



Catholic
Women's League
Tasmania

REVIEW

GATHERING IN CHRIST

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 1

REFLECTION FEB & MARCH 2 3

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 4

SOCIAL ISSUES REPORT 5

DEVONPORT 70TH ANNIVERSARY 8 & 9

WUCWO 10

EVENTS & LIST OF STATE EXECUTIVES 13

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Father Southerwood's response to the abortion bill.

State elections.

State Conference.

Anima Women's Network report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a New Year. Let us pray we can make 2014 a progressive and successful year for Catholic Women's League. I trust you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with your families and took advantage of the graces granted us at this holy time. Let us follow the Holy Father's exhortation to live a life of love and hope in the Lord.

I read the following prayer in St. Therese's Moonah/Lutana Christmas Chronicle 2013 and thought I'd like to share it with you:

Give us through the coming year

quietness of mind.

Teach us to be patient and always to be kind..

and show us that in quietness

we can feel your Presence near,

filling us with joy and peace throughout the coming year".

(Printed with permission).

The bushfires in Western Australia and Victoria are causing great anxiety, with loss of life, homes and possessions. Please remember them in your prayers.

State Elections. Tasmanians will be going to the

polls on March 15. Please pray that good candidates will be chosen who will be sympathetic to the principles of the Catholic Women's League and will introduce legislation in line with our beliefs.

On December 3 a delegation from CWL Tas. met and welcomed to Hobart Archbishop Porteous. As His Grace did not have a free weekend in September, we have arranged to hold our State Conference in Hobart on the weekend of October 10, 11 and 12. Conference registration and sessions will be held in the Nell Pascoe Room at 108 Bathurst Street (the new address for our Craft Shop) and the Handcraft Exhibition opposite in the lower level of Mather's House. Accommodation and Conference Mass and Dinner arrangements are yet to be made.

Would branches please forward their suggestions for a theme and motions to be discussed at Conference to the State Secretary by March 15, in time to be printed in the April/May "Review". Voting can then take place on the theme. **It would be very encouraging if**



some of our members who do not attend meetings could let us have their suggestions. One never knows what great ideas they might have! Also, keep working on your beautiful handcraft, so we can keep up our long tradition of having a wonderful display.

CWLA. The Installation of the new National Executive will be celebrated with a Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Wallara, Sydney, on Thursday, February 6 at 11am. Members are invited to attend, but it is unlikely that Tasmanians will be represented by personal attendance. However, in accordance with custom and practice we urge all to attend Mass in their own parishes for the success of the incoming Executive. We will also be requesting our State Chaplain, Fr. Southerwood to offer Holy Mass for the well-being of the Executive – and indeed for all of us too!

Many thanks for all your support in my first year and please continue till the end of my tenure

Lola Phillips

REFLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

(PREPARED BY SR MARJORIE BOUTCHARD PBVM)

A Sinful Woman Forgiven Luke 7: 36-50

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town, who lived a sinful life, learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – because she has loved much. But whoever has been forgiven little, loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven".

The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Reflection. This story in Luke's gospel tells us many things about Jesus' humanity and the sinful woman who comes to him in difficult circumstances. I wonder what she was feeling as she stood in the doorway of Simon the Pharisee's dining room. Perhaps some of the gathered guests had crossed her path, but all would have known who and what she was. It was only Jesus who saw who she really was – someone loved and forgiven by God. Perhaps the woman had already been forgiven by Jesus and wanted to publicly show her gratitude.

Discussion

- ◆ What stood out for you in this gospel story?
- ◆ What do you like about Jesus in this gospel story?
- ◆ Which virtue shown by Jesus is most needed in today's society?
- ◆ What touches you about the woman?
- ◆ How would you describe the Pharisee?
- ◆ How can you, as a CWL member, express your faith in today's society?

Homework.

Who are you in this gospel – Jesus? the Pharisee? the woman?

MASS CRUSADE – FEBRUARY**Devonport**

Universal. That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.

For Evangelisation. That priests, religious and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization.

