

St. Charles CWL

May Newsletter 2006



President	Rita Pfefferle
President Elect/Organisation	Katherine Tarras
Vice-President/Community Life	Connie Toner
Secretary	Louise Despins
Treasurer	Lillian Wawzonek
Past President/Historian	Kathy Martel
Membership	Fran Heise
Spiritual Development	Jacqueline Cuerrier
Christian Family Life	Anne-Marie da Costa
Education & Health	Johanna Hinkley
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Funeral Lunch	Monique Gauthier

A message from the President – Rita Pfefferle

Greetings Ladies, my life (and my families) has been filled with CWL activities and it has been good. Your support through this first year of presidency has been wonderful. You have worked hard, keeping our council fulfilling its goals. Ladies, you have been successful in all our activities. The Bazaar was a great success, with the many cooking projects before and during the day, which made for fun and fellowship. We supported the Pasta Dinner; made and sold hundreds of pies; which in turn decreased our parish debt. We've had 3 joint projects with the Knights; rosaries, medals and prayer cards to support our service and military people in Afghanistan, the New Years Eve dance, and the Family Day Hay Ride. Our political and social activities were followed thru with 4 resolutions from National; Christmas Stamps, Age of Consent, Marriage and Euthanasia issues. In our home city, Edmonton, our endeavors included, Habitat for Humanity, Dickensfield Birthday Tea, Lurana Tea, Kara Golf Tournament, Carmelite Nuns sales, many parish events like Mass of Remembrance and caring for the grieving with our Funeral team, enjoying reading books for Bizarre Women's Book Club, and some fun social nights. Fran Heise has helped us coordinate 2 membership drives, which in my Presidency includes three. The Membership Brunch was a wonderfully uplifting day with the bonus of Katherine Tarras coming forward to be our President-Elect. I have been attending many Zone 9 meetings, and Diocesan events. We are a busy, committed group of women, following our Gospel roots to serve, and care for others. We are a prayerful group and I thank you all for continuing our good works.

Your CWL 25th Anniversary planning committee has been creating several ideas towards making this a Hallmark celebration. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20, and be part of our history. Your sister in the League.





President-Elect/Organization – Katherine Tarras

I am your President-Elect, Membership/Organization Convenor. For those that I know, it is great to be active again with my CWL sisters and I'm looking forward to getting to know those of you I haven't met yet.

I'm now in my 13th year of being a member of the CWL, my journey began with Military Ordinariate at St. Anthony's CFB Edmonton, when that closed we became part of Our Lady Of Loretto Council also of CFB Edmonton where I held the positions of President, Past President and CoConvenor of the 28th Annual CWL Military Ordinariate Convention. My husband, Bob retired from the military in 1995 when I became a member of St. Charles CWL. In 1997/98 I held the position of Spiritual Convenor.

This year we have 24 new and renewed members and two recipients of the Maple Leaf Pin, Anne Cartwright and Jean Michaels. Congratulations ladies and thank you for all your hard work. Currently we are standing with 169 and growing members. We had another fantastic Membership Breakfast, a job very well done and thank you to all that had a part in making this a successful event.

I now live in Castledowns where we are members of St. Charles Parish, which I am a part of the Eucharistic team at the 12:15 mass. Bob and I have been married for 19 years, we have two teenage sons, Brad (17) and Brent (16). I work part time as a Dental Assistant and I am a Registered Massage Therapist, currently practicing out of my home.

“For God and Canada” and my sisters in the League, my “Companions on a Journey”, it is my honour to serve you. May God Bless you and keep you safe and healthy this summer.



Vice-President/Community Life – Connie Toner

As we get into 2006 our second year of being on the executive has started. I am the Community Life Convenor and have enjoyed this convenership very much. I am especially interested in Canadian Missions as we don't always think of Canada as needing Missions. Last year we also adopted a seminarian at Newman College. His name is Aaron Roth and is a very nice young man.

This year I will be looking into issues closer to home. We are concerned about gov't cutbacks affecting the Western Catholic Reporter and we will be assisting St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Besides C.W.L. I have many hobbies. My husband and I live in a retirement village and enjoy all the activities. I love to golf so I can't wait for the grass to turn green. We have six grandchildren so are always busy attending their activities.

I have really enjoyed being on the C.W.L. executive as the ladies are wonderful and new challenges are around every corner.





Secretary – Louise Despins

My first year as Secretary has already gone by and I am now in my second term. How fast time goes by! I have really enjoyed working and getting to know all the ladies on the CWL executive.

A special thank you to Rita and Kathy for all their patience and assistance this past year.

God Bless and enjoy the summer.



Treasurer – Lillian Wawzonek

This is my second year as Treasurer. Again, it is my pleasure to serve you in the upcoming year. As well as my duties as Treasurer, I am in the choir and we are kept busy with practises every Monday night and our group usually sings for the 10:30 and 4:00 masses. I am also a Lector for the 12:15 mass.

