

National Newsletter

Catholic Women's League Australia Inc

Member Organisation of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) NGO
Consultant (roster) status with the Economics and Social Council of the United Nations



Issue 6 December 2019

From the President

Valma Ivory

Advent calls us to watch out and prepare for the coming of the Lord, a call for us to be fully alive in our everyday life. Let us lift our eyes from the many lists of things to do and see the face of God in strangers on the streets and shopping centres as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

The National Executive spent time in retreat recently to reflect on our journey from being individuals with different gifts to the formation of a collaborative team able to solve problems and provide sound management of communications and administration of CWLA Inc. over the 2018-2019 tenure. We were delighted with the strong support from members attending the National Council Meeting and 49th Biennial Conference in Bunbury, Western Australia, and the many messages of support from those who were unable to attend. Photos are included in this edition for your enjoyment and to bring back memories to those who attended.



Unfortunately, we have said farewell to dearly loved members from across Australia and we continue to pray for their souls and joy in meeting their Lord. Their dedicated work for and love of being a part of Catholic Women's League will continue to inspire current and future generations of women.

The WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference will take place in Sydney from 18th to 22nd May 2020. Information has been placed on the CWLA website and within this newsletter. It is a wonderful opportunity for members of CWLA to network with Catholic women from many countries in our region. Friendships are nurtured and deeper understanding of the pressing needs of women and families of our regional neighbours and how they are tackled will inspire us to continue to strengthen CWLA. I hope to meet up with many of you in May.

With the wonderful support of our convenors, CWLA has been very active this year with submissions to the Federal Government. Such Bills were: - 'Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Crimes against Children and Community Protection Measures) 2019'; 'Adequacy of Newstart and related payments and alternative mechanisms to determine the level of income support payments in Australia'; 'Domestic Violence'; 'Combating Sexual Exploitation Legislation Amendment Bill'; 'Pill testing at Musical Events'; 'Sexual Harassment in the Workplace' and 'Future Drought Fund 2018 and Drought fund (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2018'. All submissions were accepted and some Acts have CWLA Inc. in the list of contributors to the final wording of the Act. Thank you to those who provided first-hand accounts to add weight to submissions. Your voice is being heard.

My thoughts and prayers are with Queensland and New South Wales members and their families as they battle with the threats and devastation of fire and rebuilding. There are also many who are still battling with drought on farms and communities across Australia. Australians are very generous in providing support in many ways and CWL members have been fundraising and aiding in numerous ways. Thank you, for your generosity and solidarity with those who have experienced loss.

As my role as National President ends, I wish to thank all members for their welcoming smiles and friendly hospitality during my visits to each state. I have gained a greater understanding of the wide range of activities and deep personal faith of all. If Christ visited today I could say, 'Lord, Catholic Women's League members have lovingly cared for the least and those in need.'

Valma

Installation of CWLA Executive for 2020-2021

The installation of the CWLA Inc 2020-2021 National Executive will take place on Sunday 9 February 2020 at the 11 am Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne.

After Mass you are cordially invited to enjoy refreshments at Mary Glowrey House, 132-134 Nicholson St, Fitzroy, from 12.30 – 2 pm. This is walking distance from the Cathedral, or a short tram ride.

RSVP for catering purposes is essential.

RSVP to TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BGKVD> by Friday 24 January 2020.

For visitors from country Victoria or interstate who require accommodation, here are some options close to the Cathedral:

Mary Glowrey House – rooms with shared bathroom facilities (no ensuites)

132-134 Nicholson St Fitzroy 3065 – tram 96, stop 12 at door

Bookings must be made by 20 December 2019 **directly to Mary Glowrey House** by telephoning 03 9417 3379.

Mary Glowrey House will be **closed** from 21 December 2019 until 27 January 2020.

Metropole Hotel

44 Brunswick St Fitzroy 3065 – telephone 03 6411 8100 <https://www.metropolecentral.com.au/>

Quest Royal Gardens Apartment Hotel

8 Royal Lane Fitzroy 3065 – telephone 03 9419 9888

<https://www.questapartments.com.au/properties/vic/fitzroy/quest-royal-gardens/>

If you require any further information, please email rsvp@cwla.com.au

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne on Sunday 9 February 2020.

