

Police were called to Walpiri Camp just before midnight following reports of a disturbance. When they arrived they found a group of up to 30 people involved in an argument, and a 21-year-old man with a stab wound to his leg. The man was taken to Alice Springs Hospital where police discovered another victim of the disturbance who had already been taken to hospital.

One of the key initiatives in the apparent reduction of the overall rates of violence has been the response of Aboriginal men living in central Australia. In June 2008, a large meeting of men met at Inteyerrkwe outside of Alice Springs and released the following joint communiqué after the meeting:

Inteyerrkwe Statement

"We the Aboriginal males from Central Australia and our visitor brothers from around Australia gathered at Inteyerrkwe in July 2008 to develop strategies to ensure our future roles as grandfathers, fathers, uncles, nephews, brothers, grandsons, and sons in caring for our children in a safe family environment that will lead to a happier, longer life that reflects opportunities experienced by the wider community. "We acknowledge and say sorry for the hurt, pain and suffering caused by Aboriginal males to our wives,

to our children, to our mothers, to our grandmothers, to our granddaughters, to our aunties, to our nieces and to our sisters. "We also acknowledge that we need the love and support of our Aboriginal women to help us move forward."



Alice Springs traditional owners Jan Edwards with Kerry Le Rossingual, Peggy Campbell, fellow TO Bubbo with sign, Betty Carter and Donna Ah-Chee

The success of the 2008 meeting was followed by another earlier this year at the conclusion of which John Liddle, Male Health Manager at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress said:

"Like most Aboriginal males in Central Australia, I am sick of going to funerals and seeing our courts, jails, health clinics and hospital filled with brothers and sisters who have been involved in family violence. It is time that Aboriginal males stood up both morally and culturally, taking positive action and a zero tolerance approach to stop the excessive violence in families, communities and towns, a crisis that is having a devastating effect on community members of all ages and genders, especially the children."

Today's march and rally follow on from those meetings and are the start of a schedule of events that will culminate on Australian Human Rights Day in December 2010. Local blogger Dave Richards over at Alice Online reports that John Liddle told the rally on the Council lawns that:

"We need to get across to the world, our community, black and white, that we are against violence," Mr Liddle told the crowd. "What these T-shirts are saying is we don't want to condone it, we don't want to put up with it, we want to stop the bloody violence. "We've got very strong cultural men here today. They are our leaders. They are right behind this programme we've got going now."

There is a lot more to come in this movement and I look forward to having a closer look at this quite remarkable movement and the work of people like John Liddle of the Ingkintja Male Health program at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Baydon Williams of Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Services based in Alice Springs.

SPONSOR A SEMINARIAN

The Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) were founded in Australia by Father Ken Barker in 1986. There are now sixteen MGL priests and another thirty young men in training to be priests. At this time, MGL priests have responsibilities for parishes in Canberra, Melbourne and Manila. The MGLs are also responsible for an urban aboriginal ministry in Darwin. As well as working with the poor and marginalised in our society, the MGLs have a particular calling to youth ministry.

Seminarians have two years of initial formation in Canberra and then a further six years of study in Melbourne. The young men who sense a call to priesthood with the MGLs are searching for a place where there is true poverty, a genuine spirit of docility to the Magisterium, a love for Eucharistic adoration and strong commitment to evangelisation.

It cost approximately \$8000 per year to maintain one seminarian. The MGLs are having difficulty paying the fees for their theological studies and maintaining the cost of the Seminary program. The MGLs depend entirely upon the Lord's providence. Please prayerfully consider supporting an MGL seminarian. Any amount will help. The MGLs need your assistance to continue this great work in the Church.

YES, I would like to be a MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE SEMINARIAN PARTNER

Personal Details:

Title.....First Name.....
 Surname.....
 Address.....
 Telephone..... Mobile.....
 Email.....
 I would like to give:
 \$ 50 per MONTH \$ 100 per MONTH
 \$ 150 per MONTH OTHER.....
 My cheque/money order (made out to Missionaries of God's Love) is enclosed, OR
 Please charge my credit card
 TYPE MasterCard Visa
 Name on Credit Card.....
 Card Number.....
 Expiry Date..... Signature.....

We always send receipts unless otherwise requested
 Please send your donation, with this slip, to:
**Fr. Ken Barker, MGL, 6 Boake Place,
 GARRAN ACT 2605**
 For further information please contact Fr. Ken Barker
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 Website: <http://www.mglvocation.org>

From the Vice President



FAITH AND SERVICE

I had the honour of attending the recent Catholic Women's League New Zealand (CWLNZ) Biennial Conference as an observer, standing in for National President, Madge Fahy, who was unable to be present. "Faith and Service" was the theme of the Conference, which was held in the Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill, Southland, in the Diocese of Dunedin. The three Australian Catholic Women's League members present, Joan Armstrong, Queensland State President, Carmel Sayers, Cranbrook CWL member in the Townsville Diocese and I, were made very welcome.

