



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



With October being the month of the Holy Rosary, I am reminded of Fr Patrick Peyton, the Rosary Crusade priest who for many years of his life travelled the world promoting the Rosary. His theme was "the family that prays together stays together". When in primary school, I

was part of a huge Rosary Rally at the Sydney Show Grounds where school children physically formed the decades of the Rosary. I was 'picked' to participate when another girl became sick. During the practice session, I happened to sneeze and a voice from way up in the stand called out: "Bead number 3, 1st decade, stop moving!" The voice belonged to Mrs Shilling from the Burrows School of Physical Culture. Many years later while reading the history of the League in NSW, I discovered that Mrs Shillings was a member of the then Legion of Catholic Women.

In a recent Parish Bulletin from St. Dominic's, East Camberwell, Fr Aquinas OP reflected on the first New Zealand Dominican priest, Fr Klimeck OP, who was also a great promoter of the Rosary and whose arrival was apparently reminiscent of the old days when a circus came to town. Fr. Aquinas went on to say: "People couldn't help being impressed by his oversize mobile caravan with Rosary slogans painted on the sides. For good measure, Fr Klimeck had "Peace Patrol" painted on the back, which often mistaken for 'Police Patrol', slowed down speedsters!"

Our Blessed Mother's message from Fatima was to pray the Rosary daily for world peace. From the Annunciation to the Crowning of our Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven, the Rosary is a reflection of her life and that of her son, Jesus Christ. *"When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ's mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus."* (Pope Benedict XVI) In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI also remarked that the Rosary is experiencing a new springtime: *"Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that*

the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary." Watching my five year old granddaughter, Rosie (pictured on the front cover), pray the Rosary, I am vividly reminded of the messages that Our Lady entrusted to young children at Fatima and Lourdes. I encourage you all to participate in the 'new springtime' being experienced by the Rosary, passing on the love that many of you have for the Rosary to the younger generations, even to the littlest amongst them.

A CWLA National Council meeting was held in Melbourne on the day prior to the 45th Biennial Conference. After receiving a detailed report from the Review Committee, the National Council voted overwhelmingly to relocate the Secretariat to Hobart, Tasmania, and to employ a Research Officer. We sincerely thank CWL Tasmania for making this office space available rent-free. The National Executive has been tasked with making the necessary arrangements.

Anna Krohn has been re-elected as the CWLA Bioethics Convenor for 2012-2013. Marcia Riordan (Director of the Life, Marriage and Family Office, Melbourne) has been elected as our Social Issues Convenor and Jane Munro (CWL Diocese of Sandhurst) has been elected as our National International Secretary (NIS). The National Executive elect, who are based in Townsville, are Jean Tanzer (President), Margaret Toomey (Vice President), Joy Gray (Vice President), Marcia O'Donnell (Public Relations), Ann McMahon (Treasurer) and Daphne McLeod (Secretary). Congratulations to each of these women for their election! Be assured that you will be in our prayers.

We have received very positive feedback about the 45th Biennial Conference which makes all the preparation and hard work associated with organising such an event worthwhile. One of our keys speakers, Catherine Keightley, ended up in hospital the day after her presentation. Catherine has been gravely ill for some time and she was concerned that the good Lord might call her home prior to the conference or that she would be too ill to speak. Her prayers were answered and we were blessed to listen to her extraordinary witness to the power of intercessory prayer. Those of us who were present will never forget it.

The members of the National Executive would like to offer their sincere thanks to all who supported the Conference either by attending the various sessions or praying for its success; buying or selling raffle tickets; making or donating items for the trading table; and volunteering at the trading table, registration desk or raffle ticket desk. We also thank the representatives from CWL New Zealand, Anne Joyce and Tui Pasco, for participating in our 45th Biennial Conference. We were delighted to welcome them to Melbourne and share some insights into the work of the League throughout Australia. A special thanks also to the members from Victoria and Wagga Wagga who provided so many of the items for the trading table and daily raffles.

The winners of the major Conference Raffle were:

1st Prize - \$1000 Visa Gift Card
- Dawn Chambers, Queensland

2nd Prize - \$500 Visa Gift Card
- Ruth McKee, Victoria

3rd Prize - Hand Knitted Rug
- Kay Owens, NSW

Our sincere thanks also to our major sponsor, the Australian Catholic University, as well as our other sponsors—Kairos Catholic Journal, Divine Mercy Publications and Jesuits Publications. Their involvement and support was instrumental in the success of the conference.

WUCWO's Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Manila in March 2012. Thora Regan has recently sent information about this conference to each Member Organisation.

I commend to you the article by Austin Ruse, President of C-FAM, about the recent launch of the San Jose Articles at the UN (see pages 10-11). CWLA was one of the first to 'tweet' about this significant event. On behalf of CWLA, I contacted Austin Ruse and congratulated him on the launch of such a vital pro-life document in the international area.

Madge Fahy

WUCWO Congratulates Nobel Peace Prize Recipients

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) has congratulated Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman for jointly being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011 for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work. WUCWO is committed to protecting all human life and seeks to join their efforts with all men and women of good will in building a culture of justice and peace.

We realise the great potential for democracy and peace that women represent. We know that women throughout the world reach out anew each day to build peace and promote human rights through simple actions offered with great love, that countless women are working tirelessly every day for the good of humanity to right the wrongs which exist in their communities, countries and the world at large.

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Turning Point in the History of the Catholic Women's League Australia

Anna Krohn

In her welcome address to their 45th Biennial Conference, Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen extolled over 220 participants from the Catholic Women's League of Australia (CWLA) for being *"the leading organisation for the formation of women throughout Australia."* Professor McMullen said that she was proud that Australian Catholic University (ACU) was able to play the role of key sponsor for the Biennial Conference.



Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen and Jo Grainger (CWLA, Diocese of Sandhurst)

Professor McMullen reflected that the CWLA's conference theme, *"Go forth in peace, glorifying the Lord by Your Life"*, was well chosen. She said that the active and practical social concern shown by contemporary CWLA members was an authentic expression of the spirit of CWLA's founders and of what Blessed John Paul II called the "feminine genius". It was also founded upon the "glory" shown in the lives of *"the three Marys—Our Lady, Mary of Fitzroy (Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop) and our own Mary (Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, first president of the CWL in Victoria)."*

Archbishop Denis Hart and Professor McMullen both commended the CWLA for its long practical history of outreach to those in need throughout Australia and in developing countries, and its tireless advocacy on behalf of issues concerning human life and dignity.