God bless,

CWLA Inc. National Executive-elect, Victoria/Wagga Wagga

From our chaplain

Fr Jess Sargado Navarra

In this season of Advent, we are called to follow the WAY- the true living Way - Jesus Christ, the Son of David, from the tribe of Judah.

He is the "WISDOM OF OUR GOD MOST HIGH", who reigns over us in in justice, peace and love.

We are called to walk in the paths of knowledge - the way of loving and serving with love delineated for us by our Lord and brother Jesus Christ.

He is the true and eternal King. To follow unreservedly the Divine Wisdom, Jesus Christ, is to tread the path of salvation. It means union with our loving and merciful Father who wants us to "come home".

To live in Jesus Christ is to bring about the Advent of God's Kingdom in our lives. The Reign of God has come!



Pope Francis on Advent

“Advent is a time given to us to welcome the Lord who comes to meet us, to verify our desire for God, to look ahead and prepare ourselves for the return of Christ,” he said.

“Christ will return again at Christmas, when we remember how he came to us in the humility of the human condition. However, Christ also comes to each of us every time we are disposed to receive him,” Pope Francis said, and “he will come again at the end of time to judge the living and the dead.”

“Because of this, we must always be watchful and attentive to the Lord with the hope of meeting him.”

(3 Dec 2018)

Bioethics

Dr Deirdre Little

MBBS DRANZCOG FACRRM Grad cert Bioeth

Another state has been overshadowed by abortion.

NSW parliament has not protected the lives of its children or respected their mothers or valued the consciences of its health workers. Its vote for ultimate domestic violence will tie the state to many social consequences.

Abortion in NSW has been readily available since 1972 with a paperwork proviso that this or that abortion serves the health interests of the mother. But a prevailing sense of wrongness still leaked through its paperwork. Abortionists' pre-cut sentences justifying the child's death represented a deep societal need to do so. Their stretched and ill-fitting 'writedown' of human loss is a response to it. But this loss is no longer acknowledged and deeper losses follow the substitution of social mores for conscience. **Can social mores address the emptiness and loneliness of a society joined to abortion?** Its priorities and rhetoric are ruthless and loveless - an echo of the future prophecy 'the love of many will grow cold' (Matt 24:12). Our inmost being is made for life, love and truth, and recognizes these freedoms, grieving for their absence. NSW's new dismissal of the life of the child yet to be born also dismisses his or her mother as unsuited to giving life, love and truth. Her entry into these freedoms is restricted as the new legislation assigns her below deck to a subclass whose grief and pain and concerns are delegitimized and discredited.

Not only does the abortion ledger assign a subclass of mothers, it also assigns a subclass of unborns. Those babies who are wanted by parents and society are protected from procedural pain by its professional codes. The British Journal of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists a decade ago determined interventions on later trimester babies without analgesia or sedation to be 'unethical and substandard'. NSW legislation backed by our Royal Australian & NZ College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists withholds the provision of pain relief for unwanted babies. Lethal violence to the unborn can be ignored if they have the misfortune to be unwanted. Our largest abortion provider, 'Marie Stopes', approves lethal violence up to the moment of birth, claiming the endorsement of the anti-violence lobby, 'White Ribbon' in its paper Hidden Forces. Instead, it accuses doctors providing sanctuary for the child and mother of committing domestic violence. RANZCOG approved.

The Lower House did not seek submissions to determine the will of the people. Only 2.8% of those sought ahead of Upper House debate were read (400 of 14,000). Those who voted for violence and against fetal pain relief in the 'fetal pain amendment' moved on the last day of debate should be questioned. Parliamentarians who stood against this violence should be thanked. They were strong and courageous and fought hard to hold the line against the rising coldness. The politics of denial has removed an evidential and ethical basis to decision formation. The authoritarianism shall not be questioned and the inhumane structures entering medicine now have the protection of once great Colleges. RANZCOG has let go of the baby under its care. The faceless baby on its logo is denied his or her identity and rests beside the RANZCOG motto 'from shadows to the light of life' which should have saved it from this new medical malpractice.