The CWLNZ National Conferences, which are held on alternative years to our Australian CWLA Biennial Conferences, alternate between the North and South Islands. This year, the Conference was in the most southerly CWL branch in New Zealand, St Patrick's, Invercargill, which is home to Tui Pascoe, who was completing her four-year term as National President.

The opening Mass was concelebrated in the Conference Centre led by Bishop Barry Young, Bishop of Christchurch, in the absence of Bishop Colin Campbell, the Bishop of Dunedin whose presence was delayed until the following day.

Guest Speaker, Fr Michael McCabe from Wellington, until recently Director of the Nathaniel Centre, the New Zealand Catholic Bioethics Centre, was one of the highlights of the programme for me. This centre was established in 1999 as the official agency of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference for Bioethics and CWLNZ can be justly proud of this centre as it was their persistent lobbying which was largely responsible for its existence. Fr Michael related the history of the centre and spoke about the increasing complexity of bioethics and the importance of having a Christian understanding of the issues.

The Mission Report, delivered by National Mission Secretary, Susan Lloyd, was another highlight. Most branches sponsor individual Mission Stations and many of these are in Fiji. Last year it was decided that the National Mission Secretary visit Fiji to assess the needs of as many Mission Stations as possible. The NZ branches generously raised the necessary funds. Susan's riveting, and at times very moving, report told in detail of the ground which she and her fellow CWL representative, Jenny Muschamp, covered in the space of nine days. As a result of their observations, they rechannelled some donations and they urged the recipients to keep in touch so that CWLNZ knew what their particular needs were and whether or not they had actually received the aid sent.

Kay Blackburn, International Secretary, reported that six CWL members plus Kay's husband plan to attend the WUCWO Centenary Assembly in Jerusalem. Funds were raised at the conference to cover Kay's travel expenses: a raffle was held on the first day and a 24 page booklet, *Tried and True Remedies My Mother Recommended*, compiled by a CWL member, sold briskly at \$5 a copy.

Kay expressed her gratitude to Catholic Women's League Australia for their help with the New Zealand Resolution, which at the time, was on its way to being accepted for presentation at the WUCWO Conference. She promoted *Women's Voice* as did National President, Tui Pascoe, in her President's Report later.

CWLNZ members are dedicated inspiring women who care passionately about the work they do and are undaunted by advancing years. Some expressed interest in coming to our CWLA Conference in Melbourne next year and I am sure that they will be made to feel as welcome here as I was over there.

I felt very privileged to represent Catholic Women's League Australia at the New Zealand National Conference and I would like to express my gratitude to National President, Madge Fahy, for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Gertie Mangan Vice President

The Lord is great and is to be highly praised in the city of our God, on his sacred hill. Zion, the mountain of God, is high and beautiful; the city of the great king brings joy to the world. God has shown that there is safety with him inside the fortresses of the city.

Psalm 48

VICTORIA & WAGGA WAGGA

General Conference: More than 200 members travelled to Colac to participate in our annual Conference. We were blessed once again to experience wonderful speakers throughout the event including Bishop Connors, Toni Cuthbertson, Anna Krohn and Terry Mulder MP who spoke lovingly of the instrumental role of three particular women in his life - his mother, Sr Mark who taught him to speak without a stammer and Madge Margaret Darcy who instilled a work ethic in him. Another highlight of the Conference was the visit to the site of Dr Mary Glowrey's birth.

A significant resolution was passed to petition the Legislative Council to introduce into Parliament a Bill to amend the law to ensure that a person, who kills an unborn child through an act of domestic or other violence, or by an act of culpable driving, can be charged for killing that unborn child. Following the passage of the *Abortion Law Reform Act* in 2008, an unborn child has no protection under the law in Victoria. At this time, the only charges that could be brought against a person for killing an unborn child, as a result of a criminal act, are intentionally or recklessly causing serious injury to the woman. The petition campaign is well underway and we ask for the prayers of League members throughout Australia for success in this vital endeavour.

Anima Education: This is a joint project of the Anima Women's Network and the Catholic Women's League which provides affordable, and accessible, adult education and formation in the Catholic faith. Since the inception of this project, dynamic weeknight courses and weekend seminars have been held at Mary Glowrey House in Melbourne, in Burwood and also in Ballarat. These courses are attended by a wide variety of people of all different ages.

