



## September 2020 Newsletter

Well 2020 has proven to be a challenge for us all, and as we begin another CWL year, we will need to be a little more creative in ways that we can engage with our members and our community. Making masks for Uganda was a great way for our ladies to participate from a distance but still feel like they are helping the community. Thank you to everyone that contributed.

Beginning the 3rd Tuesday in October, we will continue with our regular general meetings. For now they will be via zoom, but hopefully we can move towards a socially distanced in person meeting soon. Keep an eye on your email for more details.

With directive from National, our current Executive will continue for another year, however we will be looking for someone to take over Spiritual and/or Communications, as well as Christian Family Life. If you are interested in any of these please get in touch with me.

Even though this year will look a little different, we look forward to making the best of it and hopefully bring back a little bit of normalcy. We look forward to seeing you all again, however that may be.

Many Blessings for the year ahead,

Stephanie Lehr  
President

### ***Organization Bea Spatafora***

**Current Membership Status:** Our CWL membership has not changed since the Spring. We remain constant at 115 paid members for 2020. If you have not yet paid for your 2020 membership, there is still time to ensure there is no gap in your years of service. Payments can be dropped off at St. Charles during business hours, dropped in the offertory basket during mass, mailed directly to me or paid via e-transfer to me. If you would like to pay your 2020 membership to me directly, please call me at 780-399-9459 or email me at [bspat@shaw.ca](mailto:bspat@shaw.ca) to discuss which option will work best for you.

**Purchasing 2021 Memberships:** For those of you already excited to purchase your 2021 membership, sales will start next month (October). Unfortunately, with our Bazaar being cancelled in conjunction with the directive from our Archdiocese to discontinue all non-essential gatherings at this time, our biggest venue to promote our memberships has also been cancelled for this year. But do not worry, there will be other options to purchase your membership. I'll have more information in our next newsletter.

**Staying connected with one another:** With COVID 19 isolating so many of us, it's more important than ever to stay connected with one another. How are your fellow CWL sisters doing? Have you reached out and called or emailed any of them recently? If you are looking for a friend's phone number, be sure and check your CWL directory. If they aren't on the list, reach out to see if they would like to join and be a part of our league so they can add their voice and support to a national sisterhood of Catholic women. Aside from being a strong support group for each other in these difficult times, we represent an important response and promotion of awareness to political and social issues.

Are there any changes to your contact information? If yes, please give me a call or drop me an email, and I'll update your information in our CWL directory. Please note that an updated copy of the directory will be emailed to all members in January (2021).

**Virtual General Meetings:** Technology has proven to be a valuable tool during this pandemic. While it's not the same as attending a meeting in person, virtual meetings are providing a much-needed step towards reconnecting with one another until it's deemed safe to meet again in person. Please watch your emails for instructions on how to join our next virtual general meeting & hope to see you there.



-

*Education & Health*  
*Yvette d'Entremont*

Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities* said « It was the best of times, it was the worse of times. » This could sum up our response to Covid 19. Activities have been cancelled, gatherings are limited, we are worshipping from home, we are concerned about family and friends near and far, and yet we must carry on the best way we can.

On the upside, this is the perfect time to connect with friends and family far away that you might not have contacted in a while because our lives were so busy. Pick up the phone, email, send a short note to let them know you are thinking of them and that we are all in this together. Covid-19 has brought out the best in us. We have realized how important it is

to keep in touch with others, how important it is to lend a helping hand at home and in the community, and how important it is to give. We have made 260 masks for AIM School in Uganda. Being able to give is a privilege, and it is free. There are many opportunities to give – time, energy, friendship – even during a pandemic.

