



CWL May 2021 Newsletter

Message from the Acting President

Zoomed In or Zoomed Out?

I hope that this message finds members well as the Covid virus continues to spread. The pandemic has meant that many of us have not been able to see friends and family members for a year and a half now. However, we have been able to communicate by phone, Facetime, Google Meet, Zoom, and any other social media platform. We have also been bombarded with a variety of “zoom” meetings, events, activities, webinars, and religious services. I will be the first to admit that there are moments that I would rather zoom out than zoom in. On the other hand, once I have zoomed in, I enjoy seeing faces and being able to have a group discussion. Under the circumstances, zooming in has been a blessing and a way to keep in contact with family and CWL members.



I wish to thank members participating virtually for bearing with me as I learned new technology skills in order to hold meetings virtually. I am still learning in ins and outs of the virtual platforms. There seems to be a new aspect of online meetings to learn every week. Thank you for your patience and for being online.

Stay safe

Yvette d'Entremont
Acting President

May is the Month of Mary

Prayer to Walk with Mary

Jesus, our brother and our Lord,
You have come to save us because God loves us with a deep and unending love.
You have given us Mary, Your mother, to be our Mother too, and invite us to follow her example.
On earth she was a woman of faith and prayer, of obedience to God's will,
always ready to serve in any way.
In heaven she continues to pray for us, so that we may serve God faithfully in our daily living.
Jesus, help us to ponder in our hearts over the many ways
You show Your love in our lives, and lead us to walk with Your mother as we follow You each day.
Jesus, we praise You, for You are our Lord and Our God forever and ever.

Amen

CCCB Prayers for Jubilee 2000. Uszxs3d with permission of Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)

Dresses for Uganda - Update

Last month, you may remember, we reported that our Council had received a number of completed dresses and a number of “kits” from Holy Trinity CWL Council in Spruce Grove, and we asked for help to sew the dresses from the kits. (Holy Trinity had donated about 35 kits, this in addition to about 5 kits that we had assembled prior to their generous donation). To date, all kits have been or are being sewn – a huge thank you to those who volunteered! As well, we are aware of a number of our members who are working on some dresses to donate – thank you!



Together with the dresses our members have made, the dresses donated by Holy Trinity CWL (about 75), and the kits being sewn, we estimate that we will wa-a-ay more than surpass our initial goal of 30+ dresses for Uganda! Of course, Annet is more than happy (should we say overwhelmed?) with this outcome!

So THANKS SO MUCH to all our members for donating and sewing dresses, for sewing the kits we received, and for your encouragement and support of this project! A huge thank-you also goes (and has gone) to the Holy Trinity CWL for their generous donation. They indeed helped us, but we also helped them, since they wanted to donate their dresses in a way that they knew where they were going. They were so thankful to know where they would be going and, as importantly, that they were helping another CWL member. It truly has been a Win/Win!

Also, any members who are still working on dresses, please contact Connie (cemcb@telus.net or 780 456-0485) to arrange for pick-up or drop-off – but no rush; we don't need them until September (you might let Connie know if you have some, just so we don't miss them). And then, once all the dresses are in and counted, a final report will come out at a meeting and in the newsletter, so be on the lookout!

Memories Project Update



Just a reminder to finish the stories/memories you are writing (you are writing them, right?!?) for our 40th Anniversary memories project. I have received only a few and am looking forward to many more. You might want to talk to another member and together reminisce about some of the things that have happened – it may help both of you to put pen to paper and record your memories.

Or take a paper and pencil along camping or out on the deck so they're handy when an idea comes into your mind. It's so important to record some of these personal memories for future members to read and better understand our council's history.

The original document and request from last month's newsletter is included in this newsletter to help you on your way. Happy writing!

40 Years of Memories Project

What's been done since '81?

Calling All Writers, Non-writers, Songstresses, and Poets!!

Have you heard the news? Our council is having a birthday! Excitement is building for St. Charles CWL's 40th anniversary...and we want you to be part of it!

Celebrations include plans to compile a book/booklet/novel of our stories – your stories – CWL memories from the past 40 years. You can tell one story or many stories, write one poem or many poems. They can be a few lines or lots of lines – they can be from 40 years ago, 20 years ago, 1 year ago, or anything in between. They can be about one particular event or activity; about something in general, or about something that is / was meaningful for you. The stories can be happy or sad or nostalgic or traumatic. They can be about a time when you had lots of fun or a time that was disappointing or frustrating for you. They can tell why you became a member and/or why you stay a member.

It is worth telling about ordinary things!

Please don't feel your story isn't important – it is part of the fabric of our council and our history, and it is important!!