During the Opening Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Archbishop Hart stated that the CWLA women were particular examples of "active contemplatives" who were called not only to rest upon their great tradition but, "in season and out of season", to deepen their role as evangelists.

During the conference, three distinctive themes

could be seen flowing from the above words and in the presentations lead by keynote speakers: a) the role of the CWLA in contemporary evangelisation into the future; b) the particular inspiration that Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ gives to the CWLA mission to the "culture of life; and c) ways in which the CWLA might link its deeply pastoral response to the new technologies and media. National President, Madge Fahy, also confirmed that the League had entered a new and definitive era with the advent of new alliances by which younger women were increasingly being given leadership roles and with the launch of new CWLA communication and media capabilities including websites, blogs, Twitter etc.

The CWLA National Chaplain, Fr David Cartwright, Fr David Tremble MGL and, Anima Educator and Archdiocese of Melbourne Interfaith and Ecumenical Officer, David Schütz, provided rich spiritual, biblical and practical insights into the topic of evangelisation. The National Chaplain, Fr Cartwright reflected upon the day to day challenges for CWLA members in keeping firm, and yet creative, as witnesses to the faith—especially within their families and the families of their children. Fr David Tremble gave a warm account of his experiences of profound faith and love among the indigenous Australians he ministered to in his time in Darwin. He also brought these reflections into sharp relief by inviting the conference participants to consider ways in which their lives are like that of an icon-writer (Fr Dave is one).

David Schütz gave a very spirited presentation about the true meaning and impact of the term "evangelisation", arguing *"that we cannot evangelise unless we really understand the word (evangelion) and the Word (the scriptures)."* He explained that the word 'evangelion' is used over 70 times in the New Testament and the Greek word is related to the word "angel"—one who is a messenger of God's news or a messenger of the Gospel. David also distinguished between the role of "teaching" and of "evangelising" and he reminded the Conference that we were "all personally commissioned" to be witnesses of the Gospel—and to be "converted, convicted and commissioned" through the power



of the Holy Spirit. The National President, Madge Fahy, has forwarded a copy of David's paper to each Member Organisation.

Melbourne Auxiliary Bishop, Peter Elliot, also extended the question of evangelisation within the Church and for the CWLA with his insightful paper on the Church and Personal Ordinariates. Bishop Elliott has been appointed as the Episcopal Delegate of the Australian Bishops' Conference for the Anglican Ordinate. He provided some useful resource guides and prayers to assist the CWLA to learn more about this historical development in the Church's modern history, particularly referring members to Pope Benedict XVI's document: *Anglicanorum Coetibus*.

Immediate past WUCWO Board Member Australia, Brenda Finlayson DSG, and Catherine McGrath, the incumbent WUCWO Board Member Australia, gave a detailed portfolio co-report on the WUCWO duties undertaken during their relevant time of service. Brenda expressed her admiration for and gratitude to the members of CWLA, for their generous embrace of WUCWO, for their prayerful and economic support for this CWLA apostolate, for their steadfast faith and for the genuine compassion they hold for women and families in need all around the world. Brenda noted that she had been incredibly privileged to serve them, and is very appreciative of the many blessings bestowed on her in the course of her duties. She offered CWLA the appreciation of the voiceless, of those who rely on WUCWO to speak for them.

The outgoing National International Secretary (NIS), Thora Regan AM, also provided a detailed report about her work over the past two years. She noted that she felt honoured to have served the membership of CWLA. The National President, Madge Fahy, thanked Thora for her dedication and efforts as CWLA's NIS. The following day, the outgoing Social Issues Convenor, Betty Roberts, regaled the audience with an 'abbreviated' story of her life. Betty has produced mountains of information for members on the many social issues in today's society and

written many submissions to the Government on CWLA's behalf over the past six years. CWLA is deeply indebted to her for her efforts in this very difficult area of work.

Confronting, creative but positively inspiring examples of contemporary responses to social and faith issues were provided by three lively sessions with the Youth Mission Team, with Melinda Tankard Reist who addressed positive strategies and networks of resistance to child sexualisation and the "pornification of culture" and, in the touching description by Kate McKernin (CatholicCare) and Sudanese-Australian father, Ambrose Mareng, from the *African Dads and Kids Program*. Kate and Ambrose spoke of the way Sudanese and other African families begin to disintegrate once they settle in urban Australia. In Africa, "the family unit is very complex and very extended" with the fathers having a formal role which is quickly lost as "the children acclimatize to Australian ways so fast and ways that are so different from African culture." She and Ambrose illustrated their descriptions of the ways in which the fathers can be assisted to reconnect with their children with a series of delightful portraits showing how effective and fun these camps have become within the Sudanese community. Members wishing to financially support CatholicCare's African Dads and Kids program can contact Kate McKernin at Kate.McKernin@ccam.org.au.



African Dads and Kids Camp. Photo: Kate McKernin

However, it was the various talks which referred to Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ which drew the most tears, joy and inspired the large audience. Participants described Conventual Franciscan, Fr Paschal Corby's paper on Mary Glowrey, his contribution to the panel discussion on Nascent Human Life along with CWLA members Jo Grainger and Marcia Riordan, and Catherine Keightley's dynamic witness to intercessory prayer and Mary Glowrey as "simply riveting and unforgettable."



Fr Paschal Corby OFM Conv talks about the 'feminine genius' and Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ. Photo: Matthew Price

Fr Corby's paper on Dr Mary Glowrey began by asking the question: "Why has the masculine been so exaggerated in the history of cultures?" He wondered aloud whether it might be "because we want to be like God without God." Fr Corby went on to show that Pope John Paul II's theme of the "feminine genius" challenged this imbalance and also corrected the sometimes invalid observations of secular feminism. Feminine genius, said Fr Corby, "is not determined by doing great things but by service and by love, it is tied to the 'logic of love' which is the only thing which is credible to mankind."

In his reflective study of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, Fr Paschal discovered many aspects of Mary's "inspired life" which were worthy of deeper study and exploration. In particular, he said Mary had a self-deprecating sense of her human achievements but a complete dependence on God's will and work in her. She informed her mission and her life with many Biblical images, referring sometimes to the "water pots" at the Wedding at Cana, realizing that she was the means for God to fill the lives of others, or as an expectant mother "to carry Jesus to many mother and child" as the Virgin Mary had done at the Visitation.