The Sisters of Life are a group of consecrated women who minister to life in difficult situations. They recently visited Australia at the invitation of Notre Dame University. Their ministry is to the heart, helping to reclaim and re-ignite the deeper knowledge that we are a child of God. Recognizing the loss of freedoms, which accompany the spiritual pandemic of 'creating ourselves into whatever we want with no boundaries' they minister also to society's anxiety and to its indifference. They particularly touch the hearts of womanhood and manhood, motherhood and fatherhood, and quell the 'hum of uncertainty, self-doubt and inadequacy deep within us' as they deal with what they call the plague of anxiety.

Behind our current social malaise they identify six areas of spiritual pain that confine us to our drab constricted spaces: shame and guilt, unforgiveness, electronic level relationships, money and possessions, sin (anger, greed, lust, sloth, envy, pride, and gluttony), fear and anxiety. Shifting out into the 'wide open spaces' is where God wants us as His children; to be knowing and mindful that we have immense dignity and worth. The Sisters of Life speak to the sacrament of confession to be filled with His love and to begin to trust again. Rekindling gratitude instead of restless shopping, forming personally present friendships, forgiving others and praying for them, living in peace rather than shame, and trusting rather than giving in to the paralysis of fear are keys to freedom and to the wide-open spaces of God.

Ministries to the heart will likely have an increasing role in a society that no longer recognizes or tends to its own wounds of loss. Pope Francis has stressed the consistent ethic of life, in all its stages and predicaments. But Gaudete et Exultate also stresses that we cannot succeed in this or any true good without God. The chain of life is held together and nourished by God. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has also reminded us:

'The Lord has initiated a narrative of love with us and wants to subsume all creation in it. The counterforce against evil, which threatens us and the whole world, can ultimately only consist in our entering into this love. It is the real counterforce against evil. Learning to love God is the path of human redemption'.

He encourages us to live the distinctive vitality and freeing solutions of the Christian way of life, to protect them and to give witness to them in a world, which has such a great need for the sense of God's loving presence.

Deirdre



Dr Deirdre (centre) with fellow recipients & presenters at the recent RANZCOG Conference where recipients were awarded for 35+ years of continuous practice. Congratulations & so well served, Dr Deirdre!



Social Issues

Anne-Marie Ferry

MAKING IT REAL

“Making it Real: Genuine Human Encounter in our Digital World” is the title for the 2019-2020 Social Justice Statement. It seems a surprising subject for a social justice issue, but the Bishops have a number of reasons for considering the topic important:

- It was chosen because 2019 is the 30th anniversary of the World Wide Web.
- The internet is embedded in our society now half the world’s population is on line.
- In Australia, the figures are higher with over 20 million people on the internet and 18 million using social media.
- One million more people join the digital world every day.
- The internet has changed the way users communicate, do business, get information and learn.

Those who are using the internet to relate to each other need to work out how to use the digital platform ethically and find new ways to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself” (Luke 10: 27-28). The Good Samaritan is to be our role model in being a good neighbour.

There are also questions relating to the other half of the population who are not engaged with the digital world. The document explains how Catholic social justice principles such as the dignity of the human person, the common good and solidarity apply to both users and non-users.

The dignity of the human person

It would be good if the new technology made us better and more mature people, more open to the needs of others and more respectful towards them. Being conscious of the dignity of each person, we might follow the advice to “Tweet others as you would wish to be tweeted”. (Beth Doherty, quoted on P 13)

Pope Francis has 18 million followers on Twitter, so he is using social media to encounter people, care for them, evangelise. It is also a good way for the Church to offer faith formation to young people.

In many instances however, “digital technology especially social media provides the perfect platform for a range of behaviours that are offensive to human dignity...sexual objectification, exploitation and trafficking of women and children and the related production and dissemination of pornography”. (P5) Cyber bullying is another emerging problem, which in extreme cases, is linked to suicide. Even addiction to social media is correlated with lower rates of wellbeing (e.g. depression and feelings of isolation from real relationships).

