



Volume 55 No. 4
August/September 2015
“PRAY AND ACT FOR CHANGE”



President's Message

An article in the Catholic Standard, *Study group reaps community rewards*, highlighted the commitment of Brother Sean McManus and Kirsten Singleton to refugees in Tasmania. Brother Sean and Kirsten have set up an area where refugees can seek assistance with their homework but they need resources. We can help; donations of A4 exercise books, readers, pens pencils and a variety of stationary are in great need. Pat Gartlan has undertaken tremendous work keeping up the tempo for Catholics in the same-sex marriage debate. Pat has requested all Branches write a letter to the representative of their electorate. The booklet, *Don't Mess with Marriage*, provides sensitive and factual information for you to use.

Closure of Branch. It is with sadness and regret that the Kingborough Branch has found it necessary to close. The late President, Pat Quinn, tried with success for many years to keep the branch open, sadly with her passing recently, the remaining members decided to close the branch. This is symptomatic of what is happening across the state. In 1985 there were 43 branches: 2015 there are only 11

branches. However, two of the Kingborough office bearers - Secretary Margaret Batchelor and Treasurer Elizabeth Jordan have joined the Hobart Branch.

Dwindling numbers, due mainly to ageing membership, is a great incentive for us to promote Anima, in the hope that our younger members will carry on the work of the League. To this end I encourage southern members to diarise Friday, October 9, and support Deirdre Reid's timely initiative outlined in her report.

The League's main income is from membership and sales from the Craft Shop, both vital for our continued financial success. To supplement this income Patricia Leamey has organised a state-wide raffle, please take a raffle book (or two if you can).

The CWL Australia Conference is being held in September, if you are interested please contact Lillian or myself and we can provide you with details. Key note speakers are: **The Hon Prudence Goward MP, Sr Hilda Scott**, a Benedictine Sister, journalist **Pat Howard**, **Chris Field** from the Catholic Development Fund, **Jennifer Burn**, Associate Professor .

Reflection**August 2015**

Let us consider afresh the Evangelist Mark's depiction of the Transfiguration of Jesus. (Feast August 6th)

Mark 9:2-8

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured; his clothes became dazzling white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus; 'Rabbi' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and then came a voice from the clouds, 'This is my son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.

We stand in awe before the profound mystery, with Peter, James and John, as Jesus appears transfigured before them.

Jose Pagola, in his book, 'Following in the footsteps of Jesus' (P49) says, "The scene recreated with a lot of symbolism, is magnificent. Jesus appears before the disciples clothed in the glory of God himself".

And Magdalen Lawler, says in her book, 'Christ our Morning Star' "Peter wants to build three tents/booths, he wants to stay in the momentary glimpse of the divine nature of the beloved master".

Peter resists walking the hard road, which leads to Crucifixion but ultimately Resurrection. Strongly, the voice of the father summons the three disciples:

"This is my Beloved son, listen to him".

They are to focus on Jesus. His is the word to which they and we too, are called to listen, now, today, in the 21st century. Listen to him.

Consider and discuss.

1. As you sit before this scene so full of mystery and symbolism, what is your response to the beloved son? or to the Father's invitation: Listen to Him.
2. In what ways might the CWL encourage members and others to attend more fully to the presence of God in our struggling world?
3. What might help you and others amid the confusing messages of the 21st century to live peacefully, trusting in Jesus the beloved son?
4. How might the CWL encourage members, others too, to carry the cross of our turbulent but beautiful changing world, trusting in the power of God to bring about transformation and healing for all. We remember Pope Francis says, 'No one is excluded from the Good News of the gospel. All people, all creatures, all of creation, all are called to the wholeness of God. *Clare Kieley-Hoye*

Reflection**September 2015**

Laudate Si

The opening words of the recent Encyclical of Pope Francis comes from The Cantic of Creatures written in 1225 by Saint Francis of Assisi. It is a song of praise of God for all creatures, all of us who live in this cosmos (sun, moon, stars, wind, water, fire, earth).

A prayer of praise to God for all creatures, all living creatures including humankind.

“Laudate Si” Praise be you my Lord with all your creatures

Laudate Si mi Sigmora – Praise be to you my Lord.

Cantic of Creatures

Praise be to you my Lord, through all your creatures.

Especially Brother Sun who brings the day;

You give light through him and he is radiant in all his splendour.

Of you most High he bears the likeness.

Praise be to you my Lord through Sister Moon and the stars in heaven;

You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praise be to you my Lord through Brother Wind and through the air, cloudy and serene and every kind of weather through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praise to my Lord through Sister Water which is very useful and humble and precious and pure.

Praise be to you my Lord, through Brother Fire through whom you light the night

And he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praise to you my Lord through Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise be to you my Lord through those who give pardon for your love and bear infirmity and tribulations.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, for by you most High they shall be crowned,

Consider and Reflect

You are invited as CWL to reflect on this ancient Cantic.

