



# CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEW ZEALAND

*Te Ropu Wahine Katorika o Aotearoa.*

## WELLINGTON ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

### PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER, MARCH / APRIL 2020



Dear CWL Colleagues ,

What a special day we had together celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> at our Conference and AGM, hosted by the Hutt Valley branches! Brenda Neville took photos throughout the day, and this one recognises the 75 years of CWL in the Archdiocese, through the skills of members who designed and made banners for each branch. We are all proud of our Branch banners, captured beautifully by Brenda against a backdrop of the Hutt Hills.

**The 75<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE** was opened and blessed by **Cardinal John Dew** who then addressed us on the changes happening in the Archdiocese and Church, as Parish communities are extended to include neighbouring Parishes forming a Faith Unit. As these changes can be a challenge to some parishioners, we need to support the change yet show understanding to those who can't accept it.

The **CWLANZ National Mission Secretary, Jenny Muschamp** clarified the situation for the Missions of Oceania, their needs and the problems they have to contend with, often with minimal resources. The funds contributed by New Zealand Branches to Oceania and to the Mission at Home amounted to an amazing \$156,000, which is a tribute to the members throughout the country.

**A Panel of 3 Speakers** brought us three very different aspects of Women Welcoming Change.

- **Leole Malama-Prasad** updated us on the address she gave five years ago at the Home of Compassion, when we heard about the ways she as a young person was able to inject a new lease of life into the Hutt Rotary club, as they were losing heart and losing members. The Rotary branch has continued to feel positive, to grow its membership and has renewed vitality.
- **Raewyn Richardson**, an Upper Hutt Pharmacist, explained her health journey , learning and adaptation, as it related to her own well-being. Through her pharmacy, Raewyn offers a variety of treatments for people coping with health issues.

- **Kitty McKinley** from Challenge 2000, a youth ministry she set up twenty years ago, had some very graphic ways to show us how difficult change is and how we are often loath to take the risks to change. Kitty also demonstrated that when we make small changes we can make a big difference.

**CWLANZ National President , Susan Dickson**, shared her vision for the future of the league in NZ. The new Theme will be Kia Kaha - Be strong and have courage.

In light of the COVID-19 Rahui we are all currently experiencing, confined to our own bubbles for the well-being of all New Zealanders, the new theme is a very inspired choice.

**The Annual General Meeting** had a familiar outcome regarding the election of Officers.

As circumstances had changed in my household, I can no longer commit to the position of President for another year, as intended, without having the support of a Co-President learning the responsibilities of the position and taking some of the load. Since I had invited a very competent person to take this position, who after considering it carefully regretfully refused due to family and health issues, there was little time to request nominations six weeks in advance. The Handbook can state ideals but life has many realities which the book does not cover. There was some muttering about this among some people, but we do have to be aware that life situations change and people can be forced to make the decisions they do, for good reasons. In the interim the following is the situation for the Archdiocesan Council -

### **Election of Officers**

**President - Christine Paterson (4 year term finishes in May) interim until May**

**Executive Assistants - Karen Saunders-Secretary, Diane Glynan-Treasurer**

**Regional Representatives - Kathleen Emmerson and Sam Walker**

**Missions - Anne Lumb**

**Social Issues - vacancy**

**WUCWO - Christina Dwyer**

We need your prayers, your discernment and nominations, as we seek people who are suited to the positions and find ways to represent all of our Archdiocesan branches. A copy of the Nomination form was sent with Conference Papers. We will be delighted to re-send it, if you need it.

**MISSION EXPO** at Viard College was a Saturday well spent. We were very fortunate that this went ahead in Wellington as the subsequent venue in Nelson had to be cancelled.

We were graciously welcomed by the students of the Catholic Colleges, offered every assistance as we prepared our booth and were entertained by very talented young people. There were at least 50 booths displaying the amazing variety and number of Faith organisations available to us all in the Archdiocese. It was wonderful to be a part of the many contributing to the Faith lives of our Parishes ministering to the people at all ages and stages of life. We were able to display the Missions of the League branches

supporting the At Home Appeals and the Mission Communities of the Pacific.



Opportunities to network with Colleges and other Catholic groups in the Archdiocese opened new possibilities for us for the future.

As the College students had welcomed us, so they also organised and led a beautiful closing Liturgy, which lifted our hopes high for the New Zealand Church of the future.

**COVID-19** has forced us all to make totally unexpected changes in our lives, confined to our own bubbles for the well-being of all New Zealanders. We are able to attend Mass online from Wellington or from the major cities, a chance to move beyond our own Parish Mass. There have been two weeks of online Masses, all improving as various problems are addressed. Mass from the Vatican is another option for us. There are online reflections and prayer times too, so I hope you are able to find support in this time of isolation.

**Easter** is going to be very different for us all this year, as our Churches will be closed causing Holy Week and the Easter Triduum to happen in ways unlike any we have been used to in past years. We will be Women Welcoming Change in ways we never expected; finding our inner resources, online reflections, and through friends and family, sharing ideas and prayers with us all.

*May Easter bring us many blessings, in peace and prayer, with new Faith and understanding, and may the Risen Lord be with us as we focus on safety, wellbeing and caring for ourselves and others in the weeks ahead. Dominus vobiscum/ May the Lord be with you always.*



Happy Easter to you and your family.

Christine Paterson,

Archdiocesan President CWL

Here is an at home personal art reflection for you to use in Holy Week and on Good Friday to aid your favourite prayers, Scripture and contemplation.

### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

