

## The Catholic Women's League of Canada: President's message



Betty Anne Brown Davidson  
November 20, 2013  
Summary of the national convention

They asked each other, "***Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?***" Luke 24.32

This quote from the incident on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection of Jesus echoed in the hearts of members as the national convention evolved in August this year at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Our speakers were varied and stimulating as they shed light on different perspectives of our national theme: *We Have Seen the Lord!*

- Sister Fay Trombley introduced us to the Inuvialuit people to whom she ministers
- Louise Tessier, a ceramic artist, spoke of manifesting the light of the Lord in art
- The importance of sharing our own stories of how Jesus guided us was modeled courageously by the panel of honorary life members
- Bishop emeritus Gerald Wiesner affirmed our important role as women in the Church
- With simple stories, Rev. Bill Burke taught that Christ saves us again and again and again as we walk the road of our lives. He challenged us to recapture Sundays as the day of the Lord.
- Kathryn Perry drew our attention to the parallel between the words of Katherine Donnelly, founder of the Sisters of Service, and the words of League members, hinting that we are one in spirit
- The lurking danger of ovarian cancer was brought out into the open by member Anne Chase and her companion
- Maribeth Stewart spoke of the successes and plans of our worldwide affiliation with WUCWO

Archbishop Martin Currie has been our faithful, inspirational national spiritual advisor for the past five years. With this convention, we set him free to fully minister to his people in St. John's NL. At the closing Mass, Bishop William McGrattan of Toronto ON was installed as our national spiritual companion and guide for the next five years.

We were fortunate to have a different bishop celebrate Mass for us over five days. In

their homilies, they set our hearts ablaze with

- Hope
- The importance of family
- The urge to go out and evangelize
- The diversity of God's gifts and people
- The assurance of Mary's comfort and guidance in our desire to grow closer to her Son.

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Our gathering prayers showed a great variety as well: some were short and to the point; others taught lessons using acted vignettes.

Two resolutions were passed and authorization for the national executive to write important letters opposing

- The legalization of euthanasia in the province of Quebec
- Female gendercide that could occur with the possibility of sex selection abortion in Canada.

In the oral reports of our provincial presidents and standing committee chairpersons, the whole-hearted generosity of members to various voluntary projects and activities was evident. In order to advance members' education and awareness of Christians in the Holy Land, *Velma's Dream*, charities supported through Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), has become a temporary voluntary fund until December 2016.

The mass collection of \$5633.66 was split evenly between Visitation House in Regina and building a residence for schoolgirls in Ghana (*Marty's Dream*).

As women of JOY (Jesus-Others-You), refreshed from our time together and enlightened by the Lord's grace, we look forward to our continuing journey in the League.

**Go tell** everyone, **encounter Him** in prayer, the sacraments and in others and **minister to one another** with hearts on fire with love. Why? Because, ***we have seen the Lord!***