



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA

*"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



# From the National President



At the beginning of our married life, my husband and I dedicated our family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit, the love which permeates the Heart of Jesus has been poured out into our family life and we have found in His Heart, the inexhaustible “source from which to draw

*the water of Life that can irrigate the deserts of the soul and make hope flourish anew*”. (Benedict XVI) On the Feast of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I was overjoyed to discover that the Holy Father will be consecrating every young person in the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the prayer vigil at the upcoming World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid. The World Youth Day office has released an illuminating catechesis (at <http://www.madrid11.com/en/camino/46-catequesis-1-dios-nos-ha-hecho-capaces-de-vivir-con-el>) to help pilgrims prepare for this consecration on the night of Saturday August 20th. Let us pray that all the pilgrims attending World Youth Day and young people throughout the world will be: “Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith” (cf. Col 2:7).

St Rose of Lima, one of the patron saints of World Youth Day 2011, is pictured on our front cover. The beautiful image is of a stained glass window in St. Joseph Catholic Church, Macon, Georgia, USA. I am most grateful to Fr Allan McDonald, St. Joseph’s Parish Priest, and Steve Mastrangelo, Director of St Joseph’s Parish Administration, for sending this image to the League and allowing us to share it with the many readers of our newsletter.

St Rose of Lima is the first saint born on the American continent and is the patron of South America and the Philippines. St. Rose was a lay tertiary who devoted her life to prayer. She was also a friend of St. Martin de Porres. Baptized Isabel, she was called Rose by her family as she was such a beautiful baby. As she grew to maturity, her parents were anxious to have Rose marry, and indeed there were several worthy aspirants for her hand. Rose did

not wish for marriage and, to end the arguments and offers, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic. She was so devoted to her vow of chastity that she rubbed pepper and lime to ruin her complexion so that she would no longer be considered beautiful. This was her way—a way conditioned by the time and place—of fighting a temptation to vanity. (Taken from the WYD 2011 official website)

Rose seems to have taken for her model St. Catherine of Siena and, like the earlier saint, she experienced so ardent a love of God whenever she was in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament that exaltation completely filled her soul. St. Rose received many mental and physical sufferings, including an invisible stigma. During an illness towards the end of her life, she prayed, “Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them increase Thy love in my heart.” This remarkable woman died on August 25, 1617, at the age of thirty-one. (Taken from “*Lives of Saints*”, Published by John J. Crawley & Co., Inc).

Many tears flowed in our home while we watched the Beatification Mass of Blessed Pope John Paul II on EWTN. This humble man of God has truly touched the hearts of millions. It was a wonderful surprise to see Australia’s own Sr. Bernadette, from the Missionaries of the Gospel (formerly Clare Pike, LLB, from the Life Office in Perth), give the second reading. Sr Bernadette has written an article for this edition (see page 4) about her experiences during the Beatification. Sr. Bernadette has asked for our prayers as she undertakes her Masters in Clinical Psychology in Virginia, USA.

The Church of our time needs “holy and courageous women” who value the gifts God has given them and make a valuable and specific contribution to spiritual growth (Benedict XVI, General Audience, 8th September 2010). Since late last year, I have been following Pope Benedict XVI’s Wednesday Audiences where he has spoken about some of the extraordinary women in Church history. Many of the women that the Holy Father talked about were already familiar to me but others, such as St Matilda and St. Juliana of Cornillon, were less familiar. The complete texts from these Papal audiences has just been published in a book titled *Holy Women*. I hope that reading about these holy women will inspire you as much as they inspired me.

# From the National Chaplain

Anna Krohn, our National Bioethics Convenor, and I have made official submissions on behalf of the League to the review by Victoria's Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (SARC) of the controversial *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities*. League member, Jo Grainger (Bachelor of Nursing course advisor and health care ethicist at ACU) has been invited by the SARC to speak to her submission.

The Holy Father has asked us to bring the witness of our faith to the digital world and to introduce our Catholic values into the culture of this new environment of communications and information technology. As such, CWLA has just established a Twitter account (at [http://twitter.com/CWL\\_Australia](http://twitter.com/CWL_Australia)) and will be 'tweeting' a message of faith, hope and love each day. We are also 'following' the Holy Father who recently sent his first 'tweet', as part of the Church's ongoing missionary efforts to reach young people. Pope Benedict XVI already has his own YouTube channel, MySpace and Facebook pages.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Sullivan family and also to members of the League in the Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn upon the death of Life Member, Vonnie Sullivan AM. She will be sadly missed by all. Vonnie was a great lady who worked tirelessly for the Church and society.

*Madge Fahy*

Many of us watched and read reports about the Beatification of Blessed Pope John Paul II. As expected, the crowds in Rome for this occasion were enormous. The Beatification was an occasion for many people to share their memories of the late Pontiff and to talk about his life.



Cardinal Jozef Tomko travelled with the Pope to many countries and spent much time with him. In an interview, the Cardinal was asked 'What did you learn from him?' He replied: 'Above all, I learned to turn to the Heart of the Saviour with my worries to alleviate the weight of my responsibility remembering in front of the crucifix that the Church is his before all else.'

As members of CWLA, we have chosen a theme which reminds us that it is never too late to touch hearts and change them. The above quote from Cardinal Tomko reminds us that changing hearts is God's work firstly.

We do not need to be a Pope, Bishop, priest or religious to change the heart of another. God does the work, we are merely His instruments. As another Blessed, Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, we are merely pencils in the hand of God to be used to write His words. All of us could name family members and friends who need to be touched by the love of the Lord. Whether they be suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, we can be the instrument to bring the love of the Lord to them. It is never too late, and it is never in vain when we attempt to do God's work, or rather, let God work through us.

Blessed Pope John Paul was able to change the hearts of millions of people. May he be an example and inspiration for us to let God work through us as we turn to the Heart of the Saviour.

*Fr David Cartwright*

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## A Unique Vantage Point

*Sr Bernadette Pike MG*

On the way to Rome from Washington DC, I stopped over in London. It was the day of the Royal Wedding. At the airport, small groups gathered near screens displaying the wedding, some even took photos of the screen to get a memento of the occasion. Much of the enthusiasm I encountered seemed to arise not from the event of the marriage, but from being associated with or near the event, for example: *"I can't wait to tell people I was actually in town at the time"*. Hours later, the atmosphere in Rome seemed to me to be quite different. It was a city also inundated with people for a significant event, but many of the people this time seemed to have been touched personally by Pope JP II in some way and continued to feel a strong connection with him.


I'm sure I was not the only one in Rome who had a strong sense that the Pope was very much present

with us for the weekend of his Beatification. For me, this feeling didn't just come from the posters marking many of the streets and the airport, or the singing or chanting of pilgrim groups or even the many people speaking Polish (and waving red and white flags) who had come from JP II's 'far away country'. No, it felt like, the now Blessed, John Paul II was actually present with us and was enjoying the chance to be together to worship God, to pray and to celebrate the great marvels God had worked in his life.

Perhaps you will allow me to share a couple of personal experiences of my time in Rome. Before the ceremony had begun, I was walking behind the altar when I noticed that the doors to St Peter's were open. I asked a Monsignor if I could go in. He told me that I could try! I was soon stopped by someone from security who asked if I knew where I was







going. I replied confidently, “Oh Yes”, and proceeded to walk into the Basilica. Walking straight down the centre of St Peter’s on the inside of the railings, I half expected to be stopped and told that I was in a prohibited area and needed to leave. To my delight, I reached the coffin of our late Holy Father, knelt and prayed and took some photos. I then began to retrace my steps until it dawned on me that I still had not been stopped. I returned to JP II’s coffin a second time and remained there with him for some time. I am so grateful to the Holy Spirit who I believe was the hand of Providence facilitating such a wonderful encounter.

It was also a tremendous privilege and gift for me to be asked to do the second reading at the Beatification of JP II. I have never been so nervous and so excited at the same time! As I looked into the crowd from my seat, I thought, wow, there are so many other people who were touched by Christ through JP II—so many people who are probably already living some aspect of his charism within the Church. Seeing such a significant groundswell, reinforced my hope that the work the Holy Spirit began in JP II would continue. It was also an honour to represent Australia and the JP II Sisters. I could imagine JP II Sisters, 50 years down the track, watching the footage and being excited that we were blessed to take part in the celebrations. I lost track of time during the ceremony, and by the end, I had sore cheeks from smiling so much. When I reflect now on the blessings poured out at the Beatification, I recall the Scripture ‘to those whom much is given, much will be expected’ (Luke 12:58). With the intercession of Blessed JP II and our Blessed Mother, I look forward to the next stage of the journey with great hope.