REFLECTION FOR MARCH

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

(PREPARED BY SR MARJORIE BOUTCHARD PBVM)

As March is dedicated to St. Joseph, it is an opportunity to reflect on these three extracts from Matthew's Gospel, where we find the main references to Joseph the husband of Mary. Other Gospels also tell us that Jesus was the son of Joseph the carpenter

The Birth of Jesus – Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded and took Mary home as his wife.

The Escape to Egypt – Matthew 2:13-15

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up", he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

The Return to Nazareth – Matthew 2:19-23 Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel, but when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Discussion

- ◆ What do these Gospel passages tell us about the husband of Mary?
- ◆ Often religious art doesn't give us a realistic image of Joseph – an old man holding a lily. How would you picture Joseph?
- ◆ What do you think was Joseph's greatest strength?
- ◆ What do you feel was the hardest thing for Joseph in his life?
- ◆ St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Church, and a happy death. Why do you think this is?

MASS CRUSADE – MARCH**Lilydale/Karoola and St. Leonards**

Universal: That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women.

For Evangelisation: That many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

The following prayer to St. Joseph, submitted by Maree Triffett, could be said in times of trouble and distress:

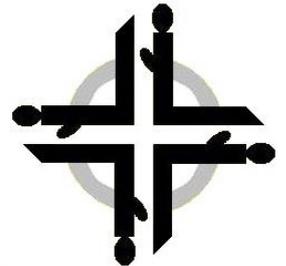
O Glorious St. Joseph, you who have power to render possible things that are for us impossible, come to our aid in our present trouble and distress.

Take this important and difficult affair under your particular protection that it may end happily.

O dear St. Joseph. All our confidence is in you.

Let it not be said that we would invoke you in vain and since you are so powerful with Jesus and Mary, show that your goodness equals your power. Amen

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY MARCH 7, 2014 - VENUES



Theme: "Streams in the Desert" prepared by the Christian women of Egypt

North

George Town Salvation Army Cit., cnr. Sorrel & Cimitiere Sts., 10.30am

Launceston St. Marks on the Hill, Hobart Rd., Kings Meadows, 1.30pm

North-West

Burnie Uniting Church, 10.30am

Devonport St. Paul's Anglican Church, East Devonport, 1.30pm

Penguin Catholic Church, 10.00am

Ulverstone Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1.30pm

South

Bellerive Corpus Christ Catholic Church, Alma St., Bellerive 1.00pm

Hobart City Salvation Army Cit., 180 Elizabeth St., 11.00am *

Lindisfarne St. Aiden's Anglican Church, 56 Lincoln St., 10.00am

Glenorchy St. John's Catholic Church, Bowden St., 10.30am

*Salvation Army, 180 Elizabeth St. – no parking on site. Bus stop 3. Two city car parks available – Hobart Central and Melville St.

SOCIAL ISSUES REPORT

Christmas and all its blessings have been a welcome break after a very busy year. We can be thankful that God blessed us with the energy and inspiration to promote His will for Tasmania during 2013.

Members have been wonderful in supporting by prayer and action the work of the Social Issues Committee. This coming year will bring challenges but in God's name we will face them with confidence.

Abortion

We focused our attention on the abortion bill and, though the outcome was disappointing, a great deal of information about abortion, its presence in our community and its consequences, previously unavailable in such detail, has been recorded by Hansard for all to see in the future.

One welcome aspect was the deleting of restrictions on counselling services, so now a woman is free to consult with whomever she chooses, not solely state sanctioned counsellors, as had been proposed. However, opportunities for information gathering from doctors required in the previous legislation have been removed for the first 16 weeks. All that is required is to tell the doctor you want an abortion. Furthermore, the freedom of conscience of a doctor is overridden by a requirement to facilitate the provision of the services by a doctor who has no such objection. Silent protest is banned for a distance of 150 metres from an abortion facility. Large fines and or jail terms can result.

Marriage

Soon after the ACT Parliament passed a Bill to allow same sex marriage, the High Court ruled the legislation invalid.

