

## President's Newsletter – Women Welcoming Change

What a joy it was to meet and talk to you all during my round of Diocesan Conferences. We can all be so proud of all the work you are doing both locally and overseas. I hope you have had the opportunity to reflect on and discuss the issues that I raised with you.



If you want to make positive changes in your life: Don't sit on the couch and wait for it. Go out. Make a change. Smile more. Be excited. Do new things. Throw away what you've been cluttering. Do not follow negative people on social media. Go to bed early. Wake up early. Be firm. Don't gossip. Show more gratitude. Do things that challenge you. Be brave.



- Promoting CWL by raising the profile of Margaret Fletcher especially with a new modern look,
  - Contributing to a rejuvenating Kete for branches, looking at different ways of running our branches, developing modern promotional material,
  - Considering a possible new membership badge and organization logo.
- The Board needs your help with all of these. Please feed ideas to your regional representatives and Diocesan Presidents.

The range and quality of the guest speakers and workshops were inspiring. Each conference had its own gem. We are planning to share as much as we can of these in the soon to be published National Board newsletter.

I want to share with you a reflection prepared and presented by Colleen McKay of Christchurch Diocesan Council. It was very moving as a PowerPoint and spoken presentation but is still beautiful and challenging as a document. Thank you, Colleen.

## Colleen McKay Reflection: Light over Darkness

At the Diocesan conference in Christchurch, Colleen McKay, a regional representative on the Christchurch Council, gave a beautiful presentation on how to promote light over darkness when faced with adversity and or atrocity.

Her reflection covered much of the darkness that we have been faced with over the past year with suggestions of how we might counter the darkness in an outpouring of love, in the love of Christ.

*Silvia Mellish Christchurch Diocesan President*



The mosque killings  
A terrorist act fuelled by hate.  
Fifty people murdered while praying  
A further fifty were injured  
They should have been safe.  
Our Prime Minister describes it as,  
**"New Zealand's darkest day."**

In March on his visit to the United Arab Emirates, Pope Francis met Muslim leader Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb (pictured here.) The encounter was a meeting of brothers at which these leaders signed a fraternity beginning,

"In the name of God who has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and who has called them to live together as brothers and sisters, to fill the earth and make known the values of goodness, love and peace."



Bishop Paul invited us to take up this invitation and to pray for peace, remembering especially all members of the local New Zealand Muslim community who are our brothers and sisters in faith, in one God praying, "Make me a channel of your peace"

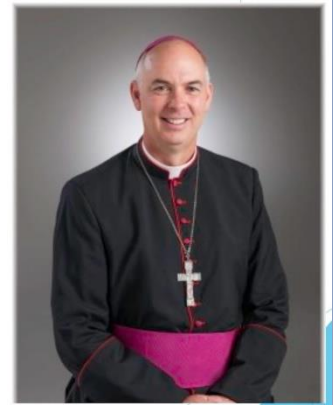
Let us pray, really listening to the words.

*Where there is darkness – let me sow light;*

*Where there is hatred – let me bring your love;*

*Where there is sadness – ever joy.*

After an act of absolute hatred – Christchurch and New Zealand responded with such love.



Margaret Fletcher our founder, in 1906, worked tirelessly to ensure its success and promote the liberation of women and a more prominent role for them in education and other spheres of public life.

Margaret's aim was to make Catholic women conscious of the contribution, based on teaching of the Church, that they could make to the social, intellectual and spiritual life of the country.



Catholic Women's League, 2019 - 2020 national theme: "Women Welcoming Change."

Catholic Women's League is concerned about social issues such as:

End of Life Choice Bill

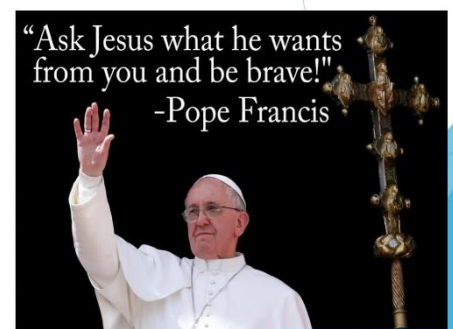
Human Trafficking

Child Poverty

Racism ...

And we are called to take action

Pope Francis says, "It's a matter of making and inspiring gestures that contribute to building societies based on the principles of the sacredness of human life and respect for the dignity of every person."



What can I do?

What can CWL do?

What does the Pope want us to do?

What does our Bishop want us to do?

What would our founder Margaret Fletcher do?

What does Jesus want us to do?



***"Shine in your Church gathered today  
Longing for peace  
Our world is troubled  
Your word alone has power to save us  
Make us your living voice ..."*** Hymn