We all have memories from St. Charles Catholic Women's League (some more than others!), and now is a great time to share those memories.

So, to trigger those memories and get the creative juices flowing, we are including a list of ideas to assist you in putting your story / stories / songs / poems to paper (or computer).

Please send your submissions (or drop off at the Church in the CWL mailbox) by **July 31, 2021** to:

Connie McBride
cemcb@telus.net
phone: 780 456-0485

Together, let's walk down memory lane!



IDEAS FOR WRITING YOUR CWL MEMORIES



- Bazaars – Do you have a favourite bazaar memory? Why is it a favourite? Did you help plan a bazaar; were you a “guest / customer” or a worker or a vendor?
- Executive experience – Do you have a favourite experience? Why?
- Unique or favourite Christmas or June social, Membership Brunch, Strawberry tea events (theme, game, food)
- Special friendship of sisters in the League
- Working in the Kitchen for catering, funerals, pasta suppers, Thanksgiving suppers or Bazaar – How was your experience – exhilarating, exhausting, fulfilling...?
- Special Spiritual workshops, meetings or Masses (installation Masses, World Day of Prayer, retreats etc) – Did one resonate with you more than others?
- Our special cookbooks – What was/is your favourite recipe and why?
- Memorable, treasured door prize or raffle prize
- Guest speakers who had an impact on you – how were you affected or inspired?
- Social justice activity (bake sales, Habitat for Humanity, sewing, quilts, prayer shawl ministry, sales for the Carmelite nuns, etc) – Did you become more involved because of any of these activities?
- Parish Carnival – What was a highlight? A disappointment (did we run out of candy?)? What kind of experience was it for you?
- Garage sales – Did you help with one? What was your experience? Did you buy something that was especially great or not as good as you thought it would be?
- Serving O’Leary school on Youth days
- Golf tournaments
- Serving at Dickinsfield Teas
- Field trips to the Arden Theatre and others
- Attending Conventions – and getting lost?! Or shopping? Or “socializing” in our rooms? What was a highlight of one or more conventions?
- Family Day Hayride – Could you believe how much food could be consumed? What about the years when there was no snow, but a lot of mud? Or really cold?
- Tourtieres, apple pie making, cookies and antipasto nights – What stands out for you from one or more of these activities?
- Bizarre Women’s book club
- St. Charles Religious gift shop
- Fashion Shows – Were you part of one – a model? A guest? A worker?
- Retreats – Do remember some of the early ones? or more recent ones? A particular facilitator?
- Advent Wreath Making
- Making Tote Bags for National Convention (in Ft. McMurray?)
- Making banners for Papal Visit in 1984
- Did you attend a CWL event as a guest and later decide to become a member? What happened
- There are many others, hopefully this will help you to describe a personal memory.

JUNE SOCIAL – You're Invited!!

Date: June 15th

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Online



You will be receiving an invitation to the Online June Social 2021. It won't be quite the same as meeting in person with food, wine, and games but we will do our best.

We will have:

- Door prizes
- Games
- An invited speaker: Sister Michelle Langlois, a teacher at St Thomas More Junior High School, will be our invited speaker
- A presentation
- Entertainment
- More information to come – Stay tuned!

CWL 40th Anniversary

With the uncertainty as to what the rules for gatherings will be this fall, the Committee, in consultation with the Executive, will make a decision in September as to the format of the 40th Anniversary celebration. Please keep the date of **Saturday, October 16th, 2021** marked on your calendars and stay tuned!



Church 50/50 Raffle

There will be another 50/50 Raffle in September. Stay tuned for more information.

Harbor4Life



We have been approached to support this initiative have agreed to do so. What does this mean? Harbor4Life will be putting a bin on the church property for donations of clothing.

More specific information will be coming as to what can be put in the bin. We will keep you informed.

Goal of Harbor4Life: *To Help Children to Help Themselves*
Their Mission:

- To relieve poverty by providing basic life necessities to orphaned children and youth in Burundi. This includes food, clothing, shelter, dental, and medical assistance.
- To advance education by providing elementary, middle, and secondary schooling to eligible children and youth in Burundi.
- To provide financial assistance and basic life necessities to youth meeting the eligibility criteria to attend post-secondary educational institutions.
- To provide work-training, job-related skills programs and cooperative work programs to youth in need meeting eligibility criteria in Burundi.

Next Purdys Fundraiser

The Easter Purdys Fundraiser was a great success! The response was so good that we have decided to do it again... for Christmas. Katherine Tarras has generously volunteered to take on this project again. Many thanks to Katherine. Please keep this fundraiser in mind when you are planning your Christmas gift giving.



