



CWL Review volume 58 No 4

August/September 2018

**“Be Merciful just as the  
Father is Merciful”**



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### **President's Message**

Hello ladies, I hope you are coping with our cold winter days - I find the arthritis suffers but we are so fortunate to have lovely warm homes and cosy clothes. My mind wanders to the poor unfortunate people who are struggling without a roof over their heads and know our prayers are with them.

Our southern executive left Hobart on the freezing morning of 20th Jun and travelled to Georgetown for their meeting and were certainly received with much warmth and beautiful afternoon tea. It was so good to renew friendships again. After a night of luxury at our accommodation units we travelled to Grindelwald for an executive meeting followed by lunch with some Launceston and North West members. This again was a lovely catch up with friends.

That same day was the funeral service of dear Mary Binks, a long time CWL member. Two of our group attended her wonderful farewell. It is so sad to lose such a marvellous lady. We were extremely tired after the long trip but the five of us were so pleased to meet up with you all again and felt it was beneficial. We intend to continue with an excursion like this every so often to keep in touch.

Our Conference arrangements are well under way and I do hope to see several of you in attendance. I would like to remind those that have treasured heirloom craft items to display at Conference, to send them into our Hobart Centre by Tuesday 28th August to be collected - otherwise please bring them with you if attending the Conference. All items need to be named with a short history of the article attached. We need to know who the wonderful maker was and the age of the piece also - we feel this display will be so very interesting.

We are very sad that St Leonards and Sorell branches have closed in the last months but still have some ladies as Diocesan members thankfully.

At present we are trying to influence more ladies to join by way of some members speaking at Masses. Our lovely Chaplain Fr Jaison, suggested we try this approach as we have discovered there are people who have not heard of CWL. We certainly need to do some advertising and let them know of our activities - hopefully there will be a few ladies who show an interest.

The southern branches held lunch at Wrest Point recently with 21 ladies present. It has been most enjoyable to socialise with both north and south members recently as we all need to keep our friendship alive. For those ladies who are unable to be out and about with us, you are always in our thoughts and prayers and hopefully enjoy reading our informative Review.

Until next time, may God be glorified in all we do.

Deirdre Reid

**Reflection One.**

From the Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis

**GAUDETE ET EXULTATE**

This exhortation is about the call to holiness in today's world. Francis quotes the Letter to the Hebrews which presents us with a number of testimonies that encourage us to "run the race that is set before us". It invites us to realize that a great cloud of witnesses impels us to advance constantly towards the goal. These witnesses may include our own mothers, grandmothers or other loved ones. Their lives may not have always been perfect, yet even amid their faults and failings they kept moving forward and proved pleasing to the Lord.

Francis uses the term "genius of woman" which is seen in feminine styles of holiness, which are essential means of reflecting God's holiness in this world. Indeed in times when women tended to be most ignored or overlooked, the Holy Spirit raised up saints whose attractiveness produced new spiritual vigour and important reforms in the Church. He mentions Saint Hildegard of Bingen, St Bridget, St Catherine of Siena, St Theresa of Avila and St Therese of Lisieux. But he pays tribute also to all those unknown and forgotten women who, each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness.

Reflection:

Share thoughts about the women we have known who have influenced us in our journey through life.

**Reflection Two.****GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE**

Pope Francis has called Chapter Four: "Signs of Holiness in Today's World"

His inspiration comes from The Beatitudes and Matthew 25:31-46. He sees here the essence of our call to holiness; the love of God and neighbour.

In today's culture there is a sense of anxiety, violence, consumerism and lack of a sense of God, all of which militates against our happiness. On the other hand perseverance, patience and meekness amid life's ups and downs are sources of strength. When we feel overwhelmed we can always cling to the anchor of prayer, which puts us back in God's hands and the source of our peace.

It is to be noted that Francis mentions verbal violence prevalent through the internet and various forms of digital communication, which can cause the erosion of ethical standards. The result is a dangerous dichotomy since things can be said there that would be unacceptable in public discourse. Our inner strength is required to avoid this form of violence which destroys the relationships which should exist in our Christian way of living.