*“I’m sure I was not the only one in Rome who had a strong sense that the Pope was very much present with us for the weekend of his Beatification. ”*

*Sr Bernadette Pike is a member of the Missionaries of the Gospel (MG’s).*

*They were officially established on 23rd June 2007 under the guidance of Perth Archbishop Barry James Hickey. At that time two young women, including Sr Bernadette, were accepted. A week later, they left Perth to complete the first part of their formation in Poland. The idea for the John Paul II Sisters (which later included the Missionaries of the Gospel) was revealed in March 2004. The Missionaries of the Gospel are called to be contemplative active missionaries who through being a sincere gift of self, strive to help others to encounter Christ (Evangelisation), realise (that is, to recognise and bring to fruition) their dignity (Formation) and, develop their relationships with God and others (Build Community).*

*The community lives on providence and does not receive any form of regular income. This means that they trust that God will provide for all their needs (food, bills, petrol etc.). Donations are needed at the moment to help Sr. Bernadette complete her studies in the USA. She is completing a Masters in Clinical Psychology at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences ([www.ipsciences.edu](http://www.ipsciences.edu)). Your contribution will pay for her course fees and accommodation expenses in the USA for next year. If you would like to make a donation to the community you can send a cheque or money order to:*

*‘Missionaries of the Gospel’  
PO Box 8171  
Perth Business Centre WA 6849*

*Or make a donation directly into the MG account:*

*National Australia Bank  
Missionaries of the Gospel  
086006 867962392*





# The Gospel of Birthdays and the Beatification of Pope John Paul II

Anna Krohn



Sometimes it is the unwelcome passage of years, or the banal paraphernalia or the unbridled consumerism of children's birthday parties today which make us dread or despise birthdays and anniversaries.

In fact birthdays, and the real celebrations they

betoken, are central both to the Christian year and to the ethos of life which Christians share with so many people of good will.

In the large and colourful imagination of the early 20th century Catholic writer Gilbert Keith Chesterton, birthdays are momentous symbols of a world view in which gratitude and wonder over each person's existence is essential. He writes: "*in being glad about my Birthday, I am being glad about something which I myself did not bring about...*". June 14th 2011 marked the 75th anniversary of his death, or perhaps better 'his birth' into eternity.

For Chesterton, birthdays are not merely trivial parties. Underneath them is a celebration of a survival, a marking of a new event that human life is something we receive from our past, from our parents and ultimately from our Creator.

For Chesterton, birthday haters and birth deniers share a closed and resentful outlook: "*I say it is a narrow view of life, which leaves out the whole of that aspect of life, all receptivity, all gratitude, all inheritance and all worship.*"

In vastly different continents and vocations, Chesterton, the imaginative layman and journalist/writer, and Sr Dr Mary Glowrey JMJ, the indefatigable nun physician, shared their times and the faith in what we call today *The Gospel of Life*.

Both spoke out against the fatal choosiness of the eugenics movements of the 1910s and 20s, which of

course spawned apocalyptic genocides in the decades which followed. Both Chesterton and Dr Glowrey denounced *anti-life* practices such as euthanasia, infanticide and eugenic population control. But as stoutly they fought, Chesterton and Mary Glowrey were never 'single issue' warriors. They saw the quest in global and widely cultural terms.

Chesterton realized that alienation from land, just living conditions and just wages would contribute to a moral and social homelessness. Dr Mary Glowrey realized that the only way to show the real touch of God's love for each person was by making her life, medical and organizational genius that healing presence to the world's most needy patients.

Chesterton and Mary Glowrey never waged hatred but hope against their antagonists. They recognised that the fatal actions being proposed and sometimes performed were grounded in mistaken ideas, damaged imaginations and misdirected attitudes.

In this sense, both Gilbert and Mary were in the early vanguard of the great mission to which Blessed Pope John Paul II challenged the youth of the 8th World Youth Day in Denver in 1993 (on the Feast of the Assumption). It was a mission to preach, live and show not one great Christian teaching but its entirety in what he called '*the Gospel of Life*'.

Blessed John Paul II did not underestimate the cosmic scale of the task: "*The outcome for the battle for life is already decided, even though the struggle goes on against great odds and with much suffering.*" Nor, the size of the mission field: "*Vast sectors of society are confused about what is right and what is wrong, and are at the mercy of those with the power to "create" opinion and impose it on others.*"

The wide landscape that Blessed John Paul II described has not yet been healed: "*The family is especially under attack. And the sacred character of human life denied. Naturally, the weakest members of society are the most at risk: the unborn children, the sick, the handicapped, the old, the poor and unemployed, the immigrant and refugee, the South of the world!*"

The anti-life philosophies argue that there is not





enough love for life to go round. The world is a life-boat on a random journey with rations doled out by fate or by the survival of the fittest.

Misguided by the promise of a God-free progress, shallow freedom or a false compassion, human beings become reduced to surfaces, functions and short lived experiences. The current search for new spiritualities and on-line intimacy and, the presence of extreme sub-cultures and addictions is evidence of an existential starvation in the midst of our culture.

The *Gospel of Life* is born, not merely by fine words or strategies, but with all the child-birth pangs described by St Paul. The perennial challenge of evil and human suffering, as the writing and life of Blessed John Paul testified, can only be answered by 'unleashing' God's merciful love (John Paul II, *On the Meaning of Human Suffering*).

The Pope writes with mystical insight that if suffering ones (even those suffering as result of sin) are embraced by Christ's love in us, rather than being eliminated, stepped over or condemned, new life can draw breath. On one level, our hearts become 'broken' and transformed. On a second level, we begin to find creative, generous and eminently practical ways to transform and even

eliminate the suffering of others. Thirdly, this love transforms the world around us, transforming the fabric of the culture itself.

Blessed John Paul II knew very well, of course, that the birth of a child is not only an image which evokes the Gospel's message of life, but a precious, literal reality. In the opening lines of his Magna Carta for human life, his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II celebrates all the birthdays of every human person with The Birthday. This is the Birthday of the little child who is God-made-one-of-us, which "also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of joy at every child born into the world." (EV #1)





# New Paper Scrutinizes WHO's Abortion Agenda

*Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D.*

(NEW YORK - C-FAM) How did the World Health Organization become one of the world's top abortion advocates? A new research paper says it happened by degrees.

As Western countries liberalized their abortion laws during the 1970s and 1980s, they justified the need to make abortion "safe" wherever it was legal. The result was an extensive abortion advocacy, training, and research program institutionalized as a department within WHO in 1998.

According to one of the numerous WHO reports cited in the paper, UN personnel experimented on more than 2000 women to test the lowest effective dose of mifepristone, called RU-486 in the U.S., with a view to making abortion "safer" and less expensive. In South Africa and Vietnam, WHO says it conducted trials using midwives to perform abortions with manual vacuum aspirators, or plastic abortion kits, and WHO staff ran abortion trials on women using the controversial drug misoprostol up to 63 days of pregnancy.

The paper's author, De Sale's University's Andrew Essig, criticizes WHO's drift from its original mandate of health and healing. For example, in this year's proposed program budget, sexual and reproductive health was given \$332 million while nutrition and food safety received only \$120 million.

Essig cites international health experts who say funding is driving the shift in mandate. Most of WHO's funding comes from voluntary sources, and WHO receives significant funding from Northern European countries and private donors who largely promote the sexual and reproductive health agenda. "If the WHO stopped chasing such funds," Harvard's Christopher Murray says, "it could go back to concentrating on its true mission of providing objective expert advice and strategic guidance."

Essig finds the foundations of the new "rights-based" approach to sexual and reproductive health are based on controversial non-binding documents. These include the outcome documents

from the 1994 UN conference on population and development in Cairo and 1995 UN conference on women in Beijing.

This has led to an over-emphasis on advocacy, Essig says. WHO's reproductive health department (RHR) goals include: acquiring evidence of the prevalence of "unsafe" abortion, developing techniques for "safe" abortion, translating the evidence into norms, and assisting countries to change their laws. WHO works with UN human rights treaty bodies to confront countries with restrictive abortion laws with evidence of "unsafe" abortion.

In effect WHO is at the center of an "iron triangle" of abortion advocacy, Essig says. The organization uses reports from abortion advocacy groups such as International Planned Parenthood Federation, who in turn use WHO's analysis to lend credibility to their agenda. Likeminded governments in the World Health Assembly, the WHO's voting body, then approve documents prepared by RHR staff as funded programs. "The relationship makes it very hard for other groups to introduce evidence which contradicts the current agenda," Essig says.