On the final day of the conference, the National Executive elect from Townsville, Queensland, was introduced. They are Jean Tanzer (President), Margaret Toomey (Vice President), Joy Gray (Vice President), Marcia O'Donnell (Public Relations), Ann McMahon (Treasurer) and Daphne McLeod (Secretary). Marcia Riordan (CWL Victoria & Wagga Wagga) has been elected as the CWLA Social Issues Convenor for 2012-13. Jane Munro (CWL Victoria & Wagga Wagga) has been elected as the National International Secretary for 2012-13.



L to R - Marcia O'Donnell (Public Relations); Ann McMahon (Treasurer); Joy Gray (Vice President); Jean Tanzer (President); Margaret Toomey (Vice President) and Daphne McLeod (Secretary)
Photo: Matthew Price

In the final session, there was a very moving tribute to all those members of the League who had passed away during the past two years.

The CWLA conference concluded with Mass and later, a wonderful dinner which featured some extraordinary singing by Victorian Opera principal, Michael Lapina, as well as a very entertaining rendition by John Canavan of *Music of the Night* from *Phantom of the Opera*.



Michael Lapina singing. Photo: Fiona Basile



*“Go forth in peace, glorifying
the Lord by Your Life.”*

Photos 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 16, & 17 by Fiona Basile
Photos 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 & 18 by Matthew Price
Photo 15 by Robyn Fahy

Glorifying the Lord with Your Life

Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen
Australian Catholic University



In mid-September the Catholic Women's League Australia held its 45th biennial national conference in Melbourne and I had the privilege of presenting the opening address. The conference was entitled *Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord with Your*

Life. The theme was a timely one and, it seems to me, captures the essence of the Catholic Women's League. Let me highlight three particular aspects which emerged as I contemplated the theme in preparation for my address.

Firstly, the League had chosen to engage with the revised translation of the Mass and this reflects its ongoing active participation in the life of the Church. *Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord with Your Life* puts us in the context of the rite of conclusion at Mass, when we are blessed and dismissed or better missioned by the priest or deacon to go out and be the body and blood of Christ in the world.

Pope Benedict XVI emphasised how the Eucharist underpins this missioning in his 2007 *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation – The Sacramentum Caritatis*:

“The love that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with all. What the world needs is God's love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in him. The Eucharist is thus the source and summit not only of the Church's life, but also of her mission: ‘an authentically eucharistic Church is a missionary Church’ ... We cannot approach the eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people. Missionary outreach is thus an essential part of the eucharistic form of the Christian life” (n. 84).

Thus, we are to go forth from Mass to be the face and hands and feet of Jesus and in our daily activities at home and at work, and in the wider society are called to act in such a way that our lives glorify the Lord.

Secondly, the preliminary phase of the cause for Mary Glowrey's canonisation commenced in recent months and this is a cause for celebration on the part of the Catholic Women's League. Mary Glowrey (1887 – 1957) exemplifies the conference theme *par excellence*. Born into an ordinary Australian Catholic family of her time, she grew up in Western Victorian farming communities. Her great gifts were developed and flourished through her education, successful practice as one of the first women doctors in Melbourne, and commitment to nourishing her faith.

World War I interrupted Mary Glowrey's plans to become a medical missionary in India, but allowed her to undertake a higher medical degree, including specialisations in obstetrics, gynaecology and ophthalmology. At the same time and despite the demands of practice and study, she was committed to generous service and advocacy to address the needs of the disadvantaged. The latter culminated in the founding of the Catholic Women's Social Guild (later the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga) with other pioneering women and her role as inaugural general president, and ultimately in her lifelong commitment to the peoples of India as Sr Dr Mary of the Sacred Heart of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

It is a source of inspiration and joy to the Catholic Women's League Australia that the preliminary phase of the cause for her canonisation has commenced. Here in Melbourne and over decades in India in her superhuman service to the sick as the first religious sister to be a missionary doctor, in her leading work in medical science and medical ethics, and in her personal suffering, her life glorified God in an exemplary manner.

Thirdly, I am aware of so many instances when the members of the Catholic Women's League in their own lives, by their frequent participation in the life



of the Church as well as through their charitable works and advocacy, are shining examples of the conference theme, *Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord with Your Life*.

The League participates actively in the formation of women and the nurturing of their faith. In these endeavours it would be the leading organisation in Australia committed to the formation of Catholic women and, significantly, it is this 'platform' that provides the foundation for their extensive works.

Thus, the Catholic Women's League continues to address socioeconomic and other disadvantage in practical ways in the spirit of its founders. These works ambitiously and generously meet needs identified both in Australia and across several developing countries. The League has also built on its founders' work of advocacy and seeking to influence policy and legislation towards achieving a more just and equitable society.

Mary Glowrey can now be a role model not only for the Catholic Women's League but also for all Australians as we grapple with issues related to human dignity and the preciousness of life at all its stages.

Across the dioceses of Australia members of the Catholic Women's League glorify the Lord with their lives, work and ministries, for which the Church can indeed be grateful.

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“May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.”

St Therese of Lisieux



Official Opening of Domus Australia

On Wednesday 19th October, Pope Benedict XVI blessed and officially inaugurated 'Domus Australia', the Australian pilgrimage centre in Rome. A full copy of the text of the Holy Father's address is available at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2011/october/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20111019_domus-australia_en.html

Those wishing to see a full replay of Xt3's webcast of the blessing and official inauguration of Domus Australia should go to <http://iactiv8.viotv.com/?mediald=94f671c3-8f85-4755-a409-c5d243e8282a>.

Pope Benedict XVI Announces the Year of Faith

Celebrating Mass in St Peter's Basilica at the conclusion of an international meeting on the "new evangelisation", Pope Benedict XVI announced the commencement of a Year of Faith from the 11th October 2012 and ending on 24th November 2013, the Feast of Christ the King. Its aim "is to give renewed energy to the Church's mission to lead men and women out of the desert in which they so often find themselves, and towards the place of life, towards friendship with Christ Who gives us life in all its fullness." The Holy Father said that Year of Faith would also be an opportunity "to strengthen our faith in Christ and joyfully to announce Him to the men and women of our time." This initiative, he said, is required "because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people."

The full text of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, is available at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/motu_proprio/documents/hf_ben-xvi_motu-proprio_20111011_porta-fidei_en.html.