Joy and a sense of humour are seen as vital to a healthy living of our faith. The saints are examples of this and our liturgy constantly urges us to rejoice in the Lord. Mary herself exemplifies joy: "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour".

These are just a few examples used by Francis in GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE. It was written and published in Rome on the Feast of St Joseph, March 19 2018.

It was signed simply: *Franciscus*

Pamela Davis OP



### **Seminarian Support Dinner**

The Knights of the Southern Cross are once again coordinating the Seminarian Support Dinner for 2018. Your attendance and support would be most welcome.

Thursday 16th August  
6.30pm

Guilford Young College - Hobart Campus  
94 Barrack Street  
Hobart, TAS

\$60 - Includes complimentary drink, canapés and a four course meal.

RSVP deadline is Tuesday 7th August.

To secure your ticket, these are being coordinated through individual Parishes and our organisations, please speak to your Parish priest or other members of your Parish.

**Joke.**

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote country road in rural Victoria when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him.

The driver, a young man in an Armani suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and Melb Uni tie, leans out the window and asks the shepherd, "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers, "Sure. Why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his AT&T cell phone, surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with hundreds of complex formulas. He uploads all of this data via an email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and finally turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 1,586 sheep."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my sheep." says the shepherd. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the shepherd says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep? "

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a consultant." says the shepherd.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answered the shepherd. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked; and you don't know anything about my business..."

"...Now give me back my dog!"

## **In Memoriam**

### **Vale Mary Binks**

Devonport and the Coast are in mourning after the death of an admired and respected former Mayor.

Mary passed away on June 14, not in Devonport from where most members will remember her, but in Evandale where, with husband Chris, they recently moved, in order to be near their family. Mary was a diabetic and had to have daily injections. Despite this, she proudly represented CWL as State President and State Secretary and was known to say, 'Any success I've achieved in life is the result of what the League taught me'. She was an advocate for the Objects of the League, in particular; "To uphold the dignity of women and to promote their participation in social and public life."

Mary certainly achieved much in life. She served on the Devonport Council from 1989 and held the position of Deputy Mayor for two years before becoming the first female Mayor in 1999.

Mary gave a helping hand to people in need, she founded a soup kitchen called Gran's Van which served hot meals twice a week to the homeless, this eventually grew to every night. She had the ability to get the job done against all odds. When politicians denied the need for it, she refused to take no for an answer.

She was awarded an OAM (2005) for services to local Government and the community. She was named on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women (2005) for services to the Devonport community.

Mary made an impact on the Devonport community and Tasmania, through her involvement in organisations such as the Catholic Women's League, Gran's Van, Inaugural President of National Council of Women (Devonport Branch) and Devonport City Council.

Mary cared for and championed those who needed a voice; the homeless, the marginalised, women and the ageing. She leaves a legacy carried on by volunteers who have taken up her causes. Her drive, concern and thoughtfulness will be missed.

Mary will always be remembered for her grace and charm, and to quote Senator Richard Colbeck, 'Mary was an excellent leader of our community, she carried out her role with authority, warmth, compassion, feistiness, humour and aplomb'.

Her involvement in local government enabled her to hone her skill of meeting procedure and she passed this experience on to the Catholic Women's League.

Born at New Norfolk, she married teacher Chris Binks in 1958. He later became Vice-Principle of Don College in Devonport. They had four children, Peter, Catherine, Mary and Jenni.

We extend our sympathy to them all.

Rest in peace Mary.

Lovingly written by Kath Pearce.

### **Mary Binks: Her contribution to MacKillop Hill, Forth.**

“I wandered into the grounds of the Forth Church and became aware of the beauty of the Forth Valley and the serenity of the Church even though it had deteriorated significantly through lack of use.

As I strolled through the graveyard I felt there was a Church history worth preserving.

