



CWL Review volume 58 No 5

October/November 2018

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



President's Message

I am pleased Conference is over for another 2 years - after all the preparation we were so relieved everything turned out well and we all enjoyed our time together.

The Travelodge was a perfect venue and hopefully before Christmas we may organise a lunch there for all our Catholic ladies to enjoy the facilities and each other's company.

Our congratulations go to our new Life Member Jan Lawler who was presented with her badge and certificate by Archbishop Julian Porteous at our conference dinner.

Jan has been our amazing treasurer for over 6 years and thankfully has agreed to carry on. She has been involved in so many activities over many, many years and nothing is too much trouble for her. Jan as treasurer, Judy Gibbens as secretary and I as President, have agreed to continue. Sadly our 2 Vice Presidents - Wendy Fittler and Roseanne Way have retired - Wendy has held that position for over 6 years and has been a wonderful source of knowledge and support. Roseanne has been involved for the past 2 years and has enjoyed her time with us. She was shocked and surprised to receive the Marie Dunn award from Launceston branch for writing her entertaining poetry book with another in the pipeline - congratulations Roseanne. We will miss both these ladies but hopefully they will find time to continue supporting their branches and the League.

Jenny Smith from Launceston branch and Pam Clark from Richmond branch are our new Northern and Southern Vice Presidents respectively. The editor of this magazine, Anna Matuszek is also continuing on as editor plus Social issues and Bioethics Convener - she is a very busy lady - as is International Secretary Mary Walsh. I feel this new executive will work very well together. I thank our previous executive for their hard work over the past 2 years as we also worked well together - it was such a pleasure as we all enjoyed each other's company and have made lifelong friends. A very big thank you goes to our secretary Judy for all her work towards the Conference and in particular for the preparation of our Conference book as everyone enjoyed the read with so much information it contained. Our Chaplain Fr Jason's participation was very much appreciated also and we love to have him in our midst and enjoy his chats with us - thank you Father for finding the time in your busy life. Thank you also to those members who have freely given their advice, guidance and support over these 2 years as it has been so very much appreciated.

To our dear friends who are unwell, please know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers and I'm sure you will enjoy reading this Review as usual.

Until next time, God Bless you all.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Deirdre Reid

From the National President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO TASMANIA CWL CONFERENCE 2018

Pope Francis' August prayer intention is for the treasure of families. *"Together, let us ask Jesus that any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasurers of humanity."*

Pope Francis prayer intention is especially poignant for us as we reflect on the work done through our national and state councils to be a voice for families over the last seven months. With collaborative research, professional skills and knowledge that Deirdre Little, Sonia Di Mezza, Madeleine Banister, Anne-Marie Ferry and members across our country share, Catholic Women's League Australia has been supporting families, the marginal and our beliefs preparing submissions and petitions.

Areas of concern were elder abuse, pregnancy support, marriage, religious freedoms, right to medicines to support a healthier life, end of life care, obesity in children, regional inequality, retirement support for women, slavery, trafficking and dowry abuse. Looking back at past records it seems that we are continually being called to be the voice on these topics. Those who want to destroy the foundations of our Christian beliefs keep coming up with another way to erode the family values we hold dear and we need to continue to be vigilant. Fortunately, we are blessed with a dedicated membership who are willing to alert us when issues arise and share in the research.

Our Public Relations Officer, Rosabella Robertson has updated the national website and it is a relief to have current information that is easy to access again. A new look home page is being worked on. Rosabella is working with the executive to provide support and information resources to member groups, connect women with each other through local, state and international groups and advocate for those who have not been heard or noticed through the website. Sharing resources and information, creating "call to action" alerts and resources for women who want to stand with us on issues.

WUCWO Board Member Catherine McGrath, our National International Secretary Madeleine Banister, delegate Peg McEntee and I will be attending the General Assembly in Dakar in October. Some other members from NSW will also be attending as observers. I am almost ready personally for Dakar. I have completed all the administration requirements necessary but have still to get my head around the actual being there.

We are all proud of our National International Secretary, Madeleine Banister, and Research Officer, Sonia Di Mezza for their excellent participation and daily reports when they attended the CSW62 in New York earlier in the year. Maria distributed the daily reports to our six Member Organizations to keep everyone informed. Their final more substantive report I printed as a booklet and brought two copies to share. An electronic version can be downloaded for further distribution.