Major Pro-Life Legal/Scientific Document Launched at UN Headquarters

Austin Ruse

(NEW YORK - C-FAM) It is commonplace now for UN officials and American law professors to tell foreign governments that they are required by international law to liberalize their abortion laws. Just last month, the UN Special Rapporteur on Health issued a report making this claim. The Secretary General endorsed his report. Shortly thereafter the UN High Commission on Human Rights said the same thing.

Pro-life activists have been saying for years that this is a false assertion. Even so, some governments have started to listen and to liberalize their laws. The High Court of Colombia changed their abortion laws based on these assertions from a UN committee. Two judges on the Mexican High Court have made these assertions also.

Enter the San Jose Articles, which were launched on Thursday 6th October in the UN press briefing room at UN headquarters in New York. Professor Robert George told UN press and observers that the San Jose Articles were drafted for the purpose of

helping government officials fight back against such assertions.

“The San Jose Articles were drafted by a large group of experts in law, medicine, and public policy. The Articles will support and assist those around the world who are coming under pressure from UN personnel and others who say falsely that governments are required by international law to repeal domestic laws protecting human beings in the embryonic and fetal stages of development against the violence of abortion” said George.

Ambassador Joseph Rees, former US Ambassador to East Timor and one time US representative to the UN Economic and Social Council joined George at the press briefing. Rees said: “When I was in Timor I witnessed first-hand a sustained effort by some international civil servants and representatives of foreign NGOs to bully a small developing country into repealing its pro-life laws. The problem is that people on the ground, even government officials, have little with which to refute the extravagant



claim that abortion is an internationally recognized human right. The San Jose Articles are intended to help them fight back.”

The Articles were a year in the making including a two-day negotiating session in San Jose, Costa Rica in March. Altogether 29 experts helped draft and sign the document. Signatories to the Articles include Professor John Finnis of Oxford, Professor John Haldane of the University of St. Andrews, Francisco Tatad, the former majority leader of the Philippine Senate, Javier Borrego, former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Professor Carter Snead of UNESCO's international committee on bioethics, and Lord Nicholas Windsor an outspoken pro-life proponent who is a member of the British Royal Family.

In the coming days, the Articles will be launched in the British House of Lords, the European Parliament, and the Italian Parliament, also in Madrid, Washington DC, Santiago, Manila, Buenos Aires, Calgary and San Jose.

The San Jose Articles can be viewed online at www.sanjosearticles.org. A video of the press conference at the UN launching the Articles can be viewed at <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/10/launch-of-the-san-jose-articles-press-conference.html>.

Austin Ruse is the President of 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 (<http://www.c-fam.org/>). This article appears with permission.

Conference Promotes Paedophilia as “Normative” Psychological Behaviour

A recent conference in Baltimore, U.S.A, sponsored by B4U-ACT (an organisation which promotes professional services and resources for self-identified individuals who are sexually attracted to children) and including speakers from Johns Hopkins University, Harvard Medical School, and the London School of Economics was organized to examine how the American Psychological Association (APA) could revise its classification of paedophilia as a mental disorder, similar to the successful efforts by gay activists in the 1970s to have the APA declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder.

Pro-family advocates who attended the controversial pro-paedophilia conference in Baltimore were profoundly shaken by what they saw and heard.

Speakers addressed themes ranging from the notion that paedophiles are “unfairly stigmatized and demonized” by society to the idea that “children are not inherently unable to consent” to sex with an adult. Also discussed were arguments that an adult's desire to have sex with children is “normative” and that the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) ignores the fact that paedophiles “have feelings of love and romance for children” in the same way adult heterosexuals and homosexuals have romantic feelings for one another.

The full story is available on LifeSiteNews at <http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/evil-attendees-at-prominent-pro-pedophilia-conference-horrified-by-sessions>

“ Jesus says to his disciples ‘stay here and keep vigil’, and this... is a permanent message for all time because the disciples’ sleepiness is not a problem of that one moment, rather of the whole of history, “the sleepiness” is ours, of those of us who do not want to see the full force of evil and do not want to enter into his Passion... ”

Pope Benedict XVI,
General Audience, 20 April 2011

Reflection

Fr Ken Barker MGL



Dear friends in Christ,

The quest for identity is at the core of much distress in our society. Many people are trying to be something or someone other than who they really are. This can cause a lot of stress. They are often against themselves and are their own

worst enemy. Some even hate themselves. When they look in the mirror they only have negative thoughts. Some have grown up trying to establish themselves through performance in grades, or winning trophies. Some try to prove themselves through fashion, physical attractiveness, intelligence, success or social status. Many give up in a pit of loneliness, confusion and depression; or turn to disordered relationships and addictions to assuage the gnawing sense of emptiness in their hearts.

The Good News is that we find our true selves in the love of God, who has created us to belong to him. When we discover his infinite and unconditional love for each unique and unrepeatable person, we find that our value is in who we are, not in what we do. If we know who we are, we will stop listening to the lies of the Enemy, the “father of lies”, “prince of darkness”, and the “accuser of the brethren.” Rather, we will listen to the Father of Life and Light who speaks the truth. We will stand in the truth that will set us free. We will hold to the core truths of our baptismal identity at all times and in all circumstances.

We may need to change the negative “tapes” that run through our minds. We would do well to stop any “stinking thinking” that indulges in self-condemnation or self-hate, and put on another tape which affirms the truth of our baptism. “For all who are in Christ Jesus, there is a new creation. The old is gone and the new is here” (2 Cor 5:17); “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1). Our worth is not established by our

performance or what others think of us. Who we are is revealed by the way God sees us, and the way he has claimed us as his own. The word of the Lord is our hope: “Do not be afraid. I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine” (Is 43: 1).

Towards the end of his life Cardinal Suenens, a great promoter of the Renewal, was asked by a journalist what he would most want to say to the Catholic people. Unhesitatingly he said, “Know who you are!” By this he meant we are to claim our baptismal identity, revealed through the Holy Spirit. Without this we are floundering in the night of our insecurity, self-doubt, and confusion.

Opening up to a new infilling of the Holy Spirit brings a new dawn, a fresh awareness that we are sons and daughters of the Father, coheirs with Christ to all the blessings of the Kingdom, and with eternal destiny in Him. We know who we are since we are rooted and founded in Christ and built up in Him. We have unshakeable hope.