- a) What is the most striking aspect for you of this Cantic
- b) Why do you think the author repeats the words, “Praise be you” in each verse
- c) How might this repetition of “Praise be you” influence your prayer life.
- d) Notice how the writer, Saint Francis, addresses the various creatures , eg Brother Sun, Sister Moon) How does this approach to creation influence you in your attitude to all people, all creatures who share our world, our cosmos.
- f) How might CWL encourage deeper care and respect for all who inhabit/share God’s Creation :”our common home”. (Pope Francis)

Clare Kieley-Hoye

*From The State Secretary***FROM THE STATE SECRETARY**

STATE AGM. As I write this report, my mind is on the State Annual Meeting to be held in the new Parish Centre in Margaret Street on September 9, commencing with a 'cuppa at 10.30 and the meeting at 11 o'clock. Northern branches will provide the catering and the cost will be \$10. I haven't seen the new Parish Centre and it will seem so strange for the Deanery not to be there. Still, like so many other things, we have to adapt to change! When Dean Upton received me into the Church in 1950 the Deanery wasn't even there!

RAFFLE TICKETS. I hope the State and National raffles are selling well. Please remember that the money and tickets, sold or unsold, for the National Raffle are to be sent to me by August 26, without fail, so that Jan can convert your money into a State cheque for me to send to CWLA. The money and tickets for the State raffle should go to Patricia Leamey at 2/63 Brent Street, Glenorchy. Patricia requires her tickets, sold or unsold, to be returned to her by August 30. Our grateful thanks to all who bought tickets!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE. As mentioned previously in the "Review", the National Conference will be held in Sydney from September 22-24. Sandra and Jan Lawler will be our delegates and Lola will be our Alternate Delegate. We wish them well as they represent us. The National Motions appear in this issue of "Review" and we ask branches to study them and report their findings at the State AGM, so that our delegates will know how to vote on them at the National Conference.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS. You will recall many years ago we distributed a small brochure calling for prayers for priests and at the last meeting of the State Executive it was decided to do another run of these and they will be distributed at the AGM in September.

MICROPHONE. It was also decided at the State Executive meeting to purchase a microphone for use at State meetings and Conferences and costs are being investigated.

Lillian Deane

CWL STATE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**LAUNCESTON PARISH CENTRE, MARGARET STREET****10.30 FOR 11 am SEPTEMBER 9****TRANSPORT WILL BE BY PRIVATE CARS****ENQUIRIES TO REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS****Kath Pearce
Public Officer***From The State Treasurer*

Please refer to my report in the April/May Review. I hope by now I have received all audited statements as the closing date was August 1st. Don't forget to send me your diary orders. *Jan Lawler*

Light the Way Learning Centre**Donations Needed**

Dictionaries, simple reading books, School readers, games, paper, pens, pencils, rulers and exercise books.

Donations will go to a study group, set up by Brother Sean McManus and Kirsten Singleton, for refugees in

Tasmania requiring assistance with study and homework.

Please, could you deposit your donations with your branch secretary. A deposit box will also be located in the Craft shop.

The Executive will organise

Collection and delivery of the donated items in **September**.

From the Northern Vice-President

Well, with the busy months of AGMs now past, I am pleased to be able to wind down a bit into a slower winter mode. However, it was so nice to be able to attend the Annual General Meetings of Launceston and the George Town, Lilydale-Karoola branches and hear the wonderful ways these dedicated ladies give so generously of their time and talents in their respective communities. It does make me a little bit proud to be able to say I am one of them!

It was lovely to have President Sandra attend our AGM at Lilydale last month and all the members I spoke to, were delighted to meet someone with Sandra's inspirational enthusiasm. Thank you Sandra.

There have been only a couple of changes in branches' executives and I congratulate those ladies who have taken on new roles – Jenny Smith as Vice President in Launceston and Shirley Coppe as President and Jenny Taylor as Vice President in George Town. Also thank you to those who have agreed to stay in their positions for another year.

George Town is hoping to be able to organize an afternoon tea in the near future, to welcome ladies from the local area, with the hope of interesting them in CWL and what we do. It will be a simple social afternoon, and hopefully, we might be able to connect with some new members.

I ask that you all keep Fr Terry Southerwood in mind and offer prayers of healing for him, please.

Hoping you all stay well and warm through these cold, cold days and nights.

Wendy Fittler

To Father Delaney

At the last meeting of the State Executive of CWL I was asked to include in this issue our grateful thanks for your assistance in printing Review.

Editor

From the Southern Vice-President

We have been busy with Annual meetings and how interesting they have been. I have enjoyed meeting so many members and feel you also enjoyed being together and catching up. The final AGM was held at Oatlands on May 27th after postponement due to shocking weather. Thank you Oatlands ladies for a wonderful welcome and beautiful food. State Secretary Lillian, State Treasurer Jan, President of Sorell Marcia and I all attended. Some members were unable to be present because of illness. I was surprised at the many different good works this small group was able to do during the year. Donations were made and Christmas boxes filled for needy children overseas. Shoe boxes were also filled and delivered to several shut-ins. What a lovely gesture and I am sure they were much appreciated.