To restore its independence and credibility, Essig recommends that WHO end its human rights activism, reject funding from abortion advocates, and stop using statistics to create a demand for "safe" abortion.

*Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D. writes for C-FAM. This article first appeared in the Friday Fax, an internet report published weekly by C-FAM (Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute), a New York and Washington DC-based research institute ([www.c-fam.org/](http://www.c-fam.org/)). This article appears with permission. The research paper by Andrew Essig Ph.D. can be accessed at [www.c-fam.org/docLib/20100602\\_WHO\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.c-fam.org/docLib/20100602_WHO_FINAL.pdf).*

“ Not only does WHO support the use of RU-486, it helps to fund its production. ”

*Andrew M. Essig, Ph.D.*

# Pilgrimage to Madrid without Leaving Home

Does your schedule this August have you in class? Or are you working and unable to get time off to go anywhere? Many would-be World Youth Day pilgrims have this problem. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has tried to solve this problem with their website

<http://www.virtualworldyouthday.org>.

In the approximately 30 days left until WYD, would-be pilgrims can create an avatar (i.e. a graphical representation of the person) in the website and send it on a virtual pilgrimage to Madrid. The site features a satellite map with the avatars created by would-be pilgrims are placed on that map. Visitors to the site can click on other avatars to find out who they are and where they're from.

The virtual pilgrimage kicks into high gear once WYD begins. The site host a live feed of the official WYD Web TV channel enabling those at home to follow all the main events live. The site will also feature a twitter feed page and a daily blog. Various pilgrim groups from the US and several USCCB departments will serve as "embedded tweeters" tweeting live from the various WYD events. A blog will be updated daily from Madrid with information about what's happening every day in Madrid, and how the on-site pilgrims are handling the heat.

To create your own avatar, visit [virtualworldyouthday.org](http://virtualworldyouthday.org) or the virtualworldyouthday Facebook page.

*This news item was first published on <http://www.madrid11.com>, the official site for World Youth Day 2011.*

# From the National International Secretary

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 55) took place in New York from 22nd February to 4th March 2011. The Priority Theme was *"Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work"*. The Review Theme was: *"The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child."*



In addition, a NGO Consultation Day took place on 21st February. On this day, NGO representatives from around the world gathered to hear inspiring presentations including an address by Ms Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, now Under Secretary and Executive Director of the newly formed United Nations Entity, UN Women.

CSW 55 was held over eleven days and so the report is necessarily lengthy. I invite all CWLA members and interested people to go to the CWLA website and access the National International Secretary's page at [http://www.cwla.org.au/national\\_international.html](http://www.cwla.org.au/national_international.html) for the full report of this important international meeting.

WUCWO Day of Prayer, 13th May, was celebrated before, on and after that date throughout the world. At this annual happening, Catholic women affirm each other in our Catholic faith and enjoy the wonderful camaraderie always present at these gatherings. I congratulate all CWLA Member Organisation International Secretaries and those Branches, Regions and Dioceses who have prepared and hosted the occasion this year. The collated reports and donations received will be forwarded to the WUCWO Secretariat.

*Thora Regan AM  
National International Secretary*



# From the National Vice President



As the Immediate Past Convenor of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations' (WUCWO) International Committee, which is comprised of the women who permanently represent WUCWO at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Paris, Rome

and New York, I have been asked to share some of my knowledge of the UN with CWLA members.

This knowledge has been gained from submitted reports and personal interaction with these International Representatives, from my visits to specific dicasteries within the Holy See and by constant reference to relevant Church documents.

By way of background it needs to be noted that 100 years ago, a number of Catholic women from mainly European countries, recognised that many women, children and families needed assistance. That recognition resulted in the formation of an organisation that evolved to become WUCWO [see: [www.wucwo.org](http://www.wucwo.org) > Who We Are], a worldwide movement of compassionate, caring women. Its early leaders were public advocates of Catholic social teaching on all matters relating to women and the dignity of the human person, and editorials in Volumes 11 and 22 of WUCWO's Official Magazine, *Women's Voice*, outline the activities of WUCWO women at the United Nations, beginning in 1947. What began as genuine concepts (enunciated in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948), have been altered to what can be seen today.

One needs to realise that what has happened and continues to happen in UN policies, through its councils, organisations, commissions, funds and programmes, ultimately affects all citizens of every nation in the world. As an example of how insidious this process occurs one can cite the new raft of "Rights".

Included in the current 'Rights' agendas that are becoming enshrined into legislation are: (1) "marriage" of homosexual couples, equating this to the same status as 'marriage between a man and a woman, and (2) 'gender rights', which refers not to injustices based on lack of equal opportunity or dignity for females, but to having "gender equality", which recognises "sexual identity" through one's "chosen sexual orientation".

In an excellent article entitled '*Gender bending: let me count the ways*', Babette Francis, documents 23 'genders' and outlines what is occurring at the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) under its chair, the Hon. Catherine Branson QC. To access Babette's article go to [www.endeavourforum.org.au](http://www.endeavourforum.org.au).

Babette writes: "*It should be understood that in international law the only binding definition of gender is contained in the Rome Statute of the International Court which states: ...the term 'gender' refers to the two sexes, male and female, within the context of society. The term 'gender' does not indicate any meaning different from the aforementioned definition.*"

When 'gender' is used in any UN or Australian Government document relating to women, it is a direct consequence of UN CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women) and the Optional Protocol signed by the Australian Government, which agrees with at least 7 "genders", and its thrust is to introduce other undesirable changes into our society.

One such undesirable change as a consequence of CEDAW, is the misuse of 'anti-discrimination' laws. Instead of concentrating on legitimate injustices, we see women from 'gender equality' groups at the UN and in Australia, promulgating propositions against religious beliefs/religion and freedom of expression, and arguing that sexuality and sexual freedom should be promoted as a 'human right'.

The Commission on the Status of Women meeting held annually in New York instigates and perpetuates the deceptive and manipulative language that abounds in UN interactions there. Indeed, to participate in and report on this event, one is forced to reproduce this language whether or not one believes in or approves of it.

Other 'rights' being pursued are: (1) 'The Rights of the Child', one of which equates to children taking autonomous actions/decisions about contraceptives/sexual activity without parental knowledge or approval, and (2) the 'Right of Women to Choose'. This is euphemistic (hidden) language for women undertaking abortions—at any stage of a pregnancy, including partial birth—because it is purportedly their “right” to choose to dispose of their children.

There is confusion about UNICEF. Set up to focus on disadvantaged children's relief efforts, WUCWO was one of its original advocates, and held consultative status with it. At the end of 1996, the Pontifical Council for the Family contacted the WUCWO President General advising her that the Holy See had withdrawn its support for UNICEF, including the sale of UNICEF greeting cards in Catholic institutions. The reasons given were: a) the failure of UNICEF to provide accountability for funds 'earmarked' for specific and morally unobjectionable child-related projects; b) UNICEF participation in a UN Manual advocating the distribution of 'abortifacient contraceptives' to refugee women in emergency situations; c) evidence of UNICEF involvement in advocacy to alter national legislation regarding abortion, and d) credible reports that UNICEF workers in various countries were distributing contraceptives and counselling their use.

This withdrawal of support has not been rescinded. It is interesting to note that C-FAM documented on the 11th January 2007 that the latest UNICEF report at that time, “prioritised women's rights (achievement of “gender equality”) over child protection and survival. For a more thorough review of UNICEF's history and dealings, see the excellent White Paper prepared by the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM) at [www.c-fam.org/docLib/20080424\\_Number\\_3\\_UNICEF\\_2003.pdf](http://www.c-fam.org/docLib/20080424_Number_3_UNICEF_2003.pdf). To this day, UNICEF continues to uphold abortion.

Other UN agencies that currently promulgate anti-family policies are the Human Rights Council, UNIFEM, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNDP (United Nations Development Fund), UNAIDS and now with the formation of the amalgamated four 'women's agencies' into the

'super-entity' titled UN Women, these actions are truly entrenched at the United Nations [See p. 33 'Women's Voice No. 23]. UNESCO, in the guise of “education”, is also involved.

Catholic women have a duty to be aware of and understand what is occurring. From where then do they get reliable information about so many diverse UN agencies? Certainly not from the popular press!