The Court confirmed marriage was a matter for the Federal Parliament as provided in section 51(xxi) of the Constitution. The Court noted marriage is defined as between a man and a woman and said "...the federal marriage law is a comprehensive and exhaustive statement of the law of marriage...and the only kind of marriage that may be formed or recognised in Australia." The Court ordered costs against the ACT Government.

This issue will be raised again this year by the Greens in Federal and State Parliaments and we will need to act again. In the meantime, it's important to consider the attitudes to marriage law when deciding who to support in the Tasmanian election on March 15th.

Pat Gartlan

*Education is what you get from reading the small print,
experience is what you get from not reading it.*

FROM THE SOUTHERN VICE-PRESIDENT

I trust that all members had a wonderful Christmas and all New Year resolutions are being implemented.

2014 will be a busy and interesting year planning for the next State Conference which is to be held in Hobart from October 10-12. Those members who have not yet had an opportunity to meet our new Archbishop Julian Porteous will be able to do so, as he has agreed to attend the Conference. Once the theme has been voted on we can start thinking about guest speakers. Of course Handcraft will be a feature of our conference and it's to be hoped that our needlewomen are busy working on their entries. Our Handcraft Secretary will be reminding us in coming months.

Speaking of handcraft, in an interesting book I read recently, "Grand Pursuit" by Sylvia Nasar, it was reported that an investigative journalist, Mr. Marshall, found that 35,000 needlewomen worked in London in 1849 – only 21,000 of whom were able to earn a proper living – 14,000 supplemented their incomes by other means. We often think of needlework as the prerogative of relatively wealthy women with time on their hands – rather than a means of hard-earned income for women and their families.

This issue of "Review" contains an article by our Bioethics Convenor, Anna Matuszek, who, accompanied by another CWL member, attended an "Anima" Seminar in Melbourne recently. There are some interesting connections with Anna's report and CWL Tasmania. As noted last year a branch of the Catholic Women's Social Guild, founded by Sr. Sister Mary Glowrey, was formed at St. Joseph's Hobart during the 1930's and members attended meetings in Melbourne and Adelaide. Other members of the founding committee of the Catholic Women's Social Guild included:

- ◆ Dr. Eileen Fitzgerald, who later became the Chief Medical Officer for the Education Department of Victoria
- ◆ Anna Brennan, the first Victorian-born woman admitted into legal practice
- ◆ Maude O'Connell, a trade unionist and social worker, who later founded the Company of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, known as the Grey Sisters.

Ms. Penny Edman (well known and respected by us all and who served on the National Executive of CWLA when Tasmania hosted the National Executive), has written a fascinating book about Maude O'Connell and the Grey Sisters titled "An Audacious Aussie dream".

Please God we will have a grace-filled year in 2014.

Eris Smyth

FROM THE STATE SECRETARY'S DESK

Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2014 will be a happy and prayerful year for all members.

We all need to be thinking about the State Conference – October 10-12 and the need to have a theme and motions. These must be forwarded to me no later than March 15, so they can be printed in the April/May "Review" and voting can then take place.



Another thing to think about is handcraft. We need items for the Archbishop Sir Guilford Young Perpetual Award, general display and for the trade table. More information about this in coming months.

Patricia Leamey

CWL DEVONPORT BRANCH 1943 – 2014 submitted by Lorna Jones

Lorna writes:

February 2014 marks the 70th anniversary of the Devonport Branch of the Catholic Women's League. Being a foundation member, I would like to relate some of the happenings that have been part of our branch life over these years.

It was on Thursday, November 11, 1943, when a small group of ladies of the parish, including myself, ventured over to the Convent Hall to discuss forming a branch of the Catholic Women's League in Devonport, in the presence of Fr. Vincent Allen and the first President of the Launceston Branch, Mrs. Gwen Mullins. Owing to a small attendance it was decided to wait for the return of the Parish Priest, Fr. D. Shaw. At the request of His Grace, Archbishop Tweedy, a second meeting was called on Sunday, November 28 and it was then unanimously agreed by the large number present that a branch be formed and office bearers and committee were elected. I was one of the committee.