After the success of '*Reading Paul*' which ran throughout the special jubilee year dedicated to St Paul, David Schütz has returned this year to teach a weeknight course about Paul's Letter to the Romans. N T Wright describes the Letter to the Romans as Paul's masterpiece. "Not all climbers have taken the same route up its sheer sides, and there is frequent disagreement of the best approach. What nobody doubts is that we are here dealing with a work of massive substance, presenting a formidable challenge while offering a breathtaking theological and spiritual vision."

David is a gifted teacher, with a sound knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, who brings to each session a deep appreciation of the scriptures and the Catholic faith which is genuinely infectious. David

also recently taught a highly successful weekend seminar at St Benedict's Parish, Burwood, on *The last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell*.

Another outstanding weeknight course held at Mary Glowrey House was '*Science and Christianity*' by Dr Joseph Leach PhD. This course explored science, Galileo Galilei, Copernicus, Charles Darwin, St Augustine and the Church Fathers, theological insights from science, and Scriptural understanding and Papal teachings. Dr Joseph Leach gained his PhD with a thesis on the geomorphology of the north polar region of Mars, completed as part of a guest investigation for NASA's Viking program. He also holds an MA in Theology from the Australian Catholic University where he studied the spirituality and sacramental theology of the Byzantine Church.

Further information about Anima Education, current courses and weekend seminars is available at <http://animaeducation.wordpress.com>.

Cause of Sr Dr Mary Glowrey: Sr Stella Maris Bellamkonda JMJ, Provincial Superior Guntur, Sr Sundari Singareddy JMJ, Provincial Superior Bangalore, and Sr Cletus Daisy JMJ, President of the Catholic Hospital Association of India (CHAI) met with His Grace Dr Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore, on Sunday 29 August 2010 to discuss the initiation of the cause of Sr Dr Mary Glowrey JMJ.

The Archbishop of Bangalore is very supportive of the cause of Sr Dr Mary Glowrey. The Archbishop of Bangalore and the Bishop of Guntur, the Most Rev Dr Gali Bali, met recently at St John's Medical College to further discuss the cause. The Bishop of Guntur has previously given his wholehearted support.

Robyn Fahy
Public Relations Advisory Committee
Committee for the Cause of Dr Mary Glowrey

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The South Australian Biennial State Conference was held from 6-7 June 2010. Our theme was *Wellbeing & Caring for Ourselves*. In a change of traditional format, we commenced with a pre-conference dinner on Sunday night at the Buckingham Arms Hotel, Walkerville. This proved to be an excellent choice with a smorgasbord of lovely food. Trish Hicks was our guest speaker. Being an Adelaidean in the 1960's, the name "Hicks" was a very well-known one. Daryl Hicks played more than a few games for Sturt in the SANFL, he coached Central Districts, and in more recent times he has become a

Deacon, ministering in the Elizabeth parishes, north of Adelaide.

Trish Hicks is a talented and very well-credentialed woman married to Daryl, is a mother of five and a grandmother of six. She was educated by the Sisters of Mercy and after leaving school completed a hairdressing apprenticeship. She has had great success in hairdressing at all levels of state, national and international. She returned to study at university in 2000, graduating with a Bachelor of Management in 2003, and is currently studying for a diploma in Theology. Trish told us something of her story under the title *Fashion, Football, Family and Faith* and greatly inspired us.

And then, sensational Sophia! What a day we had in the beautiful setting of the Sophia Conference Centre in the grounds of Cabra Dominican Convent, commencing with our WUCWO Mass, celebrated by Archdiocesan Chaplain, Fr Eddie Welling.

Neil Warren from *Life Be In It* spoke about health and wellbeing and focused on the importance of including exercise and fitness into our daily activities. He demonstrated many ways of introducing some forms of exercise into our lives, taking into account individual levels of health and mobility. He had us out of our chairs and gently exercising, and also catered for those who were not so mobile.

After lunch, Yvonne Koster spoke about the importance of healthy eating, plenty of sleep and relaxation and adequate exercise. She then introduced Elise who assisted her in performing a demonstration of the first form Tai Chi class. Again we were out of our chairs and involved in performing the first form, then the second form of Tai Chi. Yvonne shared with members the very moving and inspirational story of how Tai Chi had helped Elise to regain her mobility and flexibility after being totally incapacitated with arthritis.

Sr Rosemary Yelland OP spoke about her time at Cabra. The Peace Garden, centred around an enormous Moreton Bay Fig Tree, had come about as a result of a desire to provide a welcoming place to return to. A group of Sisters had joined her in developing the garden. They had recycled materials donated by various organizations, including bricks, etc., which were no longer required by the College. The Peace Garden is located next to the Cemetery in the Convent grounds where a number of Sisters from the Dominican community are buried. Sr Barbara Specht OP also showed interested ladies through the nostalgia of the Cabra Museum.