Colleen Hill, Frances Lane and I, met and expressed our determination not to lose this precious part of our heritage. We felt Mary MacKillop and Julian Tennison Woods (co-founders of the Sisters of St. Joseph) were part of it all” ( Extracts from personal reflections by Mary Binks)

These women dreamt of what might be - what could be!

They shared their dreams with the Ulverstone Parish and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

At that time Mary was Chair of Mersey Skill Training, a Commonwealth funded organisation for teaching basic trade skills to the unemployed. The CEO of this organisation was looking for buildings in need of renovation so that young unemployed people could be given employment skills.

Mary's role with Mersey Skill Training at this time was providential, not only in obtaining a workforce but in the organisation receiving a Federal Government allocation of \$20, 000 for use in the restoration project.

A member of the original steering committee, Mary was part of an extraordinary group of volunteer men and women (the MacKillop Hill Committee) who generously offered their time and skills to restore the disused Church and convent. They worked hard, built community, and were wonderfully creative in providing a wide range of very successful and memorable fund-raising activities.

As a woman of faith, Mary's focus was not on herself. She was attentive to the movement of the Spirit within her and gave of herself unstintingly so that others might benefit.

Thus the dream of a place of spiritual nourishment for all who felt this longing in their hearts eventually blossomed into reality.....a joint venture initiated by faith filled women who invited the Sisters of St. Joseph to assist them in bringing their dream to fruition.

We thank Mary Binks for the part she played in providing a spiritual oasis, MacKillop Hill Spirituality Centre at Forth on the North West Coast of Tasmania.

*Incarinate Word in whom all nature lives  
Cast flame upon the earth;  
Among us, those who walk within the fire  
Of ceaseless prayer, impetuous desire,  
Set pools of silence in this thirsty land.*

**James McAuley**

Submitted by Sister Margaret Chandler, MacKillop Hill Forth.



### **From the Southern Vice President**

Greetings to all on this very cold day. Winter is here but it is a beautiful time of year. The mountain capped with white snow and frost glistening on the grass and the leaves of trees, so rug up and keep warm.

We had a heart warming meeting of the Lindisfarne Branch which I thought was destined to close but the enthusiasm of the few members means we can continue, so a very big thank you ladies.

Remember a warm smile on a cold day can work wonders and after all, Spring is just around the corner. May God Bless you and the wonderful work you do.

Roseanne Way

## Northern Vice-President

Hello everyone,

As the days roll on and get colder we can at least take consolation in the fact that they are getting gradually longer! I hope everyone is managing to keep warm and avoid the winter ills.

It is a sad time in the Northern Region as we have lost another branch. After much consideration and heartache for St Leonards they have decided they can no longer keep going. For several years they have struggled along but due to health issues with family members and themselves, it became an impossible situation. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them for the work they have done for the League, which has spanned two generations. (Jose Verhoeven tells me her mother was a founding member.) I would like to remind them that they are welcome any time to join the Launceston branch when circumstances change for them. However, I invite all members to keep them in their prayers.

Some Launceston members recently attended the Launceston Branch of the R.S.L. for the presentation of personal packs for returned servicemen who are “doing it tough.” Launceston collected men’s toiletry items as their project to help others this year and I am sure their gifts would be gratefully received.

Thank you, ladies, for your care and concern for those who have less than yourselves.

The Conference date is drawing rapidly closer and I urge everyone to try to get to at least part of the Conference. I know it is a long way to travel from the north of the state, but perhaps a car load could make a day of it. You would be in good company and hear some brilliant speakers! If you can’t make it, please spread the word in your parish and invite everyone to attend. Details for booking are in the last edition of the Review.

Please pray for the success of the Conference.

## HANDCRAFT DISPLAY

This year, as you may already know, there will be no Archbishop Sir Guilford Young Award at the Conference, due to lack of a co-ordinator in the south and the falling number of entries over the last few years. However, there will be a display of HANDCRAFT, which will be set up on the morning of the Conference opening.