The most authentic information about the UN comes from 3 sources:

- 1) Statements made by the Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, His Excellency Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations at <http://www.holyseemission.org>.
- 2) The weekly Friday Fax from C-FAM President, Austin Ruse, at <http://www.c-fam.org>.
- 3) Lastly, from the valuable reference: '*Lexicon' Ambiguous and debatable terms regarding family life and ethical questions*'. [Pontifical Council for the Family].

To conclude, the United Nations is the 'driver' of most of the sociological changes that are occurring in contemporary society. By being aware of this situation, may CWLA women never cease praying that they will be able to counteract the disadvantageous aspects of these changes, and in faith continue to work for 'the common good' for all humanity.

*Brenda Finlayson DSG  
WUCWO Immediate Past Vice President General,  
2006-2010, and Board Member Australia, 2001-2010.*

“ You have before you the task of seeking new ways to announce Christ in situations of rapid and often profound transformation, and of emphasizing the missionary character of all pastoral activity. ”

*Pope Benedict XVI,  
Vatican City, February 8, 2008*



# Reflection

Fr Ken Barker MGL



In the spiritual life, we can come to a place where we have found a comfortable plateau on which we have decided to settle, and we cease to strive for more. Our desire for union with God grows cold. Maybe we feel our journey has been too arduous as it is. A cry comes from within, “Enough is enough!

I will not go any further. I will not serve anymore!” Self-preservation takes over, and what we began in the Spirit ends in the flesh. We fall into complacency, luke-warmness and become half-hearted in our response to the Lord.

At first, it can seem a relief that we have stopped trying to move forward, and have resisted the promptings of the Spirit to be stretched beyond our comfort zone. However, over time, if we do not allow ourselves to be challenged out of our complacency, we will find ourselves falling back into old patterns of sin, and lose so much of what we had previously gained in the Spirit. To use another image, the spiritual life can be likened to a man rowing a boat upstream. If he keeps rowing he will make progress, but if he rests on the oars the current of the stream will take him backwards, and maybe eventually over a waterfall to his destruction.

I am not suggesting that the remedy for complacency is simply to grit your teeth and push on stoically regardless of the cost and conditions. Certainly there is a need for a “determined determination,” as Teresa of Avila puts it. We must persevere. But this needs to be by the power of the Spirit, not just by our naked will-power. We have to be shaken out of our tepidity by hearing the word of God in a new way, being convicted by the Spirit, and having rekindled in us the fire of God’s love.

This new zeal for God should not ignore the need to put prudent boundaries on our generous service. We need to know when to say “yes” and when to

say “no”. Otherwise our unwise choices, driven by ego or by unfair expectations of others could lead us to “burn-out”. That is never God’s purpose. If we are serving according to the will of God, our service will surely stretch us but not deplete us. We will be drawing from a hidden source of energy deep within the heart, the wellspring of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Jn 4:14).

When we give of ourselves in sacrificial service, the heart is expanded in its capacity to love. On the other hand if we stop hungering for God and shut down our life of service, the heart shrinks and we become shrivelled up in a self-enclosed lethargy. The true joy comes only when we are giving our lives away for God and for others. So, let us rekindle the fire! Let us fan into a flame the gift God has given to us when hands were laid upon us (2 Tim 1:6). Let us allow the love of God capture our hearts more fully, and find again the passion of our earlier days. Let us renounce the inertial pull towards mediocrity, and choose the greatness of the kingdom, which is a whole-hearted readiness to give of ourselves for others (Mk 10:45).

*This article first appeared in The Cross and Flame, Newsletter of the Missionaries of God’s Love Brothers, June 2011.*

“ We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman. ... it is our responsibility to pass on what, by God’s grace, we ourselves have received. ”

*Pope Benedict XVI,  
Verbum Domini, 2010*



## Update on the MGL Seminary Building Appeal

A brand new building is rising in the midst of the MGL house of formation in Melbourne. Over \$700,000 has already been raised. The MGLs have been truly humbled to see the donations come in, and are truly grateful to all those who have contributed thus far.

The MGLs have taken out a short term loan of \$300,000 in faith that it will be paid off by the completion of the building. The completion date is early December and the MGLs need to raise the additional funds as soon as possible. Please consider giving a donation to the MGL Seminary Building Appeal. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be sent to 6 Boake Place, Garran, ACT, 2605 or made online at <http://www.givenow.com.au/mglseminary;jsessionid=B2D59A37EC7F97BCE9C2E8DEBB4DBE2F>.

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.

## Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15th August

'Mary is an example and support for all believers: She encourages us not to lose confidence in the face of the difficulties and inevitable problems of every day. She assures us of her help and reminds us that what is essential is to seek and aspire for 'things that are above, not for things on earth' (Colossians 3:2). Immersed in daily occupations, we run the risk of believing that in this world, in which we are only passing by, is the objective of human existence. However, Paradise is the authentic goal of our earthly pilgrimage. How different our days would be if they were animated by this perspective! It is what happened to saints. Their human existence witnesses that when one lives with one's heart constantly directed to heaven, earthly realities are lived in their just value, as they are illuminated by the eternal truth of divine love.'

*Pope Benedict XVI, 15th August 2006.*

## Between the Hearts of Jesus and Mary

*Fr David Tremble MGL*



We sat in prayer together around Bill's bedside; turning our gaze back and forth from his dying face to a nearby Icon of Mary holding her Son. As the hours went by and a new day dawned, we sung the Salve Regina. Bill breathed his last as Friday night of the

Sacred Heart of Jesus gave way to Saturday's early hours on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Truly, he died between the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Blessed Pope John Paul II beautifully describes this closeness between the two hearts. In 2002 from his Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, he speaks of 'the inseparable bond between Christ and his Blessed Mother: the mysteries of Christ are also in some sense the mysteries of his Mother, even when they do not involve her directly, for she lives from him and through him. By making our own the words of the Angel Gabriel and Saint Elizabeth contained in the Hail Mary, we find ourselves constantly drawn to seek out afresh in Mary, in her arms and in her heart, the "blessed fruit of her womb" (cf Lk 1:42).'

In my late teens, I was touched by this same drawing power to seek afresh Jesus in and through the arms and heart of Mary. I was contemplating the images of Mary's Immaculate Heart and Jesus' Sacred Heart from two Holy Cards that I had blue tacked to my bedroom wall. My mind began to recall boyhood memories of using a magnifying glass to set fire to grass and paper in our backyard. These memories evoked a connection with Mary's Magnificat where she describes her soul as magnifying the Lord. I understood that in the light of Mary's Immaculate Heart God's holiness was all the more magnified.

During this time, we are each invited to turn to the Heart of Mary who desires to set our hearts on fire afresh for her Son and his mission.



# News From Our Member Organisations

## TASMANIA

All branch members and the executive have been busy completing our first major project for the year—the Juey Bazaar in Geeveston, southern Tasmania. All clothing donated has been given to the Bazaar. The ladies who volunteer in the shop have been busy raising money for the orphanage in Cambodia. They have just sent \$14,000 to Cambodia to the orphanage to purchase a new bus. The bus will take the older children to further training and work. The bus will also take the younger children for educational outings and medical appointments as well.

Members have attended the World Day of Prayer in their areas in the south, north and north west. It is always lovely to meet ladies from other churches and learn of the work that they are doing in our local communities. There is always a program and service which includes readers, guest speakers and singing. Afterwards, we share a cuppa. Fundraising for Australian Church Women has also taken place in the state and it is heartening to see CWL members on its executive.

By now, all the branches have had their Annual General Meetings. Some of our state executive have been fortunate to spread themselves around and been welcomed at branches to attend their meetings, celebrate in prayer and, enjoying some time talking and sharing of a meal. We welcome all members, old and new, who have taken on executive roles in their branches. We even have some new members to the League in Tasmania.

WUCWO Day of Prayer has been held in each branch and some branches combined this day with their Annual General Meetings. This year, the program was prepared by WUCWO's Latin America and Caribbean Region. We enjoyed a lovely presentation focusing on women, especially those women that were included in the group that travelled with Jesus. These women were always joyful and enthusiastic, they followed him diligently, they gave witness to Him and, they became engaged in service, living and announcing the Good News and doing it with deeds. This is still true for women today. We lead by example.

Members have almost completed our second project for the year. This involves collecting material,

cottons, button, lace, wool etc to give to the Stitch Program in Hobart. This program is teaching the Sudanese women to make clothing for their families as part of an International Humanitarian Refugee Settlement Scheme at Centacare in Newtown. The ladies meet one day a week to sew, share their food with volunteers and knit toys for children's Samaritan Christmas boxes.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Launceston on the 7th September at St Francis Church in Riverside. Tasmania is quite small but for all of us to get together involves several hours of travelling. We all who can do come because we love to catch up with each other and ask how we have gone over the winter months. We enquire into each other's health and wellbeing and that of our families. We share a meal and, last but not least, discuss business!