I recently attend the New Zealand Catholic Women's League Biennial Conference in Wellington with Ann Pereira, Peg McEntee from NSW and Shona Cobham, Sandy O'Donohue and Moira Gardner from Qld. Christine Paterson the Wellington

Diocesan President and with her hosting team warmly welcomed us all and presented all participants with a packet of home baked biscuits as we registered.

The theme of the Conference was “Women Welcoming Change” and one of the many highlights was the presentation from four women of different generations who told their own story of how they were forced to change and the positive outcomes from accepting and making the most of the new situation knowing that Jesus was walking with them. All showed that accepting changes their lives were enriched with new experiences, friendships, employment and educational opportunities and a satisfaction that without changes they would not be the person they are today.

The New Zealanders were welcoming and a lot of fun but behind the smiling faces were committed and hard working women keeping the work of CWL relevant to the needs of their communities.

CWLA’s Mid-Term Council meeting took place in Perth over the weekend of 11th & 12th August. Five of the Member Organizations attended. We all missed Tasmania’s delegates and remembered you in our prayers. Our Guest Speaker, Rebecca Ward was engaging and informative. She gave a file of information to each delegate and I have two files to present to Deirdre and Judith.

The current CWLA National Executive commenced its term with a mandate to support a motion on the Pope’s Encyclical “Laudato Si” – Care for Our Common Home - as presented at the National council meeting held in conjunction with the National Conference in 2017. Rebecca, a Pastoral Worker in the Diocese of Bunbury is passionate about the principles of this encyclical and shared a thoroughly thought-provoking session. There are so many ways to contribute to protecting our environment; that we can all do our bit to save energy, reduce pollution and promote biodiversity.

A common theme through most state reports was the difficulty of getting members to step up into executive roles. Western Australia restructured to have a State Council and branches. Four delegates on the State Council connect with a group of branches or associate members to keep them informed and be the personal face of State Council. South Australia is looking at this model and establishing a mentoring program so that women will be equipped with knowledge of how the State Council works and an understanding of the Constitution and By-Laws. They had two alternative delegates attend the Mid-Term meeting as part of this program. Queensland and Victoria Wagga Wagga are also looking at restructuring to remain viable.

I pray that your conference reinvigorates your membership to find new ways of doing and reaching out to those who still do not know CWL. A new branch was formed with 32 new members at a retirement village at Stathfield, NSW. This is food for thought but we also need connection to younger generations and your website and social media are an excellent way to achieve this.

“Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.” St Augustine

Valma Ivory

From the State Secretary



The 61st Conference of C W L Tas held at Hobart Airport Travelodge during the last three days in August, was attended by twenty six people . Thirty six people enjoyed the dinner along with special guests Most Reverend Julian Porteous DD, CWL Chaplain Father Jaison Kuzihil, and Sister Monica Shelverton.

Life Membership was bestowed upon Janice Lawler.

Roseanne Way received the “Marie Dunn Award” for her poetry.

Two keynote speakers gave awesome presentations, which both refreshed our minds & outlook and gave us inspiration to keep going.

National President, Valma Ivory delighted us with her praise and helpful ideas.

The previous executive have been returned to office except for both Vice-Presidents. Northern Vice-President Wendy, after having served for six years, has stepped down.

Jenny Smith from Launceston branch was elected unanimously to take on that role.

Roseanne Way, Southern Vice-President has resigned and Pam Clark, from the Richmond branch was elected Southern Vice-President. We thank these ladies with all our hearts and wish them well.

Sister Lorraine Groves, along with Sister Frances McShane kindly looked after our wonderful book stall.

Everyone who supported the conference & those who helped make our time productive and happy, we say a huge thank you.

Lucky Raffle winners were as follows:-

1 st Prize Sue Pearce	2 nd Prize Von Haigh	3 rd Nancy Dorazio
4 th Lillian Deane	5 th Eris Smyth	6 th Angelica Pearce

Appreciation goes to donors:-

Travelodge Cambridge, Lola Phillips x 2, Wendy Fittler, Janice Lawler & Judy Gibbens

Our own special thoughts prayers at conference:



- My experience as an observer at my first encounter with CWL has left me wanting more.
I pray that the Holy Spirit, does not let us be timid; instead that the Spirit will fill us with power, love and self control.
Lord help me to embellish these thoughts.
- I pray that our Australian Government never strays from Christian practices and beliefs.
- “I remind you to keep alive the gifts He gave you.”
The Spirit that God has given us, does not make us timid.
His Spirit fills us with the power, love and self control.
Hold firmly to the true words St Paul to Timothy Ch 1. v 3
- Lord, continue to guide and bless our National Convenors and researchers, as they be our voice in submissions to all levels of government.
May our voice be heard through their work.
- We pray for all families affected by illness, drug addiction, abuse and loneliness and ask the Holy Spirit to give them strength to endure and find peace.
Lord hear us.
- We pray that members of the Catholic Women’s League will be ever vigilant & pray for the less fortunate people in our own community, showing them love, help and patience in their struggles.
- We pray for the end of war in the world. Lord, bring peace and harmony among the nations and their people.
- I pray that the Catholic Women’s League of Australia will lead Australians to once again treasure the innocence of Children.