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

“ *The power of the Spirit never ceases to fill the Church with life! Through the grace of the Church’s sacraments, that power also flows deep within us, like an underground river which nourishes our spirit and draws us ever nearer to the source of our true life, which is Christ.* ”

*Pope Benedict XVI,
WYDo8, Homily, 20 July 2008*

New Front of Resistance against Global Porn

Anna Krohn
Bioethics Convenor



A compelling and confronting new book, *Big Porn Inc.*, was recently launched in both Melbourne and Perth. The publishers, editors, some of the Australian contributors and those endorsing the book spoke of the launch of this book

as a “landmark publication”.

“Big Porn Inc: exposing the harms of the global pornography industry” (published by Spinifex) is a sharply up-to-the-nano-second analysis of and protest against the “colonization” of the world’s markets, cultures and interpersonal relationships by exponentially violent, dehumanized and dehumanizing pornography.

The book has been edited by the social commentator and writer, Melinda Tankard Reist (Collective Shout) and the Perth-based social justice academic, Dr. Abigail Bray. The editors have gathered together into a persuasive and unified front, 40 diverse contributions which include commentary, research, strategy and moving first-hand narrative from those hurt by porn.

Big Porn Inc. includes papers from a world-wide and multi-cultural array of men and women, activists, sociologists, political scientists and psychologists who pursue the trail from brutality, trafficking, child abuse, female objectification, self-harm, and a tidal wave of misogyny back to electronically pervasive and industrialised porn.

At the Melbourne launch, women’s researcher and Spinifex publisher Dr Renate Klein commented upon the parallel “pornification” of mainstream fashion, music and advertising cultures with the explicit degradation of women, children, teenagers, boys and animals in porn influenced behaviour.

Clive Hamilton, Professor of Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University, added his strong commendation of the book. He said that much of the contemporary media, advertising industry and “huge industries who are considered respectable” are collaborators in the perpetration of the “dark desires” which are wrapped around the “look, the style and the attitudes” of porn. Pornography, he said “brings prostitution into every home.”

“Stella” whose personal account of her life as a stripper is included in the book under the title “Dancing Porn” also spoke at the book launch. She spoke of the harrowing experience of working as a stripper in her earlier life. Not only was she enlisted to dance the steps of porn but, to swallow that myth that she was empowered sexually in doing so though “...moments later groped, pinched and forced, that illusion is quickly broken.” She recalled that gyrating before a predatory audience of men “was like being part of my own lynching every night.”

The Australian researcher and contributor, Dr Meaghan Taylor, warned that “sex therapy” itself had been infiltrated by the “disempowering and disembodied” extreme pornography. Professor S. Caroline Taylor, who was also at the launch events, highlighted the way porn is used as a grooming and instruction “handbook” for interfamilial rape.

Melinda Tankard Reist ended the launch evenings by highlighting the important (and hope-restoring) fifth section of *Big Porn Inc.* This takes the reader beyond the shattering sense of disgust, anger and despair induced by the evidence of the book to accounts of increasingly vocal and creative anti-porn alliances and their successes in resistance to “the pornification of culture”. Details (and contact information) of effective national and transnational activism and organisations include: *Stop Porn Culture!*; the *Women’s Support Charity*; *OBJECT* (*Women not Sex Objects*); the *AntiPornMen Project* and Australia’s own *Collective Shout*.

A version of this article was first published in The Record, WA, 5 October 2011.

News From Our Member Organisations

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

What a time we had!

The 45th Biennial Conference in Melbourne was superb. There were so many good speakers, so much good food, great company and great liturgies.

Melinda Tankard Reist and her “Collective Shout” session was a highlight for me. This work being done by Collective Shout, along with the “Walking with Love” programme (<http://www.walkingwithlove.org.au>), which is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference for Pastoral Life, are two areas which we could take on board in our State.

Our intention is to re-locate our office to one which has a shop front, improving our visibility in the community and being more accessible for our members. Who knows what we may achieve?

Many thanks again, Melbourne.

Pauline Victory
State President, South Australia

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Saint Bavo (Feast Day on 1st October), St Francis of Assisi (4th October) and St Bruno (6th October) were wonderful and great men of our Church, each was aware of the corruption and heartless treatment of others in their time, all repented, giving away their own wealth and went on to lead lives of deep love of God, humility and prayer.

“Prayer restores the soul that is dry and dulled. It heals the wounds of the day and reminds us who we want to be at the deepest, truest part of us. Clearly it is not the sum of prayers we pray that count, it is the way our prayer life changes our own hearts and lives that determines its quality.” (Sister Joan Chittister, The Monastery of the Heart)

The 45th National Biennial Conference held in Melbourne 13th-15th September was attended by 20 members from WA, including six members who were participating in their first interstate National Conference. It was a wonderful experience for all concerned. I hope and pray that these members continue this proud tradition of attending National Conferences. I take this opportunity to congratulate the National Executive for the enlightening guest

speakers, the great venue and the scrumptious food. My only regret (a personal view, maybe I need to eat less and talk faster) was that there was not enough time to catch up with all the friends that one makes over the course of attending National Conferences.

I think we all left the Conference enthused and renewed to carry out the Aims and Objects of our League.

Our State Conference was held on 14th October and it marked the commencement of the celebration of our 75th Birthday. We held a Garden Party in the gardens of the Redemptorist Monastery Retreat House and asked the Presidents of other organisations (Vinnies, KSC, NCW, ACW, Mothers Union to name a few) to join us. We were entertained by Veronica Moylan’s Choir—Veronica has just been awarded an OAM for her Services to Music. CWLA National President, Madge Fahy, also joined us for the day.

Barbara Paterniti and Dorothy Beyer have been busy “doing the rounds Office/House hunting” but as yet we have not found suitable premises for a new CWLWA Headquarters. We ask for your continued prayers on this matter.

In Charity, Work & Loyalty,

Karyn Kammann
State President, Western Australia

TASMANIA

Seven Tasmanians were fortunate enough to attend the recent CWLA 45th Biennial Conference in Melbourne—an inspiring and rewarding experience. Congratulations to National President, Madge Fahy, and her National Executive team. We returned home motivated, refreshed and determined to expand the work of CWL in our own state.

We have two important anniversaries to celebrate before Christmas.

Seventy years ago, Mrs Gwen Mullins from South Australia founded Catholic Women’s League Tasmania by opening the Launceston Branch. To celebrate this milestone, an Anniversary Mass was offered by our State Chaplain, Father Terry Southerwood on October 19th, followed by luncheon at “Sandors on the Park”. A concerted effort was

made to contact and include “retired” members. All attending were encouraged to bring photos of CWL activities over the past seven decades.