On **February 13, 1944**, the first committee meeting was held. The first meeting of the newly formed Devonport Branch was held on Thursday evening, **February 24, 1944** – there were 34 members present. Section leaders were elected as follows – St. Vincent de Paul Sewing Circle, Baby Box, Red Cross Opportunity Shop, Market Stall and Hospital Visitation and Service Club (this closed in August 1946 with the end of the war). Meetings that followed were held on the second Thursday of each month. Committee meetings were held two days prior. By 1945 there were 44 members.

League activities: The first visit to the Devon Hospital was on February 29, 1944, when 2 members travelled by train at a cost of five shillings and ten pence. Soon after this, visits were also made to patients at Meercroft Hospital. Magazines were collected and regularly given to the local RSL for distribution to servicemen on leave. Card evenings proved popular as a social get-together to raise funds. The first market stall realized one pound four shillings and threepence. In the early days members were asked to bring a basket, not a plate.

For the Baby Box, wool was obtained by writing to the Commissioner for Rationing for coupons, being war-time, and complete layettes were able to be made. Four members were appointed in February 1946 to welcome new parishioners when they came to Mass.

Afternoons were held in February of each year to stock the pantry for the Sisters of St. Joseph; this was later taken on by the School Parents' and Friends' Association. Socially, Caulfield and Melbourne Cup afternoons were very popular.

In 1946 badges were first issued. From May 1947 a posy was given to members on their birthdays. In 1957 prayer cards replaced posies. After evening meetings in 1948 competition Bingo was enjoyed, followed by supper. In August 1949 Gospel readings were introduced for the first time by Fr. Rex Donohue and in 1964 it was decided to make a resolution from each Gospel. Subscriptions in the early years were one shilling, then in 1950 two shillings; 1965 three shillings; 1971 fifty cents; 1977 two dollars.

Devonport hosted the CWL Conference in 1950 in the National Hall, with social evenings and dinner at the Elizabeth Mary Lounge. To help with costs, a 'mini ball' was held at the Melrose Hall, raising thirty-nine pounds five shillings. Since then, Conferences have been held in Devonport in 1959, 1976, 1983, 1992, 1996 and 2002.

Catering was an important League activity. In 1950 members catered for afternoon tea at the opening of the newly constituted parish, when Fr. Don Shaw was inducted as Parish Priest (prior to this Fr. Shaw was officiating between Latrobe and Devonport). Members catered for annual Parish Ball suppers and also for Fire Brigade balls and were allotted to canvass various streets collecting for Ball Suppers. Street stalls were often held.

Handcraft classes first commenced in June 1953 at the home of Mrs. Hannam, a CWA member who was our instructress. In March 1954 small competitions were held to replace Bingo, e.g. prettiest handkerchief; 3 pretty buttons or the best plate of supper.

One spectacular event was in December 1956, when members assisted with a display of devotion to the Rosary at the Devonport Oval. 5000 Catholics from Smithton to Deloraine took part; each person held a lighted candle which provided the only light - a most impressive sight. This function was organized by Fr. Griffin.

In 1952 there were 60 members – many daughters followed in their mothers' footsteps and joined. In 1962 there were enough members to form a branch at East Devonport also. In 1965 a combined annual meeting was held at East Devonport Church Hall. That year marked the 21st birthday and 100 guests were present. In 1970, the Silver Jubilee of the Devonport Branch was marked with a celebration at the Formby Hotel with Dame Enid Lyons as guest speaker. The 40th anniversary of the Devonport Branch was celebrated with a dinner for 180 guests held in the Parish Centre.

As the Devonport Branch remembers 70 years, despite our small membership, the work and spirit of the CWL continues to make a difference in the Mersey Leven community in 2014.

May God be glorified in all we do!



ABORTION

Comments from our State Chaplain, Father T Southerwood

Even though the outcome in relation to the abortion bill was disappointing, it will still remain on the agenda for the Social Issues Committee. It is beneficial for all our members to be aware of Father's comments as follows:

"I wish to make some observations arising from the Bill. I have worked as a pastoral counselor for more than 50 years and am currently engaged in helping women who have had abortions. These women need deep healing after great suffering, often for many years after undergoing an abortion. They have shared with me in confidence their very tragic stories following what they consider to have been the deliberate taking of the life of their unborn child. I know I have been able to offer friendship, love and support, without judging them or condemning what they and others have done.