This year, with the help of many ladies, we took a hot lunch to the Habitat for Humanity workers. The building is a 6-plex which is located here on the north end of the city. I am also on the 25th Anniversary Cookbook committee, which I am pleased to say came together very nicely.

Our family continues to grow as we had a brand new grandson born in November to my son and his wife, who reside in Madrid, Spain. We also have a new great-granddaughter born on New Years Day; they reside in Valemount, BC. She was this years New Year's baby. This brings our total to 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Have a wonderful summer with your families and I am looking forward to working with all of you in the months ahead.



Past President/Historian - Kathy Martel

This is my last year on the executive and it has been a most rewarding experience. Rita and the standing committee have been a joy to work with. As historian I have learned so much about our council's past in preparation for the silver anniversary of the St. Charles CWL. We have accomplished so much in the 25 years of our existence under the guidance of our 13 presidents. Updating our council's story, revamping the albums and taking photographs have been interesting activities as well.

The youngest of my three sons graduates from Grade 12 this year and so when I "retire" in 2007, I plan to put my new found skills to good use by catching up with my own albums. It will be a pleasure to watch St. Charles CWL flourish in the future.





Retired Membership Convener – Fran Heise

This is my second and final term as your membership convener. It has been a very good learning experience, both in getting the job done and in getting to know so many wonderful people at the membership drive. I'd like to thank all the wonderful helpers throughout the campaign because without your help I'd still be stumbling about. Thank you, thank you, thank you all!!!! I feel the greatest satisfaction I received was in getting to know so many very nice members. It is a pleasure to be a part of such a great organization. We have 24 new /renewed members this year. I hope you all enjoy being with us as much as we enjoy having you in our lives. Please feel free to pass on any information you feel pertinent to our cause as a council. Don't hesitate to come forward and join in any of our fun times.

Our Membership Brunch was a great success. The author of “Mary's Veil”, Sandra Brenneis was a very vibrant and inspiring speaker, enjoyed by all, I'm sure.

I've enjoyed meeting and working with all of you. Have the greatest summer ever and we'll see you around next year. Thank you to all the members who paid their dues promptly.



Spiritual Development Convener – Jacqueline Cuerrier

Dear Companions on the Journey

I have truly enjoyed facilitating the Spiritual Reflections for you at the meetings. During the past year it was my objective to present a visual as well as participatory aspect to the reflection time. I know well that some days we are so tired that we aren't always present through our listening and having something on which to focus our attention visually, really helps in bringing us into the spirit of the readings. I hope this has enhanced your experience on the journey.

Many people (not necessarily CWL members) commented to me on how beautiful the mass for our membership brunch was. This was a wonderful display of our commitment to our CWL council and the parish community. Thank you for all that were involved to make it so special.

I look forward to serving as your spiritual convenor for the coming year.

Your sister and companion on your journey





Christian Family Life Convener – Anne-Marie da Costa

I have stepped into the Christian Family Life convenership position. That means I'm the go-to person for the baptismal medals and social issues of concern. This year the CWL's main focus in the Christian Family Life area is Euthanasia - but please bring any ideas you would like to put forward on any issue of concern to me.

I am in my third year of membership and am a member of the Bizarre Women's Group – a focus group dedicated to increasing and retaining members in the CWL. CWL events and meetings are always a high point in my life, especially since we have such an energetic and diverse council. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.



Education & Health Convener – Johanna Hinkley

I have held the position of Education and Health convenership this past year.

We have covered some interesting topics such as 'Uterine Cancer' and 'Celiac Disease'. It has been an interesting and enjoyable year sharing information and discussing many issues.

Although the past year has been a personal challenge for me, it was comforting to have the sisterhood of the CWL ladies. I look forward to 2005/2006 and the continuation of working with the CWL membership.

God Bless and I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.....see you in the fall.



Communications Convener – Marie-Paul Petersen

I have enjoyed the never-ending support of my fellow CWL members. The ladies who phone their assigned list of CWL members each month deserve a bouquet for their devotion. These ladies announce to those who do not have internet the monthly announcements that are sent out by email.

I have been working with the Parish Council Web Representative on the Saint Charles CWL website. The website will be updated to keep it current as much as possible. We provided our member of parliament John Williams with the White Ribbon Against Pornography and a petition in which our members had signed.

I have been blessed with wonderful children who keep me forever young. Their phone calls and visits bring joy and hope to my life. God Bless You All.





Funeral Lunch Convener – Monique Gauthier

My husband, Roger, and I will have been married 46 years, as of June 11, 2006. We have two children -- a daughter, Manon, who is married to Dave; and a son, Michel, who is married to Mary. Michel and Mary have two daughters -- our treasured grandchildren Aileen (11) and Janet (6).

I would like to thank the ladies who donated sandwiches and squares as well as those who helped prepare and clean up for the 14 funeral luncheons we have had since last June's newsletter. Without your generous donations and help, this service would be impossible to provide. Again, thank you all. Have a great and safe summer.