To finish the day, Joan Young presented a pictorial history of CWL-SA. Photos taken at many different

functions through the years were shown, including portraits of all the State Presidents from the first Executive through to the present time. Members showed great pleasure in remembering the experiences they had shared at the various functions shown.

As an old scholar of Cabra and living just 10 minutes away, I was personally very surprised and delighted when, for the first time, I went to survey the scene for our Conference. The venue was perfect, as was the backup and support from the Sisters who run Sophia. Our conference proved to be very successful, and re-energising.

Pauline Victory
President – South Australia

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Delegates Jeanine Dowse and Gemma Greaves, together with Alternate Delegate Margaret Ker, were delighted to be able to participate in the recent National Council meeting and thank the National Executive for all their hard work in preparing and presenting the weekend. We have taken on board many of the issues raised, and in particular circulated Bishop Elliott's wonderful paper on the new Mass texts as widely as possible.

CWL Archdiocese of Perth held its 2010 AGM on Wednesday 18 August at the Redemptorist Retreat House in North Perth.

Our President Dorothy Beyer, recovering from a serious shoulder injury in mid July, was out of hospital just in time to join us for the day. Our unofficial Associate Member Fr Geoff Beyer combined chauffeuring duties with celebrating a beautiful and inspiring Mass for us in the Retreat House Chapel.

Fr Geoff reminded us that the parable of the labourers in the vineyard is a wonderful illustration of the generosity of God. We can never in this life hope to comprehend His ways, but (quoting J B Phillips) "Christ is the aperture through which the immensity and magnificence of God can be seen".

After morning tea, we settled into the business part of the day. With Vice President Margaret Ker in the chair, we listened to reports on the year's activities from the Executive, our Acting State President, our five branches and from our Archdiocesan Secretary Fay Jones who reported on her role in looking after our diocesan members. From a small and hesitant start in 2003, this initiative has proved very worthwhile, with our diocesan members being drawn from a variety of backgrounds, interstate membership,

membership of now closed branches, or a move to another suburb. In all these cases, women are enabled to maintain their CWL membership and join in a range of activities, both social and spiritual. In the past, they would often simply have been lost to CWL.

Though several branches are quite small the range of activities is amazing. Mary MacKillop would surely have applauded a group of women who 'never see a need without doing something about it'. These needs range from back to school bags for primary school children, through to toiletry bags for a range of women in need, to support for parish schools, knitting of blankets and knee rugs and maintaining ecumenical links through spiritual and social contact.

One branch (Applecross) is particularly active in social issues and submitted a motion calling for better wheelchair access to public buildings and a recommendation on fitting of seat belts in buses owned by private schools.

We applauded their efforts to follow up on the campaign to honour the people of East Timor by suggesting to their local MP that if it was not considered appropriate to award the Order of Australia, a practical alternative might be to address the deep crisis in maternal and neonatal health in Timor Leste by the awarding of scholarships enabling health professionals to study in Australia. The MP in question forwarded the suggestion to Tony Abbott who had replied in very positive terms.

Elections for the 2011 Executive followed and we very much look forward to working with Barbara Paterniti and her new team next year.

After lunch, we were challenged and inspired by a presentation by Sr Lucy Van Kessel PBVM on her work with ACRATH. As well as alerting us to the global dimensions of the problem Sr Lucy urged us to be active on the home front by purchasing Fair Trade products, by lobbying our MPs to oppose the legalisation of brothels, and by being vigilant for evidence of the trafficking of women to work in other occupations (such as nail salons).

Bunbury Diocese had a Council Meeting on 18 September and Geraldton members continue to be very active locally as well as taking a great interest in what is happening in CWL and the other organisations with which we are involved. We thank God for the internet which makes it so easy to keep in touch regularly.

Now we are turning our attention to our State

Conference on 22 October where we will decide whether to adopt our new draft Constitution, discuss our property situation and nurture our minds and spirits in fellowship and reflection on the life of Mary MacKillop.

Margaret Ker
Secretary - Western Australia

QUEENSLAND

Members have just returned from a wonderful happy State Conference in St George (Toowoomba Diocese). We travelled out by coach through Toowoomba, Dalby and then on to St George which gave everyone a chance to meet old friends and make new ones.

Unfortunately, our State President Joan Armstrong was unable to attend for personal reasons. Rhonda Barbe (Diocesan President of Toowoomba) chaired the Conference in Joan's absence.