Nationally, the CWLA Executive is preparing for the 45th Biennial Conference in September in Melbourne. The theme of the Conference is "Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord by Your Life". Our prayers are with the Executive in this busy time of preparation.

God's Blessings to all members of the Catholic Women's League around Australia, going in peace to serve the Lord. As we heard in our Lenten program—'Heart to Heart'—this year, we are encouraged to help and support people in the community and, to continue our discipleship. We need to listen for an opportunity for inner dialogue to see what we are seeking, our heart's desire and acknowledge God's dream for us. We should approach this dream with an open heart and open hands. We are all grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts etc so we can relate well to each other and benefit from each other's experience and, celebrate the differences. Take care of yourselves and each other.

*Marjorie Payton  
State President, Tasmania*

“ *Love one another,  
bear with one another.* ”

*St Mary of the Cross, 12 January 1909*

## VICTORIA & WAGGA WAGGA

All our Regional Conferences for 2011 have now been held as well as the five Diocesan Conferences. It is always a delight to hear how involved our wonderful members are not only with the work of the League but also within their parishes and their local communities.

Our Special Works Committees held their Annual Meetings and Expo at Mary Glowrey House on Tuesday 7th June. This forum provides a wonderful opportunity for our members to hear about the work of our Special Works Committees throughout the last 12 months and hopefully inspire other members to join in this work. Briefings were provided by the Missions & Welfare, The Horizon, Mary Glowrey House, Social Questions and Cause of Sr Dr Mary Glowrey Committees as well as from our Public Relations Advisory Group. Members also received a briefing about the activities of Anima Education, a joint project of the League and the Anima Womens' Network. We were delighted to once again welcome Sister Margaret and a group of students from the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy. These students are supported by the League's Mission & Welfare Committee through the provision of uniforms and books etc.

Earlier this year, major structural work was undertaken at our state headquarters, Mary Glowrey House. This work was followed up with paintwork in various areas of the house. Occupancy rates so far this year have been excellent. The accommodation at Mary Glowrey House continues to be highly recommended by local hospitals, especially St. Vincent's.

In 2010, the League undertook fundraising activities on the Feast of St. Maria Goretti. As a result, we were recently able to forward a cheque for \$2234 to the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking Humans (ACRATH).

Our Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Anthony Doran has moved from a Melbourne suburban parish to take over as Parish Priest in Castlemaine. Five of our members attended his Induction Mass and felt honoured when Fr. Tony made special mention of us in his homily. The theme given to us for 2011 by Fr. Tony, *'New Ways of Living the Gospel that Respect and Defend the Human Dignity of all in our Land'*, has been

discussed many times at our various conferences.

Members of the Sale Diocesan Committee have been busy visiting parishes at weekend Masses to speak about the League and to try to open a few more new branches. The feedback to date has been positive with a possible new branch at Newborough and also hopefully Yarram. We are also confident that a new branch will open in Churchill.

On August 17th, we will be having a one day General Conference at Mary Glowrey House instead of our usual two day conference hosted by one of the Dioceses. We are actively encouraging our members to attend the 45th Annual Biennial Conference being held in Melbourne in September.

God Bless,

*Jeanette Sheahan,  
General President, Victoria & Wagga Wagga*

**Commemoration of the 57th Anniversary of the Death of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ:** On 5th May, Mass was held at the Australian Catholic University St Patrick's Campus on the anniversary of Mary Glowrey's death followed by a luncheon and then a lecture by Anna Krohn. The event was hosted by Mr Chris Sheargold, the Associate Vice Chancellor (Melbourne). It was attended by Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Sr Maria Casey rsj (the final postulator for the cause of St Mary of the Cross), members of the League as well as staff and students from ACU.

During his homily, Fr Werner Utri spoke beautifully about Mary's life and mission as well as stressing her importance to the University. He felt that her extraordinary witness could inspire the next generation of nurses and health professionals to foster a culture of life in the 21st century. During her lecture, Anna Krohn also highlighted Mary's importance to ACU. Dr Glowrey held positions at St Vincent's Hospital and the Eye & Ear Hospital Melbourne from 1912 to 1919. Anna encouraged those gathered to think of Mary crossing Victoria Parade from one hospital to another, or going to the Guild office in Cathedral Hall (now called Central Hall and an integral part of St Patrick's Campus), just as many ACU students and staff now walk this same path each day.

Anna also spoke about Mary's role as the founding



President of the then Catholic Women's Social Guild as well as her lifelong support of the nursing profession. Convinced of the immeasurable influence that Catholic nurses could have on society, Dr Mary Glowrey helped to form a Nurses Branch of the Guild in 1917. A Pupil Nurses' Association was also formed so that Catholic nurses in training in the various hospitals could keep more closely in touch with each other. In highlighting the importance of this newly formed Branch, Mary wrote 'it is recognised that nurses deal with the soul as well as bodies... (and the Branch) aims at stimulation in its members a keen interest in all activities in which none but a nurse can carry through.' This early professional and spiritual support of nurses is an integral element of Mary Glowrey's life as a medical doctor and religious woman. The Australian Catholic University is the largest educator of undergraduate nurses and midwives in Australia and so the connection to the current education of students, in the area of health care ethics and spirituality, in the same lecture theatre where Mary taught nurses in these same areas could be seen as a 'God-incidence'!

Sr Maria Casey rsj provided some very timely advice and great encouragement to members of the League's *Committee for the Cause of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ*. At the conclusion of the event, ACU Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen, a dedicated supporter of the cause of Mary Glowrey and the League, thanked those who attended.

*Jill Venturini (CWL Bundoora), Jo Grainger (ACU and CWL Burwood) & Robyn Fahy (CWL Burwood)*

**Cause of Sr Dr Mary Glowrey JMJ:** The Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga hold more than 80% of Mary Glowrey's personal writings. As part of the preliminary phase of her cause, the League was asked to copy all these personal writings and send them as a matter of priority to the Society of JMJ and Fr Paul Puthanangady sdb in Bangalore. A core team consisting of Madge, Tom and Robyn Fahy undertook this mammoth task. It took an estimated 38 hours to copy the archives and a further 12 hours to prepare them for shipping to India. Jewell Start was kind enough to come to Mary Glowrey House to spend a day assisting with photocopying. Every page on each document was certified as being a true copy by a barrister, Anthony Krohn. So far, 15 kilograms of documents have been shipped to India.

The League is deeply indebted once again to the Australian Catholic University, in particular Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen, for donating

\$1800 towards the costs of copying and sending the Glowrey Papers to India. We are also deeply indebted to Sr Monica for her original archiving efforts. Without her earlier work, we would not have been able to get the necessary documents to India in such a timely manner.

**St Joseph - Father, Husband & Worker:** St Joseph's central role in mission, work, prayer and spirituality was the focus for the latest Anima Women's Network Conference, held on 21st May at the Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne, and attended by about 80 women—including some League members—of all ages and states of life.

Keynote speaker Associate Professor Tracey Rowland, Dean of the John Paul II Institute (Melbourne), and renowned author and theologian, spoke on '*The Figure of St Joseph in the New Evangelisation*'. Professor Rowland has a particular



Participants at the Anima conference, from left: Sr Kizito SSPC, Meg McCumstie, Maureen Cassidy, Sr Reena SSPC, Simone Smith, Christina Kennedy, Sr Columba SSPC. Photo: Fiona Power

interest in the challenges that face Christianity in contemporary cultural and social settings.

In her presentation, Dr Rowland reviewed the Church's deepening theological appreciation of St Joseph as a reflection of the paternity of God the Father. She said many great saints have relied upon the support and protection of St Joseph, including St Teresa and St Mary of the Cross. Dr Rowland said Pope Benedict XVI, during a recent visit to Spain, emphasised the patronage of St Joseph for Antoni Gaudi, the architect of the extraordinary Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.

Dr Rowland noted the contributions of Blessed Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and the French poet, Charles Peguy, have made to our understanding of the 'adventure' revealed by St Joseph's personality and life. She said that St Joseph



reveals a true nobility for excellence in men and boys and, for those forming and educating them. He demonstrates a dispositional 'aristocracy', evidenced by his honouring of women, the protection of those in need and courage before adversity. He is, as the Scriptures depict him, a man committed to justice.