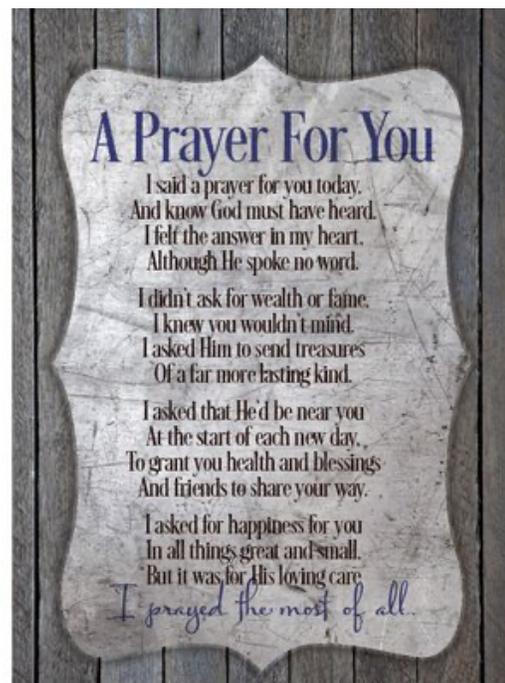
It is important to stay healthy mentally, physically, and spiritually. It is important to maintain contact with neighbours, family, and friends - even from a distance with a mask. Winter will soon be here so keep up those exercises you did all summer, continue your spiritual reflections on line, and keep your mind sharp (read, sew, knit, do puzzles, take an online course). There are numerous websites to help you keep your mind, body, and spirit healthy. You can even watch a concert online. The website of the « Archdiocese of Edmonton » contains a variety of informative videos, and the weekly bulletin « Quid Novum ». You might want to check out the « Salt & Light » website. I have watched a few videos of « Hymns at Home ». Don't forget to check the CWL Edmonton Diocesan Website.

Let us not forget the students, teachers, and staff in our schools. After a six month hiatus, school is back in session. It will be a different experience for students, and teachers. Based on the information on hand, parents have had to make a difficult decision – in class learning or online learning. Let us pray that the outbreaks in schools will not be severe. Stay healthy and stay safe!



### **Spiritual Emily Robertson**

During this time of uncertainty remember we are all in this storm together just in different boats. I suffer from anxiety at times and my faith has helped me immensely! Thankfully I have only had moments here and there, but let us pray for those who are struggling mentally, physically, spiritually and financially. Remember to reach out to our seniors and keep in touch with them in anyway you can. Let us be creative in giving children fun and educational life experiences. Lastly, be kind ❤️



## Community Life

Annet Maitwe



“Covid-19 Pandemic” – it was all over media. The whole world shut down! It was a panicky situation! It seemed uncertain, unreal, and confusing. Being locked down in our own homes, had never crossed my mind. I recall reading Isaiah 26:20-21, "*Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins*" (*Holy Bible, New International Version*). For a while I thought this could not be true. The best I could do was to PRAY for the whole world.

I realised that I could not reach people in person. I could no longer get involved in the volunteer work. My thoughts were all over the place; “in general, how is the community doing? how are the families doing? how are the AIM School children in Uganda doing? how are the homeless doing?” The list was endless! On May 30<sup>th</sup>, when the opportunity came for me to prepare and pack the lunch bags for the Inner-City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM); I could not resist. Not only was I happy to pack lunches but also to see other people who came to volunteer at St Charles Church, Lobby.

Realizing that COVID-19 is still a challenge to the community, I have decided to be at peace with myself. The best gift I could give to myself and community, during the pandemic, is a PRAYER. Lets, join hands as a community to humbly call upon our father, *Mathew 6: 9 -13*, non-stop.

**God Bless You ALL**

**New\$ from the Treasurer**  
Connie McBride

Following is a list of some “bad new\$” and some “good new\$” about our council finance\$:

- The **bad** new\$ is – we have very little income.
- The **good** new\$ is – we have very few expenses!
  
- The **bad** new\$ is – we receive only about 63¢ a month in bank interest.
- The **good** new\$ is – we are charged no service fee AND we get about 63¢ a month in bank interest! WOOHOO!
  