Our Keynote Speaker was Fr Bill O'Shea who spoke on the theme of the Conference "Broadening our Horizons in Hope, Trust and Love". In the afternoon, he enlightened us on changes to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Barnaby Joyce MP (a resident of St George) challenged us to stand up for morals on talk-back radio or by whatever means available. He reminded us that Jesus began with the Twelve Apostles.

Sr Margaret Anderson (a Josephite nun) took us on a journey with Mary MacKillop.

It was great to have National President Madge Fahy along on the trip. We all learnt much from Madge.

From the Opening Mass celebrated by Fr John Maher (Dean of the area), to the closing Mass celebrated by Fr Jamie Collins PP, and the hospitality in between, the Conference was enjoyed by all who attended.

At the Closing Dinner, St George CWL Branch celebrated 50 years with two of the original members cutting the Celebratory Cake.

Our coach trip home took us through Goondiwindi where the Parish Priest celebrated Midday Mass and provided a delicious lunch. Our Chaplain, Fr Bill McCarthy, travelled with us. He is presently in hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

Maureen Feehely
Secretary - Queensland

NEW SOUTH WALES

Which Way? Forum Day: A capacity audience filled the Theatrette at the Australian Museum for the CWL Sydney, CWLA-NSW Forum Day *Which Way?*.

Facilitator Margaret Rice introduced the guest panellists, Prof Gordian Fulde, Director of Emergency Medicine at St Vincent's Hospital, Detective Superintendent Middle Eastern Crime Squad, Deborah Wallace, Journalist, Miranda Devine and CWLA National Bioethics Convenor, Anna Krohn.

The facilitator asked the panellists to discuss the topic *Which Way* and each speaker engaged and entertained the audience with their interpretation of the subject. Each gave an overview of their professional and personal life and discussed the importance of choices and decisions and their varied consequences in the areas of Medicine, Policing, Ethics and Societal response to behaviour.



The guests were generous with their time and enjoyed the encounter with the audience. Question time allowed the audience to be involved in the discussion and the panel endeavoured to respond to the questions asked using their own experiences to engage in a fascinating dialogue with the audience. The event ran very smoothly due to the effort and planning of the Forum committee. It is hoped that another Forum will be held in the near future.

State Conference: *Be Joyful Always*. In our busy lives, it is easy to forget how important these three words are. This was the chosen theme for the recent NSW State Conference in Newcastle and provided the CWL members that attended a chance to reflect and share their commitment amidst a fun, faithful and friendly environment.

NSW State President, Catherine McGrath, welcomed the delegates and members to the Biennial Conference. The State Council Meeting was held on Friday, 20 August where Diocesan Presidents presented their reports and business was

discussed. Fr Sean Cullen, NSW State Chaplain, spoke on 'The Challenge of Change' which identified the importance of accepting change in our lives and drew parallels to Jesus.

Friday night set the feeling of the Conference with everyone enjoying "be caressed, cultured and creative". The attendees arrived for opening celebrations which included stalls that offered quilt displays, dancing, genealogy and a chocolate wheel.

On Saturday, our keynote speaker, Sandy Blackburn-Wright, author of *Holding Up the Sky: An African Life*, spoke of her extraordinary life. Sandy lived and worked in Africa for 15 years and shared an account of her life journey. Deacon Martin Johnson who is the CWLA Maitland Newcastle Spiritual Director, spoke to the theme 'Be Joyful Always' *Thessalonians 5: 16-17*, while taking the audience on his personal journey. National President, Madge Fahy, reported on the activities of CWLA. Other speakers were Olivia Gollan, Pennie Kearney and Kathryn Whyte-Southcombe who were happy to share some moments of joy in their lives with small groups of Conference participants.

There was a great response to the Trading Table and raffles plus an excellent result for the appeal conducted for Pakistan Flood Relief. The monies will be divided between Caritas and Catholic Missions who also work in this field.

The concluding Mass was held Saturday evening. It was celebrated by Bishop Michael Malone and concelebrated by Fr Sean. Bishop Michael paid tribute to the role of women and the contribution made to the life and mission of the Church. During Mass, the choir from All Saints College, St Joseph's Campus, Lochinvar, led us in song with Deacon Martin as the assistant.

Conference participants enjoyed the camaraderie during the Conference Dinner and the wonderful fellowship of Catholic Women's League. Catherine Mahony and Greg Smith enchanted us with their music during dinner. As the term of office of State President Catherine McGrath concludes at the end of the year, a presentation was made and acknowledgment of her wonderful leadership and commitment to her members was applauded.

Congratulations to Carolyn Metcalfe, Diocesan President of Broken Bay who will lead Catholic Women's League Australia-New South Wales Inc for the next two years.