I believe every mother of an unborn child should never be left on her own. Also, while offering profound sensitivity and genuine compassion towards a mother contemplating the destruction of the child within her womb or a woman who has, for whatever reason, aborted her unborn baby, it is still important to realize that direct abortion cannot be condoned, since it involves the taking of human life. This is the teaching of every Faith and none. It is not a 'Church' or 'Christian' question, but applies to every person – whatever their creed, gender or culture. Although some people will disagree with what I have to say, my views should be respected with fair-mindedness.

As I see it, abortion is a disorder against human nature itself. Directly intended abortion destroys innocent human life. Indirectly intended abortion, on the other hand, may be a reasonable action – for example if a pregnant mother's cancerous womb needs to be removed to save her life, even if the foetus dies as an unintended result.

I hold that a developing human being within its mother's body has all the rights of a human person, not the least of these being that of life itself. Abortion, willed either as an end in itself or as a means, is a grave offence against the moral law, even if permitted by civil legislatures. No greater harm can be done to a developing human person than to put him/her to death. When a mother who has had an abortion realizes this, she suffers deep post-traumatic stress. I am not exaggerating. This is what these people have shared with me. The unborn baby, although dependent on its mother and very vulnerable, is not part of her body, which she can choose to dispense with. Finally, I feel very sad – even angry – that the Australian Government has put the abortion pill RU 486 on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme."

Father's personal story will be continued next issue.

Report from the WUCWO Asia Pacific Region

Susana Evening



This report is the result from the meeting of Board members of the Asia Pacific Region held at Casa La Salle, Rome, Italy on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 5pm. The meeting was chaired by Susana Evening, Vice President Asia Pacific Region. All Board members of the Region were present. They are Ainise Sevele (Tonga, Pacific); Catherine McGrath (Australia, Pacific); Jennie Widodo (Indonesia, Asia); Fortunata O'Santos (Philippines, Asia); Helen Kyung Soo Kwon (South Korea, Asia).

Susana opened the meeting with prayers and greeted the ladies with a warm welcome and apologized for poor communication amongst Board members, due to lack of finance or technical problems.

Countries that have shown interest in WUCWO and need some motivation through visits are:- in the Pacific, countries like Vanuatu, Solomon Island, Wallis and Futunan, Samoa and Kiribati; in Asia – Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. There is need to promote WUCWO in the Region through Conferences of Bishops. Common issues are Migration and Trafficking; Violence against Women and Children; Conflicts; Drug Abuse; Climate Change; Natural Disasters; Unemployment; Economic Crisis; Poverty.

REPORTS. There were reports from each Member Organisation:

India - Associate Member: Information sent through its monthly Newsletter via email and website.

Australia. Quarterly Newsletter sent out to Member Organisations via email and website. Recently conducted the Biennial Conference at Townsville in North Queensland, the theme being "Faithful to My Call". CWLA Research Officer has submitted papers on topics such as Euthanasia, Abortion and Same Sex Marriage. National International Secretary represents the organization at CSW in New York.

Indonesia. The ICWO actively participates in improvement of life and the quality of life by reducing poverty and violence: Access to education; Women and men have equal rights and opportunities; the role of women in the church is increasing: the role of women in society and politics is increasing. Churches are continuously persecuted: Human Trafficking and Child Labour: Lack of Education: Premature forced marriages and high rate of mortality.

Tonga. Tongan women are blessed with a beautiful and peaceful country, where Christianity is the only practiced religion. The cultural and traditional status of women in the family and society puts them in a pre-eminent position. The right to be educated is promulgated under the Constitution. Women do not own land in Tonga. Tonga has not ratified CEDAW.

Philippines. Continues pro-Life programme.

Fiji Islands. CWL membership has grown and has become an active organization in the nation. CWL was part of Fiji's government delegation to CSW New York in 2011. Chairs the interfaith Women's Environment Network and National World Day of Prayer Committee; contributes to the Formulation of the National Constitution. Women in Fiji have access to all levels of education and literacy is high.