- For those couples whose marriage is untouched by infertility, may You bless them with new life, or acceptance of Your plan for their life together.

- CWL is a very special and loving part of our lives –
we appreciate the support and comradeship and, I feel, the “sisterhood” is so important. We can rely on each other in times of need and celebrate all facets of our lives.

- It is a blessing to belong to Catholic Women’s League.
The members are so friendly and as supportive as can be. Together we can be a voice on important public issues.
Lord help us show new members they are welcome and belong.

- Joining CWL has given me the confidence to share with others my faith and to speak on the issues currently facing us. After speaking I felt my own faith deepen.

- That the Holy Spirit guide the people in power.
Keep our Christian faith alive & guide the family as a whole unit.

- I ask the Holy Spirit to help CWL to make known in the public arena, the Christian perspective on the issues of the day.
These are already being expressed by submissions to governments, but remain mainly hidden.
This will attract members of all ages who share the insights.

- Lord, I hold firmly to the words You taught us and thank You day and night for my blessings .

- God raised “groups” or organisations from within the church to address current/future needs,
e.g. the tremendous growth of brothers and nuns in numerous orders to provide teachers and nurses etc.
What is the planning for people of the 2000’s?
Is CWL to respond? How?

- What is Catholic Women’s League to me?

CWL is a space where I can confidently share my beliefs and values and concerns about the disappearing values in society.
It is about building friendships and coming together with like-minded women to pray, reflect and act on issues of concern.



Please read these and share your thoughts and feelings.

You might like to use one or two at your branch meetings for reflection.



Citation for Life Membership 2018.

Mrs Janice Lawler has been a member of Catholic Women's League for forty two years.

She served as secretary and treasurer many times in the **Sorell Branch**. For **over twenty years** she has been caring for the Sorell Church of St Thomas - doing cleaning, arranging flowers, attending to maintenance and replenishing supplies

-she is the **sacristan**. - prepares and opens the church for Saturday night Mass and Monday morning Mass.

-is a Eucharistic minister and delivers communion to folk in the local nursing home

- works as a volunteer in the same Aged Care Home, in the kiosk, on a regular basis.

When Hobart **Catholic Women's League** ran the Tea Rooms in Mather's Lane, Jan worked tirelessly, for twenty years, making the nutritious soup, supplying a lot of the ingredients from her father's farm. Since the tea rooms closed, she has been a regular name on the list of volunteers, to serve in the Craft Shop and has helped to keep it stocked with her wonderful knitting.

*For the past **six years**, Jan has served as **Treasurer for State CWL**.

Recently she was responsible for organising the donations and paying for the Mercy Baby Memorial – a major project . Being State treasurer has not been an easy task for her, not having her own computer she has to rely on her daughter to do the on-line messaging. As well she had to travel to Hobart to do a lot of the banking manually. Jan has prepared balance sheets for State A.G.Ms and has cheerfully attended executive meetings, functions and other Southern Branch Annual General Meetings .

She happily gives over and above what is expected.

She is a worthy, valuable and active member of Catholic Women's League Tasmania and very much deserves Life Membership.

Judith Gibbens

REFLECTION

OCTOBER: A MONTH FOR THE MOTHER

Two months in the Liturgical calendar are dedicated to special devotions to Blessed Virgin Mary. These two months October and May have great significance in the apparition at Fatima. This year we celebrate 101 years of Fatima apparitions. The story of a famous miracle in Fátima, Portugal, began in May 1917, when three children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta (ages 7, 9, and 10) claimed to have encountered the Virgin Mary on their way home from tending a flock of sheep. The oldest girl, Lucia, was the only one to speak to her, and Mary told the children that she would reappear to them on the thirteenth day of the next six months. She then vanished.

It was Mary's final appearance, on Oct. 13, 1917, that became the most famous. In his book "Looking for a Miracle," Joe Nickell states that "an estimated 70,000 people were in attendance at the site, anticipating the Virgin's final visit and with many fully expecting that she would work a great miracle. As before, the figure appeared, and again only to the children. Identifying herself as 'the Lady of the Rosary,' a silvery disc had emerged from behind clouds, they experienced what is known [as] a 'sun miracle'."