Emily Potts
Communications Officer – CWLA-NSW

TASMANIA

Tasmania's State Conference in September brought to an end a two-year period where the State Executive operated from the South. These positions have now transferred to the North-West Coast, where the State President is Mrs Marjorie Payton. Marjorie attended the Mid-Term National Council Meeting in Melbourne held from 30 July to 1 August, so that she had an opportunity to meet the National Executive as well as delegates and alternates from other Member Organisations. We wish her well in her new position.

We were very interested to hear from Bishop Peter Elliott during the Mid-Term National Council Meeting about the New Translation of the Mass that is soon to be introduced. He pointed out that it is forty years since any changes have been made and the new ones add to the beauty of the liturgy by improving the literal translation from Latin. I feel sure, in time, we will adapt to the new interpretation.

The keynote speaker at our State Conference was Mr Paul Mason, Tasmanian Commissioner for Children. We were prompted to invite him to speak after reading the frightening statistics regarding child offenders in Tasmania. In 2008-2009, youth offences numbered 3,977 including: 31 children aged ten, 61 children aged eleven, and 99 children aged twelve.

Our National President, Madge Fahy, has advised us that Mrs Sonia Gidley-King, the founder of *Wrap with Love*, died on July 17, after a long illness. In 18 years, her group distributed 220,000 wraps to poor malnourished people having to deal with temperatures between 0-45 degrees. Her good work will continue with her loyal followers.

Following Madge's request that a collection be taken up by branches during the month of July to raise money to help abused children, the money raised in Tasmania was presented to two speakers at our State Conference who have ties with an orphanage in Cambodia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people in Pakistan during the dreadful floods. In contrast, the people of Russia are suffering from a drought and heat wave.

Lillian Deane
State President – Tasmania

CANBERRA & GOULBURN ARCHDIOCESE

Greetings and God's blessings to fellow League members! Having just returned after two months in Ireland, the suitcases are finally unpacked and back in the cupboard and I can now get on with the work relating to CWL in this Archdiocese and around Australia.

Marie Gallagher, Senior Vice-President, did a marvellous job as acting President in my absence and other members of the Executive, including Secretary, Dianne Purcell, Minute-Secretary, Nola Drum and Treasurer, Mieke Foley, most ably 'held the fort' in my absence. I thank them all for their efforts and support. They are a great team.

It is good to be back and especially to feel a hint of spring in the air. While I am emotionally, mentally and physically drained and the finances are somewhat depleted, my spiritual bank is overflowing. Ireland truly is my spiritual home.

On 12 August, I made a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine at Knock. I had been there before on a number of occasions, but never on a pilgrimage. It was wonderful. We prayed the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of the Rosary on route and on arrival were not deterred by the deterioration in the weather, which only matched the bleakness of the surrounds. After receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we joined in the Stations of the Cross outdoors in wind and rain and the day culminated in a healing Mass in the adjoining Basilica which was concelebrated by eight priests from many parts of the world, including Africa and South America. I prayed for all members of the Catholic Women's League around Australia and asked that your intentions and the intentions of the League be remembered in two Masses each day for the next twelve months.

On 14 July, the Bribbaree branch of CWL celebrated their 50th anniversary, with Marie Gallagher and Mieke Foley in attendance and representing the Archdiocese. Some 80 League members were in attendance and it seems the roof 'lifted' at the beginning of Mass with the opening hymn "Hail Queen of Heaven", which set the scene for a day with much laughter, wonderful hugs, a bountiful lunch and memorable speeches. Congratulations on a magnificent achievement.

Our Archdiocesan Spiritual Director, Rev Father William Kennedy, OAM, enjoyed a double celebration on Sunday 18 July, as he marked both his 80th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his

ordination. During the homily of his celebration Mass in the parish of St Joseph in O'Connor, where he is parish priest, Father Kennedy gave thanks to God, his family and all those who had shown support over the years. He reflected on his strong links to his hometown of Crookwell in NSW, where he had received the sacraments, including Holy Orders on his 30th birthday in 1950. He has since served in a number of parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and has been the Spiritual Director of CWL for more than two decades. He hardly ever misses a monthly meeting of St Joseph's branch of CWL. A truly remarkable man, thanks be to God.

Nola Drum and Dianne Purcell were Archdiocesan delegates to the Mid-term National Council Meeting on 30/31 July and 1 August 2010 in Melbourne. The feed-back has been totally positive, so many congratulations to National President Madge Fahy and her Executive for running such a successful meeting. In keeping with your theme, you have certainly "... touched the heart of another", or in this case, "others". Well done.