Laughter is Good for the Soul

Moses, Jesus and a very old man are golfing. Moses steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and lands in the water trap. Moses parts the water and chips the ball onto the green. Jesus steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and lands in the water trap.

Jesus just walks on the water and chips the ball onto the green. The old man steps up to the tee and hits the ball. It goes sailing over the fairway and heads for the water trap. But, just before it falls into the water, a fish jumps up and grabs the ball in its mouth. As the fish is falling back down into the water, an eagle swoops down and grabs the fish in its claws. The eagle flies over the green where a lightning bolt shoots from the sky and barely misses it. Startled, the eagle drops the fish. When the fish hits the ground, the ball pops out of its mouth and rolls into the hole for a hole-in-one.

Jesus then turns to the very old man and says, "Dad, if you don't stop fooling around, we won't bring you next time."



CWL BYOB Reading Club ***April List of*** ***Recommended Reads***

1. *Illuminations: A Novel of Hildegard von Bingen* by Mary Sharratt

One of the most extraordinary women of the Middle Ages, Hildegard von Bingen—Benedictine abbess, healer, composer, saint—experienced mystic visions from a very young age. But through the study of books and herbs, through music and the kinship of her church sisters, Hildegard found her way from a life of submission to a calling that celebrated the divine mother and the glories all around us. A portrait of a woman willing to risk everything for what she believed, a triumphant exploration of the life she might well have lived.

2. *Voices in Time* by Hugh MacLennan (Canadian Author)

The story of a man's attempt to reconstruct the history of a Canada destroyed by nuclear holocaust in 1980. In 2030, young André Gervais discovers two metal boxes containing manuscripts, diaries, and other personal papers that have somehow survived and asks an old man, John Wellfleet, to use these documents to discover the past. In doing so, Wellfleet learns the truth about two relatives.

3. *Small Beneath the Sky: A Prairie Memoir* by Lorna Crozier (Canadian Author)

It is an unsparing portrait of a family and about place. Growing up in a small prairie city, where the local heroes were hockey players and curlers, Lorna Crozier never once dreamed of becoming a writer. In this marvelous volume of recollections, she charts the geography that has shaped her character and her sense of home.

4. *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes

Set in the Depression, a story of five extraordinary women librarians and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky to deliver books to rural people in the mountains. Though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

5. *My Sisters the Saints: A Spiritual Memoir* by Colleen Carroll Campbell

The stories of six women saints who profoundly changed her life: Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, Faustina of Poland, Edith Stein of Germany, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Mary of Nazareth. Drawing upon the rich writings and examples of these extraordinary women, the author reveals Christianity's liberating power for women and the relevance of the saints to the lives of contemporary Christians.

6. *Still Life* by Louise Penny (Canadian Author)

Set in the fictional Quebec village of Three Pines, *Still Life* concerns the investigation of the mysterious death of a former schoolteacher, Jane Neal. The town's Chief Inspector, Armand Gamache of the Sûreté, becomes the principal investigator of her case.

7. *The Last Bookshop in London: A Novel of World War II* by Madeline Martin

August 1939: London is dismal under the weight of impending war with Germany as Hitler's forces continue to sweep across Europe. Into this uncertain maelstrom steps Grace Bennett, young and ready for a fresh start in the bustling city streets she's always dreamed of. Overwhelmed with organizing the cluttered store, she doesn't have time to read the books she sells. But when one is gifted to her, what starts as an obligation becomes a passion that draws her into the incredible world of literature.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday May 27 at 7 pm. Link sent 2-3 days before.

ST. CHARLES CWL PRAYER LIST

May 2021

Please pray for seminarian Martin Kaguima on his journey to respond to God's call.
Please pray for our CWL members and our Council.

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

Mary Ziska
Larry Belanger (husband of Norma Belanger)
Rollande Paquette
Faye Tkachuk
Jacqueline Cuerrier
Marlene Schmidt
Margaret Gartner (sister of Rose Potter)
Marie Phillips
Rafael Martel (grandson of Kathy Martel)
Diane Melnyk (sister of Bev Jensen)
Melissa Cuerrier (daughter of Jacqueline Cuerrier)
Lynn Cristini
Kirk Coates

For those who have died and all who mourn them:

Theresa Logan
Kathleen Correia
Colleen Fitzpatrick (daughter-in-law of Myrla Fitzpatrick)
Fr. Alfred Hubenig
Agnes Lovsin (Spruce Grove CWL member)

If you wish to have a loved one's name added to the CWL Prayer List
Please email: Janice Albiston janicealbiston@gmail.com