- The **bad** new\$ is – it seems we will not be able to hold our annual bazaar.
- The **good** new\$ is – we won’t need a bazaar convener, or need to hold work bees for making pies, cookies, or antipasto!
  
- The **bad** new\$ is – our CWL Social\$ cannot be held for now.
- The **good** new\$ is – we have more free time at home!?? (is that good??!!) and – we won’t need a convener of the Social\$!

Since our last General Meeting in February, all outstanding cheques have cleared our bank account (no surprise there!!)

---

**Financial Report  
September 25, 2020**

Following is a **summary** of our council's financial activity from March to August 2020:

At our February 18 General Meeting, our working balance was \$18,023.37, which reflected our account balance, minus any committed funds at that time.

The bank balance as at February 29, 2020 was \$26,979.31. Since then, deposits totalling \$2428.82 have been made, and expenses of \$4570.09 have been paid, leaving a bank balance as of August 31, 2020 of \$24,838.04. This amount would be less \$6500.00, which continues to be a "contingency fund". So our "working balance" is \$18,338.04 as at August 31, 2020.

The breakdown of income and expenses since March is detailed below. Any questions can be directed to the Treasurer (Connie 780 456-0485, cemcb@telus.net).

**Income**

Bank Interest	\$ 3.82	
Funeral Lunch donations	\$2300.00	
Membership Fees	<u>\$ 125.00</u>	
Total Income		<b><u>\$2428.82</u></b>

**Expenses**

Deposit on June Social	\$ 150.00	
Postage stamps	\$ 92.61	
Set-up for Connelly-McKinley presentation	\$ 100.00	
Funeral Lunch expenses	<u>\$ 132.28</u>	
March:	\$ 474.89	
Per Capita to National CWL	\$ 2491.00	
Connelly-McKinley presentation expenses	\$ 44.20	
Parish Roofing (from prior bake sale)	\$ 1160.00	
Easter Flowers for Parish (budgeted)	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	
April:	\$ 3895.20	
Farewell Gift to Fr. Robert	<u>\$ 200.00</u>	
July:	\$ 200.00	
Total Expenses		<b><u>\$4570.09</u></b>

### **And a little humour:**

On the sixth day, God turned to the Archangel Gabriel and said “Today I am going to create a land called Canada. It will be a land of outstanding natural beauty, it shall have tall majestic mountains full of mountain goats and eagles, beautifully sparkled lakes, bountiful with carp and trout, forests full of elk and moose, high cliffs overlooking sandy beaches with an abundance of sea life, rivers stocked with salmon.”

God continued “I shall make the land rich in oil so to make the inhabitants prosper. I shall call these inhabitants Canadians; they shall be known as the most friendly people on the earth.”

“But Lord” asked Gabriel, “don’t you think you are being too generous to these Canadians?”

“Not really” replied God, “just wait and see the neighbours I am going to give them.”

As you know, the CWL monthly prayer list resumes in September. Please continue to send your prayer requests for the sick and for those who have died.

Over the summer, CWL responded to members’ requests for sympathy cards, get well cards, prayer cards etc. It has been heartwarming to see our members expressing care and concern for others. If you know of someone who can benefit from a note of encouragement or comfort, let us know.

We had two members celebrate milestone birthdays in August - 97 years and 100 years!

Please continue to reach out to family, friends and neighbours, especially to those who may feel isolated. And let us remember the power of prayer. In the words of Pope Francis, “Praying is going *with* Jesus *to* the Father who will give us everything.”

Janice Albiston

ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST

*September 2020*

*Please pray for our CWL members  
and our council*

*For those who are sick and all who look after them:*

Georgie Alexander (sister of Kathy Martel)  
Mary Ziska  
Aida Toledo

*For those who have died and all who mourn them:*

Contact: Janice Albiston at [jalbiston@shaw.ca](mailto:jalbiston@shaw.ca) 780-569-1119