Dr Rowland's lecture was very warmly received by the participants. Her presentation was followed by a panel discussion about the place of St Joseph in our lives, vocations and in the formation of males—young and old. Tom Fahy gave a vivid encouragement in devotion to St Joseph and particularly the Holy Cloak in Honour of St. Joseph novena—a particular favorite of St Teresa of Avila.

*Fiona Power (Editor, Kairos) & Anna Krohn (National Bioethics Convenor & CWL Ballarat Cathedral Branch)*

## QUEENSLAND

Branches in the respective Dioceses are holding their Annual General Meetings around this time of year. Although each one has its own unique contribution, all follow our motto for the 'Honour and Glory of God' by prayer and working in the Parishes. Money is raised to assist those in need by generous donations to many and varied causes throughout the year.

Earlier in the year, we travelled to Chinchilla in the Toowoomba Diocese, a delightful town nearly 300 kilometers northwest of Brisbane, for their 50 year celebration of CWL. It was a festive time as we joined the ladies for a welcome afternoon tea, dinner on Saturday, Mass and morning tea on Sunday while enjoying their hospitality immensely.

A trip to the northern boundary of the Brisbane Archdiocese included Hervey Bay and Maryborough, followed by a Women's Reflection Day organized by Kawana Waters Branch at Buderim and the AGM of Aspley Branch, a Brisbane suburb. Then to complete the week, the celebration of WUCWO Day in the Archdiocesan Rooms in the Catholic Centre at the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Brisbane.

This news comes from Townsville, a city on the North East coast of Queensland. Each year, the CWL in the Townsville Diocese hosts events to honour Our Lady Help of Christians at the end of May. This year, a celebratory Mass was held at the Holy Spirit Church followed by a luncheon.

Rockhampton Diocese held their AGM early in June. Doris McSherry, a member of St. Mary's Branch South Mackay, is the new Diocesan President.

Therese Sturgeon of St. Joseph's Branch North Mackay is the Secretary. They have a very active Social Issues Group led by Jan Webb.

The State AGM and Council Meeting, initially due to be held in March, was cancelled and instead we held a teleconference on Monday 27th June. Brisbane, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Townsville Dioceses were represented with two delegates each. Present also in Brisbane were the State Executive and State Chaplain, Fr. Bill McCarthy. Unfortunately the Branches in the Cairns Diocese closed at the end of 2010.

Plans are being made for the next State Conference to be held in Brisbane in September 2012

On a final note, my personal thanks to members from all over Australia for Masses, prayers and good wishes during my recent convalescence. What a privilege to belong to this wonderful group of Catholic women and to be the recipient of so much love and support.

May God Bless you and all those you love,

*Heather McIntyre,  
State President, Queensland*

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Farewell Downey House: Mary MacKillop, now Saint Mary of the Cross, once said, "Do all you can with the means at your disposal and leave the rest to God" and I think that has been our motto as we have prayed and worked towards doing our best for CWL WA and Downey House over the past four years. Now after 37 years of Masses, Meetings, WUCWO Day Celebrations, afternoon tea parties, card games, Archdiocesan Council meetings and Annual General Meetings, the much loved Downey House has been sold.

A letter received from the purchaser R & R Partnership, advised CWL WA "that our intention is to renovate 49 Vincent Street and in doing so preserve its history and character". We can now look forward to seeing our former headquarters returned to its former glory.

I pay a special tribute to all the wonderful women who in the early 1960's took a huge leap of faith and arranged a loan for the purchase of 49 Vincent Street and then worked so hard to pay off the debt. And now, as we again take another huge leap of faith, I ask for your continued prayers, love and support as we are challenged with the task of moving forward.



**CWLWA State Council:** It is deeply gratifying to have all positions on State Council filled for the year 2012. The Morley branch of CWL very generously accepted the challenge to host this year's State AGM. Mass was celebrated by our State Chaplain Father Wayne Davis from the Floreat Parish. The day was a great success—a great venue and wonderful food.

**Perth Archdiocesan Report:** This being the first meeting away from Downey House since the 1970's, a new era has begun for us. Let us not look back with regret, but with a renewed fervour to continue the work of the women who paved the way for us. We have found a new temporary home with the Legion of Mary Association, like minded wonderful friends, until such time as CWLWA finds new premises. As Archdiocesan President I received an invitation to Monsignor Long's 30th Anniversary of his ordination, to be held at St Charles Seminary, concluding with Vespers and Benediction. As a group, we have also been invited to St Charles Seminary for lunch and a tour of the Seminary later this month. On behalf of our members, I attended the Mothers Union Diocesan Festival at St Georges Cathedral. The address was given by Rev. Sandy Moore, the Mothers Union Chaplain. She spoke on 'How Mary would have thought when asked by the Angel Gabriel to be the Mother of God'.

**Bunbury Diocesan Report:** The Bunbury Diocesan Annual General Meeting was held on 21st May when the Margaret River branch welcomed more than 50 members to their "patch". The day was filled with great love and camaraderie where CWL friends caught up with one another once again and newer members were introduced. We were thrilled to hear three wonderful speakers: Janeen Murphy from Caritas, Mary Kavanagh from Pregnancy Assistance and young Jess Piggott from Busselton, who recently

won the WA State Rotary Competition speaking contest with her stimulating talk entitled "Child Beauty Pageants".

The theme of the day was appropriately "The Water of Life" and it was obvious from the talks, the branch reports and interaction that the water is indeed '*flowing and life giving*'. Diocesan President Jeanine Dowse presented Diocesan Chaplain, Father Wally Kevis (on behalf of Bishop Holohan) with two cheques, one for the annual donation to the Bishop's Seminary Fund and the other for the purchase of a Processional Cross for the new St Patrick's Cathedral in Bunbury. We look forward to seeing the CWL Cross being led into service.

The day ended with a sumptuous meal, followed by entertainment provided by the talented team from Manjimup CWL and a "quartet of players" led by the inimitable Barbara Paterniti!

**Geraldton Report:** Father Peter Downs has been appointed as our new Chaplain and he is taking his position very seriously having attended every meeting so far. He spoke about his work and shared his plans including his involvement in the Men's Shed and, also some of his experiences with Spirituality in the Pub. He also shared a diagram to help us with decision making in personal or in family situations. At our last meeting, Father Peter also arranged a viewing of a DVD of a Compass programme.

Two new members joined us this year, one of them, Geraldine Casey, was a guest speaker at one of our meetings. She shared her concern for the apparent lack of action in issues of illicit drugs. She explained her long-term and personal involvement in highlighting the devastation families and individuals suffer when confronted with addiction complications. Australia has a very high level of drug addiction and illicit drug use and, Western Australia has the highest. Children are victims, being born addicted and often suffering neglect and disruption in family life. Geraldine has a wealth of information to share and would appreciate any help we can offer in the way of political pressure and public education.

We welcomed Father Larry, our new priest from the Philippines, to one of our meetings. He spoke about his Parish life in Manila where he often said six masses on a weekend. He has suffered quite a bit from homesickness and a few of our members have helped him with English pronunciation as well as driving lessons.



L to R - Mary (guest speaker, Pregnancy Assist), Pat (President, Bunbury Branch), Anne and Ruby (Mount Barker Branch)



We helped with catering and celebrated International Women's Day which was attended by about 50 Catholic Women from Geraldton. Our next function will be a morning tea for Isabella McKenna who is going to Thailand to work with the Sisters of St Joseph in the orphanages and poor regional areas. We wish her well.

**National Council of Women:** Preparations are in hand for the centenary of National Council of Women in WA. This was officially launched at Perth City Council Offices on Thursday 21st April and an Exhibition opened at the Perth Town Hall on Saturday 23rd April. It was a very interesting exhibition with many displays from past years following the history of the NCWWA. The winner of the Science and Technology Bursary and runners up were announced. These prizes were donated by Life members of NCW.

**CWLWA Conference:** Our State Conference has been set for the 14th October. The late Archbishop Prendiville invited a group of Perth ladies to a meeting on the 12 October 1936, informing the group that the purpose of the meeting was two-fold. The first was to form a Catholic Women's League in the State and the second was to introduce and welcome the Comtesse de Hemptinne who was en route to Adelaide for a CWL Conference. Less than a year later on the 25th May 1937, His Grace addressed a gathering of approximately 200 ladies with the confirmation by election of the original committee. On the 23rd August 1937, an extraordinary meeting was called to register the League as a Corporate Body and now, 75 years later, it is time to celebrate and give thanks for all we have been given and achieved. We will hold the State Conference at the Monastery Retreat House, to begin the celebrations of 75 years

“*Whoever Receives You Receives Me*”  
(*Matthew 10:40*)

St Benedict grasped both the marvel and the impact of Jesus' words. Hospitality is not merely a social grace; it is a spiritual practice. Carving these words into his heart, he received everyone as Christ Himself. We are called to do the same: to accept each person without judgement or prejudice, to realize that each person is worth our time and effort, to give second chances and ongoing forgiveness.