Praying the Rosary has been a tradition in the Church for a long time. What really matters is that this prayer is super powerful.

Throughout Church history, many popes and saints have highly recommended that we pray the Rosary. St. Louis de Montfort said, 'When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer.'

The [Rosary](#) begins with the recitation of the Apostle's Creed, an Our Father, three Hail Mary's and a Glory Be. Then there are five decades which each begin and end with an Our Father and Glory Be, and have ten Hail Mary's in between. When we pray the Rosary, we meditate on the events in Jesus' life. There are the joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries.

In various apparitions, Mary has appeared holding a Rosary and has asked that we continue to pray this prayer. She always leads us to her Son, and presents our needs before Him. Prayer is about developing our relationship with God, and loving Him more, so it makes sense to get to know Him through the events of the life of Christ that we meditate on during the Rosary.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

'Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in lectio divina or the Rosary. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further to the knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him' ([CCC 2708](#)).

Rosaries are *not* just decorations. Battles have been won because people prayed the Rosary! There have been hearts converted, and impossible intentions answered too. Your life can only be blessed if you start praying the Rosary.

Let us entrust our families, parishes and the entire diocese in the hands of our Blessed mother.

.....

I was sitting in the church after a school mass was finished. It was lovely to see all the students come and fill the pews of the church but once the Mass started it was apparent that the majority of them had very little experience of going to church. The school is wonderful, where Catholic faith and Jesus are the heart of everything. But for some reasons majority of them did not seem to connect with Jesus or church at all. I wondered why and came to realisation that modern lifestyle are more opposed to the Christian faith than ever before.

Modern society- Freedom to choose

Society today tells us that our freedom to choose is more important than anything else and we should respect everyone else's freedom to choose. This freedom allows them to choose who they are, who they want to be. It gives them the right to choose their sexuality, their gender and what they think their purpose in life.

Faith- Freedom to love

Rather than restricting our freedom, faith gives us more freedom to be the people that God created us to be. Without faith we will never feel fully satisfied. St. Augustine said that there is a God shaped hole inside each one of us that can only filled with God's love. To help people to accept the Gospel message we must get across the message that our lives are not just about us. We did not will ourselves into being but we were created in the image and likeness of God out of love. Jesus said, If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8: 31-32).

Are my choices guided and directed by my faith in Jesus?

Modern Society – Apathy is what matters

In today's culture there is a spirit of apathy that says that nothing really matters. This grows out of the belief that there is no objective truth and what each person believes is up to them, as long as it does not impact on anyone else

Faith – a way to counter the culture of apathy

The way to counter the culture of apathy is to live a radical Christian life as a witness to others. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we should be missionary disciples drawing others to him by our way of life. There is no place for apathy in Christian life. St. Theresa of Calcutta was a living example of powerful Christian witness in this apathetic world.

Do we demonstrate our faith by the lives we lead?

Fr Jaison

In Memoriam

Vale Mary Catherine Jones 18 August 1927 to 21 July 2018

Mary Jones was born in Workington, Cumbria in northwest England.

In 1945 at just 17½, Mary moved to London and joined the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRACs). During her service she served in many places including the German cities of Hamburg, Bielefeld and Hannover during the allied occupation following the conclusion of World War II.

She met Edward Jones in 1947 and they married in 1949 at St Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, Stratford, London. Over the next few years, whilst working at places such as St Mary's Hospital, Lesney's and Yardley's, Mary presented Eddie with three children, Glenda, Martin, and Lise.

In 1964, Mary and Eddie emigrated to Australia, primarily to provide better opportunities for their three children. In 1965 the family moved to George Town where they lived until Mary's passing.

Mary, besides running the family home, supplemented the family income by working part time at a variety of jobs before taking a nurse's aide position at Ainslie House, Low Head, which she loved, and where she was to remain until retiring in 1983.

On retirement Mary was able to take up some volunteer work, this included delivering library books to house bound members of the community, meals on wheels, seafarer's mission and on the committee at Ainslie. She also enjoyed travelling with Eddie and returned to the U.K. on a number of occasions as well as embarking on tours around Australia and New Zealand.

Mary was always an active member of the church and a great supporter of Stella Maris/Star of the Sea College, where her three children attended school. She helped with fund raising for both the school and the church from early days.