Archbishop Adrian Doyle will mark the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a special Jubilee Mass in St Mary’s Cathedral on Tuesday 20th December.

We thought members around Australia might like to see some images of those who have benefited from one of our major projects—the Juey Bazaar in Geeveston, southern Tasmania.



“This family [in Cambodia] had been rescued from years of abuse from a male in their family on Christmas Eve 2010. With the help of Tara and her team, the man has been arrested and jailed for many years. The family has been provided with funds to establish a small stall at the base of a popular temple and can now be self-sufficient. We took a large bag of clothing and shoes for them which were very much appreciated.”
(Fiona Donato and Trish Doyle)



Our volunteers helped the Juey Bazaar raise \$14,000 to send to the orphanage in Cambodia to purchase a new bus. Pictured are some of the children from the orphanage.

*Eris Smyth OAM
Bioethics Convenor, Tasmania*

QUEENSLAND

Rockhampton Diocese held their Annual Conference at Mackay in June.

What a blessing it was to have six priests concelebrating Mass. Father Grace, our Diocesan Chaplain, was the main celebrant.

After a discussion on how to raise CWL’s profile, Bundaberg Branch reported that they have some new members and have changed meeting times. A recommendation was passed for the branches in this diocese to support an orphanage in Timor Leste.

CWL Brisbane Archdiocese held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in their meeting rooms after a Mass celebrated in St Stephan’s Cathedral. President, Bonnie Mulroney, presented a comprehensive report on the activities of CWL in the Archdiocese.

Several members from Brisbane travelled to Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Childers and Munduberra to join with these branches as they celebrated their AGM. City Branch also marked the occasion of their AGM. This is a unique branch in that it is not parish based. The members have mostly transferred from branches that have closed and meet in our rooms in the Catholic Centre.

Another AGM with a difference is conducted on the Gold Coast. Burleigh Heads, Runaway Bay, Southport and Surfers Paradise join together for a combined meeting.

I travelled to Munduberra, a town on the Burnett Highway 405 km North West of Brisbane, for their CWL annual fundraiser. Whilst the town population is small, approximately 1000 people, these dedicated, hardworking CWL ladies manage to organise and run a very successful pet show. This was a most enjoyable event which showcased their friendliness and country hospitality.

Congratulations to the National Executive and to all those who made the 45th Biennial Conference such a huge success. We came, shared and went home with fond memories of excellent speakers, enduring friendships and a well organised conference.

*Heather McIntyre,
State President, Queensland*

VICTORIA & WAGGA WAGGA

The CWLA 45th Biennial Conference was a great success and we hope that our many visitors enjoyed their stay in Melbourne. We thank the National President, Madge Fahy, and the National Executive for all their hard work in the lead up to and during the Conference. Congratulations to Marcia Riordan (CWL Archdiocese of Melbourne) who has been elected as the CWLA Social Issues Convenor for 2012-13 and Jane Munro (CWL Diocese of Sandhurst) who has been elected as the CWLA National International Secretary.

With generous donations received into our Flood Donation Fund from our branches, the Governing Body decided to donate \$1000 to Queensland and the remaining \$1703 to the Kerang Branch of the Catholic Women's League for distribution to flood affected families. We also know that there has been money and goods contributed directly by members, branches and Diocesan Committees. Thank you notes have been received by some members advising that families have been able to in some cases purchase a much needed new fridge and farmers have been able to go ahead fixing fences.

I hope that the young pilgrims who have recently returned from WYD11 in Madrid will be invited to speak about their experiences by their local Parish Priests and communities. A wonderful story that emerged from WYD08 came about after pilgrims from the Kimbe Diocese, Papua New Guinea, stayed with families in the parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Narre Warren, Victoria, as part of the Days in the Dioceses program. From the friendships that were formed during this time, and after a visit to Kimbe in 2009 by parishioners Barbara and Adrian Corcoran, the Kimbe Assistance Project was formed. During their visit to Kimbe, Barbara and Adrian discovered that the local schools had few resources and the health clinics were poorly maintained. In June 2010 and May 2011, containers containing boxes of educational and medical items were sent to and distributed around the Kimbe Diocese. Barbara said: *'Our efforts will not fix the problem, but it may make some people have a better chance of life.'*

In June, 50 members of the League and guests gathered in Colac to celebrate 90 years of support, fundraising and friendship by the CWL Colac Branch. At this time, the Branch only has 12 members compared to the more than 100 at the time of its formation. Colac is only 15 minutes by car from Birregurra, the birth place of Dr Sr Mary

Glowrey MJM. This wonderful group of ladies meets once a month and have regular card afternoons to raise funds enabling them to support the work of the League.

In March, the Donald Branch hosted the Regional Conference and Certificates for Service and Medals for 50 years were awarded to 2 members, 14 members were honoured for 45 years of service while 1 member was honoured for 40 years of service. Bishop Connors addressed the gathering and congratulated members on their important work and wonderful ministry of service.

The Nathalia Branch has donated \$1000 to their local Catholic school, St Mary of the Angels Secondary College, to help repair statues that were damaged in a fire some time ago. They also donated a further \$500 to be used for resources and/or religious items in the classrooms and \$700 to the Parish for the purchase of the new Church Missals. While this CWL branch has 26 members, most are elderly and only four to six members are able to regularly attend meetings. Nevertheless, they are able to fundraise by catering after funerals, on special RSL days and at other functions. They are well supported by the Parish community. I would imagine they would also be well loved by their community!

CWL Sandhurst Diocese is having a 'day out' in Melbourne on Friday 4th November. They will visit the Immigration Museum and then the Eureka Tower. Members will meet at the Waiting Room at Southern Cross Station at 10-10.30am. For information about this event and to be part of this 'day out', please contact Margaret Lucas on 03 5862 1080 or Anita Toner on 03 5752 1736.

On 22nd September, 95 people attended a luncheon in the Members Dining Room at Parliament House to support awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The event was organised by the League's Health Awareness Committee from the Melbourne Archdiocese. The guest speaker was Julie Bisinella, the mother of two sons with autism. Julie shared with us the journey travelled so far by her and her husband with great support from family. I don't believe that there were too many dry eyes in the room. Guests appreciated having access to such a wonderful venue and Bernie Finn MP, Member for Western Metropolitan Region, kindly took those who were interested on a tour of the House. The League's Health Awareness Committee continues to raise awareness on many health issues on behalf of the Catholic Women's League.