If you have any handcrafted items, not necessarily made by you, but in your possession, they can be brought along to the Conference on the Wednesday morning, prior to 11.00 am or given to any State Executive member to bring along.

Please make sure you securely attach your name to each item and include a short "story" about it - who made it and when, how it came to be in your possession or any other interesting information about it.

Wendy Fittler

## State Treasurer

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE TASMANIA INC  
Annual General Meeting  
Friday August 31st 9.30am  
Conference Venue Airport Hotel Cambridge

Thank you for your registrations. Could all reports be sent ASAP so I can get Financial Statement finished for Conference.  
DONT forget to return raffle books.  
Conference Registration MUST be in by July 25th.

Jan Lawler

## Social Issues and Bioethics Committee

*Joy is prayer, joy is strength,  
joy is love. Joy is a net of love  
by which you can catch souls.  
She gives most who gives with joy.  
The best way to show our gratitude  
to God and the people is to  
accept everything with joy.*

- Mother Teresa

This is a brief review of what happened in the last year.

Last year a written submission was sent to the Parliament of Australia for the Inquiry into the status of the human right to freedom of religion or belief.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 CWL were invited to attend a public hearing and submit our verbal submission. Pat Gartlan, Genevieve and Jacquelyn Rochecouste (support group with interest in freedom of speech and religion) and myself attended.

The chair of this panel was Kevin Andrews, deputy chair was Dr. Anne Aly, via video link, and presiding were Lisa Singh and Trent Zimmermann.

A prayer gathering took place outside of parliament House on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June which was attended by a number of Catholics and CWL members as well as other Christian denominations. This event was organised in aims to demonstrate a pro-life stance against the motion for Tasmanian women to have easier access to abortions through the public hospital system, which was moved by Ms. Ruth Forrest. She stated “that currently women who wish to access a termination for reasons other than serious foetal anomalies or maternal medical condition and do not have private health insurance and/or cannot afford to travel to mainland Australia, to access termination of pregnancy are being disadvantaged through the lack of access to termination of pregnancy services within the public health system...”

Ms. Forrest's motion wants to break down the “barriers to abortion access in Australia, particularly young women in rural areas and women of low socioeconomic status”.

Sadly, for Ruth Forrest, surgical terminations are a quick procedure that can be “popped in among the other gynaecological procedures”.

Notice how she and her supporting colleagues do not identify these procedures as abortions, but as terminations? Nor do they recognise a child in the womb as human life. In other words, for many people, a young life in the womb has become an easy procedure to get rid of if the pregnancy is not convenient. Unfortunately what a number of Tasmanians, as well as other Australians, do not comprehend is that these attempts to legalise, support and make abortion openly available is a direct attempt to devalue human life, trying to fix one trauma with another, which we know cannot work.

The motion was defeated on the day, 13 to 12. But we cannot stop praying that this culture of death turns around and that everyone once again values every single life from the very beginning.

The Archdiocese of Hobart's Office of Evangelism and Catechesis has begun running various programs at St Mary's Cathedral, which is open to all people. The latest of these programs being an Endow course, lead by Director Christine Wood, which is a study guide focusing on St John Paul II's : Letter to Women. The course ran for eight sessions fortnightly with a number of women from different background and ages attending.

The course was not about empowering women from a modern feministic lens, but endowing them from the perspective of Our Heavenly Father, helping them recognise their '*Feminine genius*'. It further outlined the truth of femininity through the eyes of the Holy Church and the saints, and how being apathetic with our God-given gifts/talents is not what we are called as Catholics to do, rather we should strive to direct these feminine talents to good use. This is a topic within our Catholic faith that Bishop Fulton Sheen explores in great detail, breaking down and explaining the effects apathy can have on ones faith and spiritual growth.

Bishop Fulten Sheen was born Peter John Sheen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1895, and died Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1979. He was ordained a priest in 1919 and ordained Bishop in 1951. He was a renowned theologian and hosted several Radio and TV shows from 1930 to 1968. Twice he won the Emmy award for Most Outstanding TV personality and featured in time magazine and wrote 73 books. In one of his talks he explained how Christ suffers more from our apathy than when He died on the cross.