Non-users can feel marginalised if so many things are done on the electronic media or are only available by those means. Users can sometimes make negative judgements about the reasons why their neighbours do not have digital access. The government/community perhaps has a social responsibility to ensure everyone has the skills and technology to participate on-line. For this to happen, the services and equipment need to be affordable.

The Common Good

The internet has revolutionised how we access government and financial services, apply for jobs, complete homework and stay in touch with family and friends. The amount of information available instantly on line is vast. Can the data be trusted? Can companies be trusted to put the common good above their own profit motive?

One downside is that using various sites actually gives our personal data to advertisers – or, as *Making it Real* pithily explains, “If you are not paying for the product, you are the product.”

Also, making basic transactions can be quite impersonal. Online services may not be the best way to deal with complex human problems. We are relational and we do not want a society where people do not or cannot interact with each other.

If it becomes harder to speak to an operator or get up-to-date hard copies of information and forms, life becomes more difficult for the 1.8 million Australian households, which are not connected.

“It is tempting to think that the digital divide can be solved with only technical solutions. But digital exclusion is primarily a moral and social problem. It requires us to ask how much we value the poor and marginalised and whether we want a community built or the common good in which we recognise and love each other as neighbours.”

Solidarity

People are intrinsically social, belonging to “one human family regardless of our differences”. (P11) However increasingly people are becoming isolated from each other and from genuine human interaction in the real world, because individuals are attracted to the solitary virtual world. (P16)

The Church has established an online presence and even the Pope uses the technology to spread the word, so there are actually more ways to connect to others and minister to them. In short, *Making it Real* is about the Church as a community making the love of God real in our virtual world. That would mean keep us connected – to God and each other. (P17)

Social media platforms do not necessarily promote unity. They typically stream people into stereotypic likes and dislikes and this data can be misused to divide communities. As an example, people can be made anxious about issues or turned against other people by the spread of untruths. There is a role for government regulation and we may have to work together to minimise the potential harmful effects media abuse can have on our community.

The question is how to use digital media for good, and then ensure even vulnerable groups in our community can share in the benefits. The digital divide should not divide us so there may be actions, which individuals can take to get more access and more training.

Conclusion

There is a brochure setting out ten practical steps, which you may like to follow up now we see the central importance of this year’s social justice theme.

1. Make your online presence one of dignity and respect
2. Be present to others in the real and virtual worlds
3. Take care of yourself and others
4. Every community should promote digital literacy
5. We cannot leave our brothers and sisters behind
6. The local community is a place to make the virtual real
7. We must protect the personal data of citizens
8. Join the call for transparency and accountability
9. Truth and trustworthiness must be guaranteed
10. We are called to be citizens of the digital world.

In conclusion, the text under the final point quotes Pope Francis:

“As Christians, we are called to ‘boldly become citizens of the digital world’, with the image of the Good Samaritan as our inspiration. We are called not only to love our neighbour, but also to bring the love of God to the new global neighbourhood. We all have a role to play in making this a space where hatred, divisions and falsehoods are rejected. Let’s foster a neighbourhood promoting those attributes and social values that lend themselves to genuine human encounter – love, understanding, beauty, goodness, truth and trustworthiness, joy and hope.”

Anne- Marie



WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference

*The WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held in Sydney from 18-22 May 2020.
Venue: Rydges World Square Hotel, 389 Pitt Street, SYDNEY
Registration Costs: \$430 Australian Dollars*

That is, the Conference begins on the morning of 19 May and concludes on Thursday 21 in the afternoon. You will need to book into the hotel on the evening of Monday, 18 May 2020 and check out on the morning of Friday 22 May 2020.

Accommodation is an additional cost.

Maria Lia Zervino, President General of WUCWO, will be attending the Conference.

The following information will assist if anyone wishes to make an early booking.