Sadly, Clare Attridge, a fellow League member of my branch at St Christopher's, entered eternal life in July, as did Sir James, husband of Mary, Lady Scholtens. On 1 August, Mary Uhlmann, a long standing member of Weston Creek branch and former Archdiocesan President, entered eternal life and although we were aware that Mary was not in the best of health, it was still a great shock to learn of her death. May their dear souls rest in everlasting peace.

As part of my duties as Archdiocesan President, I have already visited two of the seven League branches in Central Region and have further visits in the diary for September and October. Central Region have organised a Special Day of Reflection on Friday 24 September at St Joseph's Parish Centre, O'Connor, to be facilitated by Helen Druett.

I trust you will all celebrate, with love and joy, the canonisation of Blessed Mother Mary MacKillop on Sunday 17 October 2010. She is a saint of reconciliation for all people of all faiths and beliefs.

"When I could not see my way God kept my heart full of trust to make it all come right"
(From daily thoughts of Mary MacKillop, 28 June 1874)

Deo gratias

Angela M Devlin
Archdiocesan President – Canberra & Goulburn

Mary MacKillop - Australia's first Saint

On Sunday, October 17, Mary MacKillop will become Australia's first declared Saint when she is canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in St Peter's Square, Rome.

This will be an historic day for the Church and for the nation, as the Universal Church recognises Mary as someone who lived a life of heroic goodness, borne of her closeness to God and her love of all she met, particularly the poor and marginalised. In Canonising her, the Church holds Mary up to us and to all who come after us, as a special companion and example for us in our own lives.

Mary MacKillop was an ordinary woman who lived an extraordinary life. At the time of her death, those who knew her, or knew of her extraordinary work, spoke openly of her holiness – her heroic goodness. Cardinal Moran, the Archbishop of Sydney, is reported as having said after his final visit to her that, *"This day I consider I have assisted at the death bed of a saint"*. The official Cause for the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop was begun in 1925. In January 1995, Pope John Paul II beatified Mary during a Mass at Randwick Racecourse, Sydney. This followed official recognition of a woman being miraculously cured of cancer after praying for Mary's intercession. The recognition in December 2009 of a second miracle, also a woman being cured of cancer, ensured Mary's path to Canonisation.

Sr Anne Derwin, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, said Mary's Canonisation will be an occasion for gratitude and an opportunity for personal reflection.

"Mary MacKillop lived her life with an unwavering sense of gratitude and confidence that God would always provide," she said. "She spoke over and over of 'our good God' and she lived with grateful receptivity of God's love and all that God's love asked of her in life. She truly imitated the Christ to whom she had committed her life.

"At this historic time, let us be truly grateful to God for the gift of Canonisation which calls us to renewal of our commitment to Christ and to the mission of God in our world".

Today, there are about 800 Sisters of St Joseph, still working with the poor and marginalised in Australia, New Zealand, Timor Leste, Scotland, Ireland and Peru.

Good News for Sub-Fertile Women Wanting to Achieve Pregnancy Naturally

A five-year Australian study has found that women, including those typically classified as sub-fertile or infertile, had great success in achieving pregnancy and live-birth using the Billings Ovulation Method™. Pregnancy was also achieved by older women in the study group and by some who had been unsuccessful with In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) procedures.

Developed by Drs John and Evelyn Billings, the Billings Ovulation Method™, a completely natural method of fertility regulation, has been validated by eminent international scientists and independently verified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in a five-nation trial. It is used by millions of women around the world to either achieve or avoid pregnancy and to help safeguard their reproductive health.

The study involved a total of 449 participants of which 207 women had previously been classified as sub-fertile. These sub-fertile women achieved a known pregnancy rate of 65% using the Billings Ovulation Method™. Twenty couples in the study had been unsuccessful with IVF or Artificial Insemination (AI). Seven of these couples achieved a pregnancy using the Billings Ovulation Method. Significantly, 66% of over-38-year-olds in the study also achieved a pregnancy and live-birth using the Billings Ovulation Method™.

On average, couples had tried to conceive for a period of 15 months before participating in the study. The average period from initial instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method™ to conception was 4.7 months. Providing information on the significance of the changing pattern of fertility, with an emphasis on the recognition of optimum fertility, proved to be the key to success. Kerry Bourke, President of the Ovulation Method Research and Reference Centre of Australia Ltd (OMR&RCA), said: "I hope that women who have concerns about their fertility will be encouraged by these findings to seek natural fertility counselling with Billings consultants and that

more doctors will recommend it as an option for sub-fertile women."

One of the most significant findings of the study was the lack of knowledge of fertility which applied across all groups. Only 18% of the women involved had correct knowledge about the signs and symptoms of fertility. This is a deeply troubling statistic in an age of information. In response, Billings LIFE has launched a new website, www.billingslife.org, as part of their ongoing efforts to help women everywhere have access to this essential knowledge for every stage of their reproductive life.