GENERAL. There was a concern raised that the WUCWO Board forum and WUCWO Secretariat do not know much about the Pacific and have only clear knowledge about Asia. Most times during the meeting reference was made to Asia, with no mention of the Pacific. Susana pointed out that the Asia Pacific Region is too big for just one WUCWO Region because of its geographical boundaries, and reminded the forum that she is from the Pacific and has very little knowledge about Asia. **The Pacific Region is classified in the Holy See as "Oceania"** and has its own Bishops' Conference. **Asia** has its own Conference of Bishops.

Pacific Island countries are widely dispersed over an ocean that covers one third of the earth's surface and are separated by vast distances. This is a significant logistical problem in reaching small island states. Pacific Island countries have fragile economies based on tourism, some light industries, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The small size of domestic markets and distances from larger Pacific rim economies makes the locally produced goods and services uncompetitive.

Therefore, it is recommended that the next WUCWO Assembly after Fatima Assembly in 2014 be brought to the Pacific, preferably Fiji Islands.



Anima Women's Network

Anima Women's Network and the Catholic Women's League (Victoria and Wagga Wagga) combine to run Anima Education, which provides affordable and accessible adult education and formation in the Catholic Faith.

As a result of the success of the "Culture of Life" Seminar held in Hobart in August last year, two members of the Social Issues Committee of CWL Tasmania were able to attend, in Victoria, one of the special forums of "Anima" which featured the story of Dr. Sister Mary Glowrey – who established CWL in Victoria. The following is Anna and Kazia's report:

Summary of the Anima Women's Network 10 year anniversary forum Anna Matuszek and Kazia Chodasewicz

The weekend began with a beautiful Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, said by Fr Daniel Strickland who had been in Gunta, India where Dr Sr Mary Glowrey lived and worked. He preached an inspiring sermon on how the way we live our lives gives witness to those we meet. It may well be that we are the only encounter with the gospel that someone may have and we should make it a good one. In a way we are the 5th Gospel.

The forum began with Anna Khron reading aloud a letter from the Holy Father Pope Frances congratulating the Anima Women's network on their 10 years of service to Australian women and giving his blessing. It was an unexpected surprise and had arrived just in time to be read at the forum.

One of the key note speakers, Karin Clark gave an overview of the life of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, focusing on her demonstration of the feminine genius. Dr Sr Mary Glowrey had written many letters to family and friends over the course of her life and it was mainly from these and accounts of those close to her that Karen drew from.

The Anima forum was a three fold celebration; of 15 years since Blessed Pope John Paul wrote the apostolic letter 'Mulieris Dignitatum -The Dignity and Vocation of Women', of the 10 year anniversary of the Anima Women's Network that came forth in response to Mulieris Dignitatum and the furthering of the cause of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey who has become the patroness of Anima and who perfectly demonstrated the feminine genius as described by Blessed John Paul II in Mulieris Dignitatum.

From Mulieris Dignitatum: A women is strong because she is aware that God has entrusted her with life itself in spite of social discrimination. It speaks to her of the dignity given by God and this makes her strong. In addition, women have a profound sensitivity for the suffering of others. Profound sensitivity which makes a person more vulnerable to suffering, co-exists with the particular strength of women. Mary showed this perfectly, she had a profound sensitivity to God's presence, to His will and the needs of her fellow human being.

Mary Glowrey's whole life was a paradoxical example of how profound sensitivity can be coupled with strength that is quite undaunted by social discrimination and a strength that is directed surely, solely and purely in union with the will of God. When she was still a child, she found one prayer that suited her

This prayer rose to her lips whenever she was in some dilemma. It became her spiritual director.

Do thou teach me an entire forgetfulness of myself Oh Lord, since there is no other way of entering into thee. Teach me what I must do to attain thy pure love with a desire which thou has inspired in me. I feel in myself a great wish to please thee and a great inability to do so without a special light and assistance which I can look for only from thee. Do thou accomplish thy Holy will in me Oh Lord, though I often opposed it in the past. You must do all, Divine Heart of Jesus. It shall be Your glory alone if I become a Saint, and it is for Your glory alone that I desire to be perfect. Amen.