I am delighted to announce that our new website is live! It is a beautiful and inspiring site that is already receiving very positive feedback. Untold hours have gone into writing its content, designing the layout and then building it. Please go to www.cwl-vic-ww.org and enjoy navigating through its pages. We have also set up a Twitter account and a Facebook page. If you would like to 'follow' us, you can simply click on the links on our home page or go to http://twitter.com/#!/CWL_VIC_Wagga and/or <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catholic-Womens-League-of-Victoria-and-Wagga-Wagga/242162225832043>.

Jeanette Sheahan
General President, Victoria & Wagga Wagga

Relatives of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ give portrait to the Australian Catholic University: Chris Sheargold, Associate Vice-Chancellor (Melbourne), recently welcomed Greg and Dorota Connellan, as well as CWLA National President, Madge Fahy, and members of the Committee for the Cause of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ, to the Australian Catholic University (ACU) for the handover of a beautiful portrait of Mary Glowrey. Greg Connellan is Mary Glowrey's great nephew and he fondly recalls as a child listening to his grandmother, Lucy (Mary's beloved older sister), reading out loud letters from the sisters of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in India. Dorota Connellan is a gifted artist who painted the portrait of Mary Glowrey which will now grace the halls of ACU.



L to R – Greg and Dorota Connellan, Madge Fahy (CWLA National President), Mr Chris Sheargold (Associate Vice-Chancellor, ACU Melbourne), and Jo Grainger (Committee for the Cause of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ). Photo: Sara Coen (ACU)

Dorota Connellan works in oils and paints predominantly portraits, landscapes and still life. She has taken an interest in the tonalist painters of the Max Meldrum School. After completing a

Studio Art Program at the Victorian College of the Art, University of Melbourne, in 2005, her interest in the tonalist school led her to tutorials with Mr Don James at Montsalvat and Mr Claude Ciccone.

There is a wonderful physical connection between ACU's St Patrick's Campus, Melbourne, and the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga. When the Catholic Women's Social Guild (now CWL Victoria and Wagga Wagga) was founded in 1916, members used the facilities at Cathedral Hall, later renamed Central Hall, as their headquarters and lecture venue. Central Hall is now a key part of ACU's Melbourne Campus.

Convinced of the immeasurable influence that Catholic nurses could have on society, 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. Meetings were held on Wednesday nights in Cathedral Hall. In highlighting the importance of this newly formed Nurses 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.'

ACU students and staff are literally walking daily in the footsteps of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey and the other visionary women who founded the League. ACU's nursing and midwifery students attend lectures about health care ethics in the same rooms where Mary Glowrey once taught nurses and student nurses about the dignity of the human person and the Christian use of medicine.

Following the handover of the portrait of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ, Chris Sheargold gave her relatives and members of the League a tour of the campus which included an aerial view of ACU's new National Centre for Health and Wellbeing, a state-of-the-art learning and research facility which is currently under construction, and a visit to historic Central Hall.

Robyn Fahy
Public Relations Advisory Group & Committee for the Cause of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ



Anima Education - "On Your Mark! A quick dive into the Gospel of St Mark for Year B": Starting in Advent this year, our Gospel readings at Sunday Mass will be taken (largely) from St Mark. St Mark's Gospel is so short that it can be read in one sitting! But it is packed with exciting events and insights into the ministry and person of Jesus. This short five-night (November 7, 14, 21 and December 5 and 12) Anima Education course will give you an overview of the Gospel as well as diving into some deeper points of interest, and give you a starting block for a richer engagement with the Sunday Gospels in the coming year. For more information, go to <http://www.cwl-vic-wv.org/Anima-Education/Anima-Education-Courses/Weeknight-Courses.html>.

David Schütz
Anima Education

CANBERRA & GOULBURN

Our annual Floriade is presently underway in Canberra and just when we thought it could not get much better, it never ceases to offer new surprises every year. It is a spectacular time of year in the National Capital and we give thanks to God for each glorious day.

Marie Gallagher, Dianne Purcell, Nola Drum and I represented the Archdiocese at the recent National Biennial Conference in Melbourne. Thora Regan AM, National International Secretary, National Public Officer, Anne O'Neill, together with Pat Liddiard, Joyce Cremer and Lorraine Birch were also in attendance, so the Archdiocese was well represented.

The Executive have just recently taken part in the KSC Prayer Crusade for vocations and, as with all participants, received a Papal blessing. We trust that many will answer the call.

It was a great pleasure to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of the CWL branch at St Benedict's, Narrabundah. Mass, which was celebrated by Fr Steve Fletcher MGL, was followed by a morning tea. Members were delighted too that the National President, Madge Fahy, was able to be there to take part in the occasion. A plaque was specially commissioned to commemorate the fifty years of the presence of CWL in the Parish. A wonderful milestone and a truly memorable event!

Several members took part in our Annual Special Day of Reflection at "The Gathering Place" at Dickson, ACT. Brigidine Sister, Lorraine Gatehouse,

facilitated the day in beautiful serene surroundings and led us in spiritual readings, music and poetry. Prayer certainly attunes us to the life of the world in which we live, as we attune ourselves to the flow of life. It was good to take time out from our busy lives to rediscover the love of our God and as 'ambassadors for Christ' ask how we reconcile ourselves to that kind of love.

On the 5th November, our Spiritual Director, Rev Father William Kennedy OAM PP, will offer Mass for deceased members of the League. Several names have been added to the ever growing list in the past twelve months and in our daily prayers, we ask that they are given eternal rest. We also continue to pray for our sick and frail members, some of whom are no longer able to attend meetings.

Many branches are already planning Christmas activities and as we continue our journey towards our eternal reward, we remember, especially at this time of year, those less fortunate than ourselves.

I am particularly grateful to my team and especially Social Issues Convenor, Joan Graham, and Bioethics Convenor, Nola Drum, as we continue to monitor the many issues facing our country and Church at this time. We regularly contact the Prime Minister, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, and our local members about some of the most vulnerable of human beings, asylum seekers, and ask at the very least that they be treated more compassionately. We will not give up on this issue until we have a more satisfactory and lasting outcome.