Bookings: Must be received by 27th April 2020. Registration forms on CWLA Website.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Registration Fee: AUD\$430 per person **BSB:** 062-691 **Account:** 1055 3409

Acc Name: CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA - NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED - ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Daily registration: \$200 per day.

YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME IN THE BANK REFERENCE

To book at Rydges World Square Sydney:

Contact the hotel's reservation team via phone on 02 82681888 or email worldsquare@evt.com.

Quote Block ID:59846 or Block Name: Catholic Womens League Aus-Allotment.

Credit card details are required to be provided for guarantee purposes at the time of booking.



South Australia

Cecilia Quigley

and energy that such a conference takes and it was clear to me that it was very much a team effort. In SA, we have collated a shared summary of the Conference and have circulated it to our branch members. So, thanks once again!

It doesn't seem very long ago that a newsletter article was written, but as is normal issues surface and actions need to be taken. We have a small committee of six, two reps from our State Exec, two reps from our Archdiocesan exec and two for the Port Pirie Diocese who have met twice this year to discuss the future of our CWL SA. At State level and Archdiocesan level we are being stretched to achieve our goals. This committee has another meeting in a couple of weeks and I pray that we can move on to a shared vision for our SA CWL future.



Regional and Vicariate meetings have been successfully held in both Dioceses. These times together provide amazing reports from each branch. The guest speaker lists are varied and thought provoking; the money raised by each branch is wonderful as many of our branches have seven to ten active members. It also gives an opportunity for friendships to be renewed, new ideas to be explored and liturgy Communion Service gatherings to be led by members.

Our partnership with Christian Brother's College (CBC) in relation to our East Tce property continues to go well. A committee of four meet each school term to share achievements, any maintenance issues and then on going needs that the Centre may face. It was a CWL Childcare Centre until nine years ago when a lease was offered to CBC as an Early Years Centre, catering for babies (six weeks) to five year olds. It has a capacity for fifty-five children, although at this time is not at capacity. In Adelaide, we seem to have had an explosion of new Child Care Centres opening in our suburbs, so this may have had an impact on their enrolments. We will keep our options open as we move towards December 2020 as a new Five-year lease will be available for discussion and renewal.

My prayers and Christmas blessings be with you all as we prepare to commemorate the birth of Jesus. May peace and joy infiltrate your homes and families, and I look forward to new paths for this incredible organisation in SA in 2020.

Cecilia



Tasmania

Deirdre Reid

“Keeping Our Organisation Relevant and Sustainable.”

How the three delegates from Tasmania enjoyed the National Conference in Bunbury! All came home feeling **impressed and motivated** - more eager than ever to bring our THEME to its fruition.

Congratulations to the team from Western Australia to, not only present the conference in such an **expert way**, but for giving everyone a great few days.

It was lovely meeting up with new “like minded” women and catching up with the friends we had made from previous times. It was marvellous seeing a room full of such friendly, happy, enthusiastic people; even a couple of veterans over ninety who did not want to miss out, still interested and involved. Age is only a matter of mind!

Jan Bowen’s amazing summary has been shared with all our members and they all agreed that it was a **perfect model for us to follow**, thank you Jan.

Western Australian Executive, congratulations on two wonderful years of expert management.



Although a few Tasmanian members have gone to their eternal reward, we have happily found a handful of new ladies who have become members, so **our numbers are no longer diminishing**.

All of our **five branches** have been doing wonderful works in their own areas.

A couple of Tasmanian executive members from the South recently had a trip to the North West to catch up with the ladies there, who had become Diocesan members - when their Branches closed. All shared Mass together, had lunch and did lots of talking and welcoming.

There are kind, caring people in our communities, in spite of some of the worrying things that the media advertise.

It will soon be the **Holy Season of Christmas** – another year has gone with its ventures, challenges, achievements, excitements, joys and sorrows.

Sadly we look around and see a lot of commercialism and ignorance - so many people know nothing about WHY they are celebrating!

As Tasmanian members of CWL, along with our sisters in other states, all making up CWLA, **we will enjoy the true story** and remember the Holy Family on that First Christmas Night.