At that tender age Mary understood the essence of holiness. She understood that following God's will is becoming what you were meant to be and she doggedly never wavered from this rule of life. This is why she was happy when, as a child she discovered her favourite prayer "Do accomplish your Holy will in me Oh Lord."

Whilst this insight underpins every vocation, there are a multiplicity of vocations and this is why Blessed John Paul II concludes in *Mulieris Dignitatum*: "The Church gives thanks for each and every woman, for mothers, for sisters, for wives, for women consecrated to God in virginity, for women who devote themselves to those who await the gratuitous love of another person. For women who watch over the human person in the family, for women who work professionally and are at times burdened by great social responsibility. For perfect women, for weak women, for all women as they come forth from the heart of God. The church gives thanks for all the manifestations of the feminine genius which have appeared in the course of history"

Karin concluded her talk by giving thanks for the genius of *Mulieris Dignitatum* itself, for the feminine genius of Dr Sr Mary Glowery and for the network of women that is Anima. She prayed that by sharing our gifts and supporting each other's vocations we and all those for whom we care or pray may also be gathered up and drawn in that net of love so that it will be impossible for any of us to go to him alone.



VALE

MOLLIE WOODS

Members mourn the loss of their long-serving and loyal member, Mollie Woods, sister of Sheila Darby, also a member of the Hobart Branch. Mollie passed away on January 17 at age 97 years. She was a great knitter, and even at her age was knitting tea-cosies for the CWL Craft Shop and her contribution will be greatly missed. For a short time Mollie was living in a nursing home, but still continued her knitting.

Members of Hobart Branch recited the Rosary prior to her funeral service.

MAIDA BOURKE

It is with regret that we also report the death of Maida Bourke, a member of the former Sandy Bay Branch, who passed away on December 15.

Mary Excell, President

COMING EVENTS:

Mass Crusade	FEBRUARY	Devonport
Mass Crusade	MARCH	Lilydale/Karoola & St. Leonards
CWLA Installation		
Mass, Sydney	FEBRUARY 6	See President's Report
World day of Prayer	MARCH 7	Details Page 4
Theme & Motions for State Conference	MARCH 15	See President's Report
State Conference	OCTOBER 10-12	See President's Report

LIST OF STATE EXECUTIVE:

State President & Craft/Office Chairperson

President

Mrs. Lola Phillips
21 Walker St
Sorell 7172
Ph. 6265 2268

ann.sutcliffe2@bigpond.com

State Secretary

Miss Patricia Leamey
2/63 Brent St.
Glenorchy 7010
Ph. 6273 9630

plpansy@oneseniors.com.au

Treasurer

Mrs. Jan Lawler
65 Main Road
Sorell 7172
Ph. 6265 2321

ann.sutcliffe2@bigpond.com

International Secretary:

Mrs Mary Walsh
2a Cedar St
Lindisfarne 7015
Ph. 6243 8136
mmwalsh@netspace.net.au

Southern Vice-President:

Mrs. Eris Smyth
30 Waterloo Crescent
Battery Point 7004
Ph. 6223 3417
es866974@bigpond.net.au

Northern Vice-President:

Mrs. Wendy Fittler
14 Burnett St.,
George Town
Ph. 6382 1816
wfittler@bigpond.com

North West V/P:

Mrs. Kath Pearce
2/40 George St.
Devonport 7310
Ph. 6424 6504
kathpearce@bigpond.com

Social Issues Convenor:

Mrs. Pat Gartlan
4/10 Ellerslie Rd
Battery Point 7004
Ph 6223 1818
garland@bigpond.net.au

Bioethics Convenor:

Mrs Anna Matuszek
1422 Huon Road
Neika 7054
anna.matuszek1422@g-mail.com

Archivist:

Mrs Lillian Deane

Editors Lillian Deane & Sandra Harvey 65b Jetty Road Old Beach 7017 spharvey65@yahoo.com.au

SPONSORED by the Catholic Development Fund