*Sr. Bridget Haase, O.S.U., Living Faith Daily Catholic Devotions, July-September 2011*

of Catholic Women's League in WA commencing at 10am, Mass at noon in the Monastery Church followed by lunch. National CWL President Madge Fahy has accepted our invitation to be present at our celebrations.

**Ecumenical Effort:** A need has been seen, and a League appeal launched, to knit, crochet or provide warm bed coverings and clothes for newly arrived refugee men to Northam, a town where temperatures regularly go below zero during the winter months. The State CWL started collecting these items at our AGM in April with more items collected at the Bunbury Diocesan AGM. Donations will be sent to the organisers "Wellspring Community Inc (WA)" and Northam Uniting Church Congregation.

We pray for Sister Irene McCormack RSJ who was martyred in Peru 20 years ago on 21st May. Sister Irene was a dear friend of Catholic Women's League in Manjimup and well known and loved among St Joseph's communities in WA. We pray that her legacy in Peru brings about a continuation of her work in improving literacy and bringing God's love to the poor and marginalized.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

In Charity, Work & Loyalty,

*Karyn Kammann,  
State President, CWLWA (Inc.)*

## CANBERRA & GOULBURN

The unexpected death of Evonnie (Vonnie) Sullivan AM on Easter Saturday 23 April 2011 has left us all with an overwhelming feeling of loss. She was a brave and beautiful lady who enriched the lives of all who knew her. We have no doubt she is now safely home with her risen Lord reaping her reward for a life well lived in the service of others. Rest in peace, Vonnie.

The theme, "*We Are Ambassadors for Christ*" (adapted from St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians) was accepted at our recent Annual General Meeting and Conference, to help us through the year ahead. This theme places a serious responsibility on us and we do not take it on lightly. Ambassadors represent others and in order to speak for Christ, we need to know what Christ taught and what He would say or do in whatever circumstances. We need to be in a loving and active relationship with Christ through prayer and sacrifice and with His help, we will be up for the task.





Our AGM/Conference was held in Young, NSW, on Saturday 14 May, with some 40 ladies in attendance representing all branches in the Archdiocese. Father Richard Thompson, Parish Priest of St Mary's Church in Young, was the guest speaker and reflected on the above theme in his talk. He gave us much to think about and encouraged us to feel more optimistic about the future. We all need companionship and support on our journey and while organisations might well struggle with declining numbers, with the help of the Holy Spirit we will prevail. Maybe not in our present form but evolving into something equally rewarding. Father concluded by thanking the CWL for all their support of him over the years.

One of the most privileged duties, I could perform on the day was to award Leone Carse of St Brigid's/ St Patrick's branch of the League, an Honorary Archdiocesan Life Memberships (HALM). Leone, a former member of Campbell branch, is someone who has worked tirelessly for the League since 1963. She served as an Archdiocesan President, a National Vice-President and as Archdiocesan International Secretary, to name but a few roles in the service of the League. Leone also researched and proof-read the history of the CWL in the Archdiocese, which resulted in the publication of *"A Power For Good"*. Described as a selfless 'doing' person, Leone, as self effacing as ever, was shocked and surprised with the honour. All present responded with acclamation and gave Leone a standing ovation in recognition of her dedication to CWL.

A recent Government publication titled *"ACT Women's Honour Roll – Celebrating local women on the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day"*, featured Olga Scott, the current President of the West Wyalong branch of CWL. In 1998, Olga received the ACT Women's Award in 1998 for her

contribution to Community work. The following citation summed up Olga's contributions:

*The list of community organisations which Olga has been involved with is long enough to make most exhausted just looking at it. Olga was presented with an ACT Women's Award in 1998 for her work with Australian Church Women, the Country Women's Association, the Catholic Women's League, the Carmelite Auxiliary, the Marymead Auxiliary, Probus, the National Council of Women, the ACT Council of Churches and Quota. Olga was enthusiastically congratulated on her breathtaking community work and achievements over a long period of time.*

What can one say, other than well done Olga!

Our auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese, Bishop Pat Power, celebrated his Episcopal Silver Jubilee on the 18th April 2011 at St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra. His mother, Olga Power, served as President of the CWL in Queanbeyan at one time, so he has a continuing interest in the work of the League. In the "Catholic Voice", our diocesan newspaper, Bishop Power has begun a series titled *Canberra Catholics*. First to be featured in May was Lady Mary Scholtens DSG. There will be articles about Ursula Southwell in October and Jean Reid next February.

The Archdiocesan Executive for 2011/12 is the same as last year and I was happy to take up the reins as President for another year. The past year has been very full and now that Vonnie is gone, it will not be possible for me to continue as Newsletter Editor, as well as President. The task is too daunting. At the AGM, I agreed to continue as Editor until the end of 2011. In coming months, an Editorial Committee, comprising at least two and preferably three members, will be set up to spread the responsibilities more evenly from January 2012.

In the meantime, another CWL Canberra/Goulburn Newsletter has just gone to press, dedicated to the memory of Vonnie Sullivan. Vonnie was a personal friend and mentor to me for more than 35 years and life will never be the same again for me without her wise counsel, her sense of humour and perspective, her love and support and her invaluable corporate knowledge of every aspect of the Catholic Women's League.

Deo gratias.

*Angela Devlin,  
President, CWL Canberra/Goulburn*



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

At its inception in South Australia in 1914, CWL was an association with the intention of uniting Catholic women in a bond of common fellowship for the promotion of religious and intellectual interests and social work. During the early stages of World War I, the CWL contributed to the war effort and associated relief work, and built a Recreation Hall for returned wounded soldiers, which was opened in early 1916 at a cost of £600.

In August 1916, Archbishop Spence opened the League's St Mary's Hostel and Club Cafe in Pirie St Adelaide. Its business card advertised:

*'Light luncheons and Afternoon Tea served.  
Home cooking and prompt attention. Open 12  
- 5 daily, also from 5 to 6.30 on Friday evenings.  
Accommodation for girls in business as resident  
boarders, also for country visitors.'*

In 1918, CWL purchased much larger premises at 178 East Tce, Adelaide, which became the new St Mary's Hostel, an accommodation facility for Catholic girls coming to Adelaide from the country for work, education or training. Much good work was done at the Hostel, but by the early 1970s, the buildings were in need of repair and the number of boarders had fallen steadily. After 56 years, St Mary's closed its doors at the end of 1972—a hard and heart-rending decision.

At this time some of the younger members of the CWL, young mums at home with their children, saw a new need emerging—quality child care. After much convincing of members throughout the State that child care was a project that would further the aims and objects of the League, the decision was made to proceed.

In December 1972, the Catholic Women's League of South Australia Inc. applied to the Commonwealth Government for a grant to build a Child Care Centre on the site of the Hostel, one of the first of its kind in South Australia. The Centre opened in February 1975.

For 36 years, CWL SA has built up the Child Care Centre with many people making generous contributions of time, energy and finances. We have always been proud of the service offered to children by the Centre.

Over the past 10 years, the Child Care scene has changed dramatically with greater involvement by State and Federal Governments. Operators of

Child Care Centres are required to be familiar with Enterprise Agreements, Workplace Relations, Child Care Benefits and Subsidies, Staff/Child Ratios, Occupational Health Safety and Welfare issues, and much more.

Over the past 3-4 years, it has become increasingly evident that our members are ill-equipped to deal with these and many more complex issues for which we are ultimately responsible. There had been discussion by some members about the wisdom in these times of having such a large responsibility on their shoulders and whether, with the Government now largely controlling the child care industry, we should put our energies into supporting other social concerns in our society.

So a new era began for CWL in South Australia on July 1st 2011, when the Christian Brothers' College began operating the CWL Child Care Centre under Licence from the State Department of Education and Children's Services. We are confident that Christian Brothers' College will continue to provide quality child care at the CWL Centre for many years to come. While it was a difficult decision and a very difficult and time-consuming process to go through, we believe that it is the right decision and a good outcome.