Aside from success rates, the economic arguments are also stacking up in favour of Billings playing an increasingly important role in addressing fertility problems. From 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2005, the Australian Government spent, via Medicare, \$584.6 million on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).¹ In 2007, 22% of the Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN) benefits went towards ART.² The average cost of ART per live birth is approximately \$33,000.³ The live birth rate for women aged 30 to 34 using IVF is approximately 24.7% while for women aged 35 to 39 the live birth rate is approximately 24%. The live birth rate for women aged 40 to 44 is approximately 6%.⁴ The cost of a live birth using IVF increases with maternal age.⁵ By comparison, the average cost of the Billings Ovulation Method™ per live birth is approximately \$1100. A proposal to conduct a 3-year pilot program in Melbourne, using the Billings Ovulation Method™ to assist sub-fertile women, has been forwarded to the Department of Health and Ageing for consideration.

1 *Report of Independent Review of Assisted Reproductive Technologies 2006*, p 47

2 *Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN) Review Report 2009*, p vi

3 *Report of Independent Review of Assisted Reproductive Technologies Appendices 2006*, p xiv

4 See above n 1, p 59-61

5 See above n 3.

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Women's Voice

Subscriptions for WUCWO Women's Voice
remain at \$27.00 for 2010

God's Journalist

On the day of the changeover to decimal currency in Australia, 14th February 1966, Ian Vincent McMurray arrived at Townsville airport on his way to Ayr to join the Confraternity of Christ the Priest. Coming from Adelaide in South Australia, where he was born on July 23, 1941, he was already a professional A-grade journalist having achieved this by a cadetship in both Adelaide and Port Pirie newspaper companies and later qualified as a journalist to become an editor of six suburban papers in Adelaide.



Before his arrival in North Queensland he had also spent some years as a seminarian at St Francis Xavier Seminary, Adelaide, where he completed his course in philosophy. Following his spiritual training as a Brother with the Confraternity of Christ the Priest, Ian took his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on December 9, 1967. He became Brother Michael in the Confraternity for 44 years. He was called to his eternal reward on August 2, 2010.

During Br Michael's time in Ayr he became skilled in catering and other duties which were appropriate to the needs of the Confraternity through the Brothers' vocation of trades and professions. Nevertheless, he was soon involved in assisting Fr John Whiting, the founder of the Confraternity of Christ the Priest, in producing a periodical magazine, called 'Contact', which until then was a newsletter. Br Michael was also instrumental in setting up a 'Contact Junior Journalist's Club' to encourage young boys and girls as well as adults in learning to write articles, books, poetry and generally educate them to advance their talents in the literary world. Many of these people

benefitted greatly from this experience, thanks to Br Michael's tutelage.

'Contact' magazine was to become Br Michael's life's vocation to reach out to those who were in need of spiritual guidance and to promote the Gospel message in an easy-to-read style that every member of the family can read.

It was decided that in February 1969, a new foundation of the Confraternity would be made at Scoresby in Melbourne and Br Michael was one of its foundation members. To earn finance for the needs of this fledgling community he joined the staff of the Melbourne Archdiocesan weekly newspaper, 'The Advocate', and spent four years full-time, particularly as sub-editor. While working at 'The Advocate', and after he left it, he continued to help publish 'Contact' and was also involved in sub-editing suburban newspapers in Dandenong and Lilydale in Melbourne.

A certificate course with the Clinical Pastoral Education Centre in East Melbourne gave him further qualifications as a pastoral care associate. This was helpful to Br Michael in his outreach especially to teenagers and young adults who were troubled by how modern lifestyles were causing them difficulties. Most of them found peace of mind and a true life-long friend through this encounter.

Even in latter years when living and working in Wagga Wagga, where he was editor and consultant to the Diocesan monthly newspaper, 'Together', he still wrote and excelled in feature articles in 'Contact'. It was to his credit and his God-given talent that he received numerous awards from the Australian Catholic Press Association over many years.

In recent times Br Michael found another niche for his literary talents through his book reviews for several publishing companies. These reviews regularly appeared in Catholic newspapers and diocesan periodicals throughout Australia. Especially during his last illness while living at East Doncaster in Melbourne, 'Contact's' editorial and distribution centre, his zeal for helping others still gave him courage and the determination to carry on with the missionary endeavours which he accepted as God's call to service in the Confraternity of Christ the Priest.

Br Michael was a great supporter of the Catholic Women's Leagues and always keen to promote their work in 'Contact'. May he rest in peace.