



President's Newsletter to all Archdiocesan Members

6th August, 2018

With the last two years being very focussed on Conference matters, having the National Conference accomplished is very satisfying, especially as this was well supported by the National Branches of CWL and 8 visitors from CWL Australia.

The Opening Mass was celebrated by Cardinal John Dew on Wednesday 25th July, at the Brentwood Hotel, followed by supper. In his Homily, Cardinal John told us that Pope Francis recently wrote the document "REJOICE AND BE GLAD", about being HOLY in ordinary things of life: "**God wants us to be holy and not settle for a bland and mediocre existence.**" Our first mission is our personal growth in holiness through **PERSEVERENCE, PATIENCE AND MEEKNESS**. Secondly he writes about **JOY AND SENSE OF HUMOUR**. Thirdly **BOLDNESS AND PASSION** encouraging us as we grow in holiness to leave a mark in the world. The fourth sign he refers to as **IN COMMUNITY**. This Conference is a way for this community of Catholic Women's League members to come together.... This is your community, as well as the communities of your families and parishes. Kay had invited the representatives of the women's organisations of the Christian Churches of Wellington. We welcomed women from the Anglican Church, the Salvation Army, the Presbyterian Church to the Mass.



We thanked **Kay Blackburn** for the four years she has devoted to leadership as National President, part of her very long time dedication to the Catholic Women's League; to her executive **Carolyn Johns** for the busy role of National Secretary and **Anne Lumb** for keeping the financial aspect of CWLANZ in a sound position.



We also thanked **Sr John Bosco Kendall**, for the many years she has devoted to inspiring, challenging and guiding the spiritual life of the Board members as Chaplain to CWLANZ.

At the AGM of the CWLANZ Board Susan Dickson become the new National President, with Zella McGhirr the National Secretary and Kathy Bell the National Treasurer.



I salute all of the Wellington Archdiocesan Council Members, for their whole-hearted support for every aspect of the Conference in good spirit, for the way they all moved around the tables meeting and greeting everyone. All rose to the occasion magnificently, working together to host every aspect of the care of all of our guests. Twenty-seven Wellington CWL Branch members supported the Council and the National board by their attendance at all or most of the Conference programme. The new theme was launched by our Speaker Anne Dickinson, so now our focus is the topic "Women welcoming change". Anne reminded us that change does not happen in the decision-making, **but in the action of change.**



We heard a panel of four Speakers - Julianne Hickey from Caritas, Kitty McKinley from Challenge 2000, Sr Ann Powell from the Cenacle and Joan Pigou who all shared their interesting and inspiring stories of change in their own lives. All lives are unique, and the varied experiences of the four panellists demonstrated this graphically. We would have loved to hear more and to ask some questions..

On the Friday afternoon we had a **Pilgrimage by bus to the Home of Compassion** to acquaint our visitors with the wonderful serenity and peace of the Resting Place of the Venerable Suzanne Aubert. Sister Jo told us about the special features of the Chapel, and with the help of 9 CWL Guides we were able to get a taste of her life achievements, as we read, experienced and reflected on the life of Suzanne, Mother Joseph, Aubert and her amazing life dedicated to the care of Maori, the sick and the poor, the peripheries of society. A delicious afternoon tea, prepared for us by the friendly staff of the Home of Compassion was a welcome time to sit, talk and reflect.



The Dinner on Friday evening was a fun time as the Wellington Council members shared the imaginary life of Florence Martha Doyle leading to Beatification. Diane Glynan and Susan Lloyd presented this story which developed between the courses of the Dinner. This was another mix and mingle occasion, as we all relaxed and took the chance to get to know each other better, during the delicious courses offered.



The CWLA visitors from Australia treated us to a song which you may well hear sometime in the future with a New Zealand flavour added to it.



Art Competition for NCEA Art Students at Catholic Colleges was initiated by two Wellington Archdiocesan Council Members to include young people in CWLANZ Conference, the theme being "Care for Creation". The winning painting was created by Julius Omeri-Luke a Year 13 student at St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie. Julius told with us that his painting depicted his Grandmother passing on to him, her wisdom and care for the earth.



The wind-up of Conference matters – financial, filing and thanks etc are now in the process, so it is time to consider new horizons, ask some questions, look to the future, consider the theme and decide what comes next ...

Already there is a next, with the Archdiocesan celebration **of the Feast of St Margaret Clitherow on 31st August, to be celebrated at St Joseph's Church in Upper Hutt, with Mass at 11am** followed by a shared lunch, For half an hour we will also give some thought to ideas for our new theme Women Welcoming Change 2018 with our face of mercy in creation theme for 2017 ...

May God bless you all with continued Faith and Service for the people in our Parishes and for those in our communities, being alert for their needs and prudent in finding solutions to concerns, so we can make a difference.

Christine Paterson, Archdiocesan President, Wellington