In retirement, Mary enjoyed being an active member of the local Rosary group, Catholic Women's League, the Associates of the Presentation Sisters, Women's Leisure Centre and Probus to name a few. She always loved to help in each of these organisations and could be found baking and helping out as required.

As the years progressed, mobility became an issue as Mary endured several fractures related to osteoporosis and she also developed benign tumours on her brain. In 2009, Eddie, passed away, but following a period of mourning, Mary just rolled her sleeves up and continued with life. We all marveled at her resilience as she dealt with a catalogue of issues without losing the positivity that defined her character.

Condolences to the family Mary leaves behind: three children, five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and one great, great-grandchild and partners. She was Mum or Nan to her all her family but also Nan to many. She was also known as Mary or Mrs. Jones or Jonesy to a multitude of others, but to all, she was a beacon and to her family she was, most certainly, the matriarch.

We extend our sympathy to them all.

Lovingly written by Wendy Fittler

State Treasurer

Our Conference was three most enjoyable days - prayer, friendship and listening to our guest speakers including our National President Valma Ivory.

A big thank you to everyone who took raffle tickets which raised over \$450. It helped with all the costs of running a conference. It was decided that the collection of \$280 taken at the dinner would go to pregnancy support.

The scripture diary 2019 should arrive soon. It is still \$10, let me know if you want one.

Jan Lawler

Social Issues and Bioethics Committee

Euthanasia Debate in the Senate

In the debate in the Australian Senate of the week leading up to 15 August, the push to legalise euthanasia was defeated once again. Labor Senator Pat Dodson, a Yawuru man from Broome, Western Australia gave an extraordinary speech from an indigenous perspective.

In it, he highlights the plight of his people. The death rate in the Aboriginal community in areas of suicide, chronic health conditions, heart disease and more. Overall, their life expectancy is lower. As he put it "Where First Nations people are already overrepresented at every stage of our health system, it is irresponsible to vote in favour of another avenue to death"

He also reminded us that euthanasia is moving away from the responsibility of honouring and respecting our fellow human beings, the sick and elderly and those who need our care.

Senator Helen Polley also spoke against the bill. She said the question for the parliament and broader community is: "Should we be giving doctors, or anyone else, the right in law to end the life of another person? and if we do, how do these laws affect society over time?". She then pointed to the negative effects in countries where euthanasia has been legalised. She also noted that it is a very emotive subject and very challenging issue for politicians, a subject worthy of lengthy and considered debate.

Senator Polley clearly stated that "For the State to codify in law, circumstances to authorise the ending of a human life may be viewed as an impossibility because of the inability to ensure it is not abused....This is not a legislative space that allows for individual freedom to the State and or autonomy, it is actually outsourcing individual freedom to the State and a third party. Her major concern is that she believes that it cannot be safely legislated. She went on to say that no amount of safeguards can take into account all variables in a person's life or particular circumstances.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) believes that doctors should not be involved in intervention that have as their primary intention the ending of a person's life.

Sadly in November 2017, Legislation to allow assisted suicide passed in Parliament of Victoria but will not come into effect until May 2019.

Dark MOFO

I recently wrote a letter to the Hon Sue Hickey MLA, about the adverse affect Dark MOFO is having on young people, especially as so many already seem to suffer from depression and anxiety. She referred the letter to the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP who in turn suggested I take up the matter with the organisers directly, as while he acknowledges the emotive impact it has on some, the State Government has no input into the curation of the event. So I'll be praying to the Holy Spirit for inspiration to construct such a letter.

As the Social Issues Convenor I wish to remind you that one of our most effective weapons is prayer. So as Dr Deidre Little, National Bioethics Convenor said at the 2018 State Conference, prayer helps us recognise the Holy Spirit working in us to pick up subtle trends going on".

The theme from our State Conference 2018 is: Keeping our Organisation Relevant and Sustainable for the Future.

Some important strategies for sustainability from Dr Little are:

- To do this we have to remember we're never too old;
- Pray the Rosary when you come together;
- Research issues;
- Support your Parish;
- Support other Christian events;
- Send submissions;
- Ask Women to join the CWL; and
- Keep an eye on subtle unhealthy trends.

Next issue I hope to print most of Dr Deirdre Little's talk she gave at the State Conference.

Anna Matuszek

Project Esther
Gala Dinner

Saturday, 13th October 2018
Italian Club - 77 Federal St North Hobart
6:30pm

\$60 a head or \$55 to join (Anna's) table
(call Anna on 0417066297)



(the collection taken at the conference was donated to this worthy cause)

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