Peace, Love, Joy and Good Health to you all and may your dreams for the New Year come to fruition.

Deirdre

Western Australia

Bev Macri

Hello to all from the West!

What a wonderful experience it was attending the Biennial CWLA Conference recently held in Bunbury WA! I was pleased that so many of our WA members were able to attend, if not for all days but at least one. We have had wonderful positive feedback! A lot of members

now have an insight into the bigger picture of what CWLA does as an organization, and the hard work that the CWLA executive put in to their work. Other members who have attended these conferences before enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with members from other states.

Here in the West we are now beginning to feel the Summer, coming at long last. Although I have heard that some farmers are experiencing very low rainfalls during winter. We do hope that things improve for them. Also we continue to keep the Eastern States farmers in our prayers. It is a long battle for their families.

We have begun the task of addressing the issues that came out of motions passed at the National Council, as a state body. Hopefully, we will be heard by our parliamentarians.

Our Voluntary Assisted Dying motion here in WA as we all know passed through the lower house and is now in the Upper House being looked at and will soon to be voted on. Our members have been busy continuing to write letter to various Parliamentarians, hopefully it may help but it is not looking good at this stage. Voting by members in the Upper House - at this stage is suggested to be towards the end of the year? Some parliamentarians feel that the motion does need rewording! But are not getting heard. We can only continue to pray!

It won't be long we will be thinking about Christmas – although no doubt some people are already organised! I think I must be old school now because to me the most important part of the Christmas celebrations is the true meaning of Christmas! I'm lucky I have a family that have suggested no presents (Lucky no grandchildren under 13yrs), just get together as a family for a great meal, fun, and a few drinks!

I wish all CWLA members a spiritual and Holy Christmas, and that they are able to spend time with family and friends reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

May 2020 be kind to all! In health etc.

Bev



New South Wales

Ann Pereira

As I am sitting here writing this, I am surrounded by a blue smoke haze. Visibility is limited and breathing is difficult. However, I am grateful for being part of this organisation called the Catholic Women's League! The number of emails, texts and phone calls of concern and best wishes is heart-warming and makes me proud to be able to call our members friends.

We recently held our State Council Meeting where delegates raised issues common to us all: lack of willingness to take on executive positions, age, health, distance etc., etc. We also discussed the benefits of being involved: learning, being informed, involved in major issues, friendship, support, and good works. Everyone wants us to continue and some ideas were suggested for the way forward: the way we hold meetings, who chairs the meeting, where, what time, day or night, how often, how to involve others and how to attract new members. With all this, we are looking at a positive future.

The planning and preparation for the WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference are well underway. We have settled on a great venue, central location, fantastic speakers together with activities and an opportunity for a pilgrimage. The on-line booking form will be available shortly together with details of how to book your accommodation. We look forward to seeing you in Sydney May 2020.

We are facing difficult times in our organisation, however we need to focus on all the positive things within the league and share all the good things with our friends and community.

Make the most of your time with family and friends and may the Joy of Christmas be with everyone.

Ann



Queensland

Veronica Box

Sixteen members attended the National Conference in Bunbury. Some of them were accompanied by their husbands and combined the conference with a holiday in the beautiful South Western corner of our vast continent. All were very impressed with the venue and the organisation of the Conference, and sincerely thank Valma and her team for a wonderful experience.

All speakers were well received, but Father Greg Donovan was a stand-out as he told of his humble, generous engagement with asylum seekers. It made me think of a tenet of our Christian faith that God gives people the graces they need to face challenges in their lives, and that grace often comes through another person. Father Greg really is a “channel of God’s peace”.



The National Conference of Australian Church Women was being held in Brisbane at the same time as the Conference in Bunbury. We were ably represented by members Del Doherty, Heather McIntyre and Margaret Begg. Del is the Social Justice and Bioethics Convenor of the Queensland Unit of ACW, and distributed copies of the 2019 ACBC Social Justice Statement.