He has already saved us through His suffering on the cross, now we have to do our bit and wake up from this apathy and fight against the culture of death that is occurring in our times, with the incredible number of abortions happening every year, euthanasia and the sacrilege against the sacrament of marriage. Helping the poor is also on top of the list of our 'genuine charitable' duties.

So many people are suffering and need healing, moving from one counsellor to another but few are taught that God is the source of our healing.

A copy from an old homily had this story to tell. A teacher talking to a boy who needed healing. He was born to a women, who he described as a junkie and said he has been hurting since he was in his mother's womb. He had been going from one counsellor to another.

"God can heal you," the teacher said, and the boy pointed to the sky and said, "Yeah, yeah. Him up there".

"Oh no", said the teacher, "God doesn't work from the outside, like the counsellors, God works on the inside. You need to receive Him in Holy Communion, and He will heal you from the inside".

We all have to be like that teacher and encourage people to take the teacher's advice because the Mass is the greatest prayer. Trust God that He will heal and endow us with all we need to help others.

To sum it up if you have the opportunity to join an Endow course, take the time to attend. There is so much to learn through getting to know our rich and beautiful catholic faith.

WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation) are helping the poor all over the world. Women from many countries are meeting for their General Assembly this year in October in Dakar, Senegal. They produce a monthly magazine, and in the July issue Pope Francis encourages us to let the Voice of the Church be heard. He also gives a tip for some simple steps we can take when we feel helpless to help;

For example, a woman goes shopping, she meets a neighbour and they begin to speak, and the gossip starts. But she says in her heart: "No, I will not speak badly of anyone". Later, at home, one of her children wants to talk to her about hopes and dreams, and even though she is tired, she sits down and listens with patience and love. Later she experiences some anxiety, but recalling the love of the Virgin Mary, she takes her rosary and prays with faith. Later still, she goes out in the street, encounters a poor person and stops to say a kind word to him. Pope Francis calls all these steps, steps towards holiness.

As CWL members we are all capable of lending a hand and encouraging people to pursue Christ in their everyday lives. Even the smallest acts can make a great difference. Therefore we must strive to overcome our apathy, and live out our faith with passion of true Christian charity just like those before us.

Anna Matuszek

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

With this year being a Conference year it is time to think with some seriousness about the sharing of roles on the Executive Committee.

Some of the current members have well and truly served their term on the Executive but have needed to hold onto their position for up to three and four terms because no other nominations were put forward.

The time has come for them to step down and make way for new members to have a turn.

Please consider taking on one of the Executive roles. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow and develop and life-long friendships are made. You do not need to be an "expert" in any field and you have tremendous support from other members.

Please think about it!

## Esther's House Annual Fundraising Dinners

### Hobart

The Italian Club

77 Federal Street

North Hobart, 7000

Saturday 13th October 2018

You are warmly invited to join us as we gather together with friends and family to share our successes, goals and future aspirations. This is an opportunity to support a local cause while honouring brave Tassie mums who, against the odds, have embraced Motherhood fearlessly. As always there will be loads of good food, great stories, laughter and plenty of entertainment. We hope you can join us and look forward to sharing the evening with you, your family and friends.

\$60 for a single ticket

\$456 for a table of 8

\$550 a table of 10

Includes three courses, tea and coffee and entertainment.

### Launceston

Tailrace Centre

1 Waterfront Drive

Riverside Launceston

Tasmania, 7250

Wednesday 10th October 2018 (The evening before Launceston Show Day)

\$60 for a single ticket

\$456 for a table of 8

\$550 a table of 10

Includes three courses, tea and coffee and entertainment.

Bookings through [TryBooking.com](http://TryBooking.com)

For questions contact Katherine at [katherine@estershous.com.au](mailto:katherine@estershous.com.au)

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