Forward in hope, with God's help to be Ambassadors for Christ. He has no hand on earth but ours, no feet on earth but ours (to paraphrase Saint Teresa of Ávila), so let us be worthy of this responsibility remembering that God wants us to be happy in this life and by doing His will, to be happy in the next.

Angela M Devlin
President, CWL Canberra and Goulburn

“ Every Gospel missionary must always bear in mind this truth: it is the Lord who touches hearts with his word and with his Spirit, calling people to faith and to communion in the Church. ”

Pope Benedict, Mass for the New Evangelization, 16 October 2011

From the WUCWO Board Member Australia



I attended my first full working WUCWO Board Meeting, for the term 2010-2014, which was held in Rome, Italy from 28 May to 1 June 2011.

I was a little anxious and apprehensive but looked forward to the meeting with anticipation as to what would be

expected of me but with the grace of the Holy Spirit I feel sure all went well.

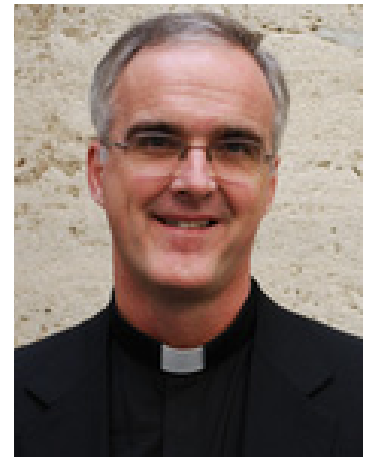
We were fortunate to have three very learned women speak with us during this time. The first two women were Dot. ssa Flaminia Giovanelli, under Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and Dr. Donna Orsuto, co-founder of the Lay Centre Foyer Unitas and Professor of the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. They spoke to us about the role of women during Vatican II and women's role in bringing about changes as a result of this Council. Dr Donna Orsuto spoke in glowing terms of Australian Rosemary Goldie and her position in the Vatican which she held for many years. The third learned woman was Dot. ssa Fermina Alvarez, a member of the Secretariat of State who works in the international area. She gave us a most informative talk about the Forum of Catholic Non-Government Organisations. This group was formed as a Vatican initiative in 2007.

The new WUCWO Vice President General, Monica Santamarina de Robles, was elected during the Board Meeting in Rome. She is the WUCWO Board Member for Mexico and also Vice President of the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

“ *Help each other to live and to grow in the Christian faith so as to be valiant witnesses of the Lord.* ”

*Pope Benedict XVI,
Genoa, Italy, 18 May 2008*

Fr GianMaria Polidoro OFM has completed his service as WUCWO Ecclesiastical Assistant and his successor is Fr. Gerard Whelan SJ, an Irishman who has worked in Kenya and was appointed to teach practical and fundamental theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.



Fr Gerard Whelan SJ

During the Board meeting, there were many hours taken up in discussion about the ways in which to implement the WUCWO Plan of Action for 2010-2014—“Love in Action”. Meetings of the four permanent Committees were held as were meetings of the four Working Groups. I am a member of the Finance Committee and the convenor of the Liturgy Working Group.

Meetings of the five Regional groups were also held. Members of the Asia Pacific Region discussed what has taken place within our own organisations since the General Assembly in Jerusalem last October. The Asia Pacific Region Conference will be held in March 2012 in Manilla, Philippines.

All Board Members visited three Dicasteries. They were the Pontifical Council for the Family where we were received by Secretary Bishop Jean Laffitte. He suggested that we keep in regular contact, particularly through the Forum of Catholic NGO's. The Pontifical Council of the Laity was the next visit and the Board were welcomed by Cardinal Rylko and Ana Cristina Villa Betancourt who is responsible for the women's section. The Cardinal stressed the need for formation and the courage to go against the tide in our defence of the human person. He especially encouraged our presence in the international bodies. The third of the Dicasteries visited was the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. We received a warm welcome from Cardinal Turkson who said he was glad to hear that the Social Doctrine of the Church was our “compass”. We also attended the General Audience

...continued from page 19

with Pope Benedict XVI where WUCWO's President General and Vice President General were presented to His Holiness.

WUCWO has been asked to respond to a discussion paper *"The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith"* in preparation for the Synod of Bishops to be held in October 2012. This is a wonderful opportunity for the laity to put forward ideas.

We have also been asked by WUCWO President General, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, to participate in the pilgrimage to Assisi—*"Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrims of Peace"*—that Pope Benedict XVI will make along with fellow Christians from different denominations, representatives of the world's religious traditions and all men and women of good will on 27th October 2011. This pilgrimage commemorates the 25th anniversary of the historic meeting in Assisi 1986, called by Blessed Pope John Paul II, which gathered representatives of Christian communities and world religions for a Day of Prayer for Peace.

WUCWO members worldwide are invited to recite the Prayer of Saint Francis and the Prayer to Mary, Queen of Peace either personally or in a group for this intention, every day during the week prior to the pilgrimage to Assisi. For more information, go to the latest WUCWO monthly message at <http://www.wucwo.org/app/MediaFile/File.bin?Pk=380>.

Catherine V McGrath
WUCWO Board Member Australia

“Every human being is ultimately a pilgrim in search of truth and goodness.”

Communiqué from the Vatican about the Holy Father's pilgrimage to Assisi on 27th October 2011

Three New Saints Canonised

Pope Benedict XVI has canonised three new saints, Sister Bonifacia Rodriguez y Castro, Archbishop Guido Maria Conforti and Father Luigi Guanella, at a ceremony in St. Peter's Square in Rome, describing this triumvirate as “models for all believers...”.

“Let us be attracted by their examples, let us be guided by their teachings, so that our whole existence becomes a witness of authentic love for God and neighbour,” the Pope said to the tens of thousands of pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square, Rome, for the canonisations on Sunday 23rd October.

Sr. Bonifacia was born in the Spanish city of Salamanca in 1837. She dedicated her life to the welfare of poor female workers. In 1874 she co-founded the Servants of St. Joseph that offered work to poor unemployed women.

Archbishop Guido Maria Conforti was born near Parma in Italy in 1865. As a young man he dreamed of becoming a foreign missionary but ill-health saw him turned down by various orders. His solution was to found his own missionary order, the Xaverian Missionaries, in 1895. He also served as bishop of Ravenna and later of Parma.

Fr. Luigi Guanella was born in the Italian province of Como in 1842. He dedicated his life to the care of the poor and needy. He founded the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence in 1881 and Servants of Charity in 1908.

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Women's Voice

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