Our branches throughout the state have been working diligently to raise funds for our 2019-2020 State Project, Drought and Flood Relief. The methods of fundraising are as varied as our branches: raffle, fashion parades, morning teas, cent auctions, tombolas and so on. These functions, while serving the purpose of raising funds, are also an important part of the fabric of the parish, building community and making friendships. Branches have made contact with communities in western Queensland and entrusted the dispersal of funds to needy families to people with local knowledge: for example Vinnies, pastoral associates and parish priests.

In October, I attended the Brisbane Archdiocesan Assembly, an ongoing part of the engagement with the Plenary Council journey. The Assembly gave participants a better understanding of communal discernment, so they could be empowered to go back to their parishes and organisations and hopefully engage others in the process. Listening, discerning, singing and praying together made me believe that the Spirit really is moving in our Church, as we seek new ways of being Christian in our land.

For several years, we have been supporting Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH). Gemma coordinates the sale of their calendars, which are a wonderful source of information on this dreadful worldwide problem.

May all of you experience a wonderful Christmas Season and be ready to begin a new year of service.

Love and blessings

Veronica



Victoria and Wagga Wagga

Jane Munro

League members were very shocked and saddened to learn that Madge Fahy died suddenly on the 4th October, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi – a Saint to which she had devotion. Madge had over the years filled many roles in the League, including National President in 2010 – 2011. Our prayers, love and condolences go out to her husband Tom and their children, Tricia, Robyn, Margaret, Greg and Therese.

Madge and Tom spent countless hours photocopying Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ's letters and papers. These were sent to India and later to Rome as part of the investigation into Mary Glowrey's life. Recently, Postulator for the Cause of Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ (Glowrey), Rev. Dr Cherian Thunduparambil CMI, and External Collaborator, Sr Mary Karickakunnel JMJ, visited Australia as part of the process of checking all the facts, papers and letters detailing Mary Glowrey's early life in Victoria.

Mary Glowrey was declared a Servant of God in early 2013. The Roman phase of the Cause began in January 2018. While in Australia, Fr Cherian and Sr Mary visited Birregurra, the town in south-west Victoria where Mary Glowrey was born. Birregurra has an impressive historical collection for such a small country town. No doubt, Sr Mary and Fr Cherian found it fascinating. They also spent hours checking references to items in the Mary Glowrey Collection, now under the care of the Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission.

Sr Mary was Postulator of the Diocesan phase of the Cause, and visited Australia in 2015 with Sr Innamma Yeruva, who now leads the Society of Jesus Mary and Joseph. Sr Mary currently lives in Rome, where she writing the *Positio* for the Cause.

A *Positio* is a formal argument for canonisation. It details the life story of the Servant of God as well as presenting documents and testimonies to support the Cause. When finished, it is presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Should this committee of expert theologians and historians decide Mary Glowrey lived a life of heroic virtue and the *Positio* is approved, then the Pope would give her the title Venerable, which means she is considered worthy of devotion by faithful Catholics.

What a great honour for the League to be part of this exciting venture, regardless of whether Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart ever progresses past Step 2 to Step 4 – which is canonisation!

Jane





Special offer for CWLA members

Distributed quarterly and with more than 100 years in publication, *Madonna* is the leading national magazine of spirituality and prayer. Beautifully presented, *Madonna* includes 3 months of daily prayer on the liturgical readings and thoughtful articles, personal stories and reflections to nourish the soul.

Special offer for CWLA members only \$31.50 your first year subscription (that is a 30% discount!).

It makes a wonderful Christmas present too.

LIMITED TIME ONLY. Please call Jesuit Communications on 1300 72 88 46 (toll free) or email subs@madonnamagazine.com.au before 30 Dec and quote code D30/PR65

Find out more at www.madonnamagazine.com.au



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A word from the Editor: there are photographs scattered throughout the Newsletter that were taken at the National Conference in September. Because of document size, these photographs have been reduced to a small size. To access all photographs that the National Team have of the Conference please go to the CWLA website where they are in larger format. Double click on the individual photo & you will get a larger image that can be copied.

Do avail yourselves of the terrific Madonna Magazine offer. I am enjoying the wonderful summer edition.

Adele