And while we've been caught up in issues at a State level, much is happening at the grass-roots level through South Australia. Thankfully, engaging with CWL members in Diocesan, Regional, Branch and other Church gatherings demonstrates that League is alive and doing well in our State.

In May this year, I attended the CWL Vicariate meetings in Quorn (Flinders Ranges) and Loxton (Riverland) and the Regional Meeting in Kingston (South-East). What a pleasure it was to drive to those beautiful locations in our State, to hear how involved each Branch is in the wider community, and how much support they give to their Parish and Church Community.

I'm sure that that's true of all our Parish Branches of CWL.

*Pauline Victory,  
State President, South Australia*

## NSW

CWL Wollongong Diocese: While the Diocesan Executive is finalising preparations for our Biennial Conference, branch members have been busy in their



parishes as well as throughout the diocese.

The Bay and Basin Branch on the South Coast had an unusual “garden party” when rain and wind forced the gathering indoors. It turned into a great day with ladies from the area enjoying a light lunch and impromptu entertainment. Some had their nails ‘done’ while the raffle prizes looked great in their colourful wrappings.

On the 4th May, members and friends from Bay and Basin travelled to Berry for a retreat. The Spiritual Leader was Sr Bridie O’Connell RSJ and her theme for the day was The picturesque setting was idyllic and our members left refreshed, and inspired.

Two happy events were held in Nowra—an afternoon tea and a Mother’s Day function. The purpose of the afternoon tea for parents, whose children attend the parish school, was to promote CWL and how we work within the parish and community. For Mother’s Day, mothers and grandmothers were entertained by the singing group “Trilogy” and served a lovely afternoon tea by League members. Both events were popular and could become future “traditions” within St Michael’s Parish.

A Special Mass for the Unborn is held each year at St Xavier’s Cathedral Wollongong and this year, Fr Ron Peters celebrated the Mass and spoke of the great emotional suffering at the loss of a child. It is important to talk about our feelings in these situations, even the anger and the hurt. The offering of this Mass is an opportunity to ask for healing for all men and women who suffer feelings of anger, guilt, sadness and helplessness from these situations. During the luncheon that followed the Mass, people shared with others their experiences of loss both recent and some from many years ago.

WUCWO Day was held on Friday 13th May at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Ron Peters, Dean of the Cathedral, and a beautiful liturgy was prepared by Mary Smith our Diocesan International Secretary.

Sixty-seven people attend the luncheon that followed. Catherine McGrath, former State President and now WUCWO Board Member Australia, was the guest speaker. Catherine spoke about the WUCWO Centenary Assembly held last year in Jerusalem and her pending journey to Rome for her first WUCWO board meeting. A slide show presentation of the Assembly, and the subsequent tour of the Holy Land, ran during Catherine’s talk and also lunch.

Fairy Meadow branch did an excellent job as caterers and their efforts were much appreciated by those in attendance.

Father Patrick Vaughan, Parish Priest of St Patrick’s in Port Kembla, has been appointed Diocesan Chaplain by Bishop Peter Ingham. Many members know Father Patrick and are very pleased with his appointment.

On Tuesday 24th May, the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, there was a pilgrimage to the Diocesan Marian Shrine at Immaculate Conception Church at Unanderra. The day began with Mass.

The Feast of St Maria Goretti at Helensburgh on the 6th July began with Mass, followed by our usual “soup” luncheon. This is always a terrific day and this year was extra special as the CWL Branch of the Helensburgh Parish was celebrating their anniversary on that day.

The Diocesan Biennial Conference will be held on Saturday 23rd September at the Edmund Rice College, West Wollongong. Our theme for the day is: “*I can do everything through God Who gives me strength*”. Mass will be at 10.00am followed by morning tea. Guest speakers include Jen Charadia (Creator of Mary MacKillop Music) Barbara Davis (Kanga Schools in Africa) and Sr. Jan Barnett rsj (Educator, Consultant and Facilitator).

Members continue to support one another and pray for those in need as well as our sick and bereaved members.

*Judy Thompson,*  
*Communications Officer, Wollongong Diocese*

**CWL Broken Bay:** Our Diocese Biennial Conference will be held on Friday 7th October, the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary, in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Archer Street, Chatswood. The theme of our conference is: ‘*Prayer in the Life of Today’s Woman*’. Guest Speakers include Gail Gill, Ministry of Ecclesial Women, Mary Star of the Sea Association, Co-ordinator Parish Life - Holy Name Parish, Wahroonga; and Jessica Langrell, Student Chaplaincy Convenor, Campus Ministry, University of Notre Dame and Coordinator of Theology on Tap – Sydney. If you would like to know more about the CWL Broken Bay Biennial Conference, please contact Moya Fleming on (02) 9948 8044 or at [moyakf@bigpond.net.au](mailto:moyakf@bigpond.net.au).

*Moya Fleming,*  
*President CWL Broken Bay Diocese*





**CWL Sydney:** Our Forum Day on Saturday 23rd July will focus on the theme *'Journeys to Justice'*. This event will be held at the Australian Museum Theatre. This year's speakers are Magistrate Jacqueline Milledge, Local Courts NSW; John Hannaford, former examiner, Australian Crime Commission; and Sandie Cornish, manager of research and social policy, Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services. The Forum Day includes a question and answer session, where the audience can interact with guests. Call (02) 9390 5153 or visit [www.cwlsydney.org.au](http://www.cwlsydney.org.au) to register for the Forum Day. The cost is \$30 and includes afternoon tea.

Our 2010/2011 Project of the Year (Lasallian Sri Lankan School) concluded at the end of June. To show their gratitude, The Lasallian Foundation have sent photos of the Sri Lankan school children with their beautiful blankets made with love by CWL members. "These photos are just a small token of our thanks to you and all the wonderful, creative ladies of the Catholic Women's League for spending the time in making up all the beautiful blankets. The kids just loved them." Miranda Chow, Project Manager at the Lasallian Foundation said. CWL Sydney will continue to send these beautiful blankets throughout the year, so don't put down your knitting needles just yet.



WUCWO Day was held at the Polding Centre on Tuesday 10th May. A mass was celebrated by Fr. Ray Farrell, followed by a luncheon and a presentation of our guest speaker Catherine McGrath, WUCWO Board Member Australia. Guests included State President Carolyn Metcalf and members of the State Executive.

*Emily Potts*



## Breaking News

A controversial new lottery in the U.K. is offering contestants the chance to "win a baby" through expensive in-vitro fertilization treatments. For just \$30, 'ticket holders' can win \$25,000 of personalized fertility treatments at one of Great Britain's top five IVF facilities. Tickets will be sold online from 30th July and a winner selected every month. The contest is open to anyone.

Lottery organiser Camille Strachan from To Hatch, a charity which offers fertility advice, said bringing her lottery concept to Australia was a priority. "I get a lot of interest from people in Australia who come to my website and I speak to people there who are supporting this" Ms Strachan said.

The lottery is drawing criticism from ethical and medical groups. Josephine Quintavalle, of Comment on Reproductive Ethics (CORE), said that the scheme "demeans the whole nature of human reproduction." Questions have also been raised over the fact that Ms Strachan plans to pay herself a salary from the money raised from the lottery's ticket sales.

*“ The one and only Gospel waits to be proclaimed by everyone together, in love and reciprocal esteem. ”*

*Pope Benedict XVI,  
Vatican City, October 2, 2007*

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The CWLA e-newsletter is published quarterly.

### Women's Voice

Women's Voice is the Official Magazine of World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO).

An annual subscription is \$27.00.





# 45<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Bayview Eden, Melbourne

13<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

*"GO IN PEACE, GLORIFYING THE LORD BY YOUR LIFE"*

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Send to: The National Treasurer

CWLA Inc.  
PO Box 317  
Burwood VIC 3125

### FULL REGISTRATION \$270 .....

(Includes conference booklet, morning and afternoon teas, lunches and conference dinner. DOES NOT include accommodation)

OR

### DAILY REGISTRATION

(Includes conference booklet, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)

Tuesday	\$75	.....
Wednesday	\$75	.....
Thursday	\$75	.....
Conference dinner	\$70 per ticket	.....

Name/s of dinner guests:  
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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

## CONTACT DETAILS

Surname:.....

First Name:.....

Preferred Name (for name tag):  
.....

Address: .....  
.....

Phone: .....

Email: .....

Branch:.....

Diocese: .....

### Personal Details:

Special Dietary Requirements:  
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Name of Emergency Contact: .....

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