Posies were given to the hospital and members helped with two major fund raisers in the town.

President Sandra's visit was enjoyed in November and Sandra was sorry she could not be with us that day.

Congratulations to the new Executive and to the Executive of all branches. May you all have a very successful year.

Sandra visited Lilydale in June to attend the AGM of Lilydale/Karoola and George Town branches. She was most impressed with the efforts of the group over the year and enjoyed her visit and friendship.

Sandra and I have visited several branches during the year and have gained so much from them all.

It was very sad to hear of Pat Quinn's passing, the loved President of Kingborough branch. Several members attended her funeral including Executive members.

The next important date on the calendar is the State AGM to be held in Launceston (Details elsewhere in this Review) I look forward to seeing representatives of branches there.

I also look forward to a report of the National Conference to be held in Sydney in September.

We all have raffle tickets for both National and State funds, please buy a ticket or two to help with funds. Thank you Patricia Leamey for organising the State Raffle. The cold weather is not so conducive to getting out and about, so when the weather improves Richmond branch would like to invite all to come along and enjoy a social day, maybe bring a friend. It is so rare to all get together, this would be a good opportunity to get to know others without the formality of a meeting.

Hopefully there would be the usual 11.30 mass at St. John's followed by a shared lunch. There will also be a trade table.

The date is Friday 9th October

Please give it some thought and bring a plate to share. I will contact all branches closer to the date.

Deirdre Reid

Mass Crusade

August: Lindisfarne/Risdon Vale

Prayer Intention;

Universal: That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy

Evangelization: That setting aside our very selves we may learn to be neighbours To those who find themselves on the margin of human life and society.

September: Launceston

Prayer Intention:

Universal: That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.

Evangelization: That catechist may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

October: Ulverstone

From the Bio- Ethics and Social Issues Convenor

The Pastoral letter, “Don’t Mess with Marriage” has been a courage act by our Catholic Bishops. Our Archbishop standing up publicly to explain why the Catholic faith cannot support SSM was also a courageous act. As expected it attracted a barrage of opposition and even abuse but it has also started to open the issue of SSM into a fairer debate.

Angela Shanahan wrote an excellent article in The Australian (4-5 July) with a heading, ‘Marriage Equality muscle in on Freedom of Religion’, in which she writes how reasonable the booklet is and that Rodney Croome is taking everything out of context, while many parents are relieved that the Church is taking a clear stand on the issue.

Paul Kelly in his Weekend Australian article (July 11-12) also supported a fair debate, quoting the Human Rights Commissioner, Tim Wilson: “First, that none of the bills on same sex marriage offers anything like the essential protection of religious freedom and Individual conscience. And second, that individual belief and religious freedom must be seen as equally ‘important’ as the right to same sex marriage,”

This debate must go on for a long time before any legislation is passed so that the people in power and the general public hear the full story and realise the consequences of redefining marriage which are clearly stated in the pastoral letter.

So please, if you haven’t done so already, take the time to read it and then write a polite note to the Senator in your electorate. They want to know what their constituents think. So help them support the side of truth.

Mary Doogan , a midwife from Scotland was in Hobart last week. She had taken her ‘fight’ of freedom to be able to conscientiously object to assisting in any abortion procedure. She lost her case in the Supreme Court simply because the judge was a feminist and let her own ideology influence her decision. This suppression of conscience in Scotland has resulted in less and less doctors entering obstetrics in gynecology and Eastern European doctors are filling the gap because they are more willing to do abortions.

Abortions have become so prevalent that midwives and doctors can no longer avoid performing them. All the rules put in place when Great Britain legalised abortion in

1967 are conveniently ignored. When Mary took her concerns to her professional body they were ignorant of the law and she received no support. The Royal College of Midwives also undermined Mary and changed the rules to suit themselves. Mary had worked with SPUC (Society of Protection of the Unborn Child) for 20 years and was part of the BVA (British Victims of Abortion) so she is well versed in the law concerning her position.

Mary also met with Doctor Hobart in Victoria, she mentioned his lonely fight to conscientiously object against giving abortion referrals. Dr Hobart spoke for the good of women, as Mary stated, on science alone, abortion is medically bad for women.

Centre Care has changed its name to Catholic Care. Executive Director Tim Gourlay said that the benefits of the name change included speaking with one voice on issues that matter to communities and taking the ability to share resources, common information and promotional material across Australia.

It was lovely to see so many clergy who were attending the Conference of Australian Catholic Clergy 2015, walking the streets of Hobart on the week of June 29th to July 3rd. My son Stefan kept me very busy but it was wonderful to meet so many of his brothers in Christ. Stefan will be ordained to the priesthood on 14th September.

The weekend of 4th and 5th July was an enjoyable weekend for me; on the 4th we had the pleasure of attending the wedding of Christine Wood and Rohan Hutchinson. Congratulations to them both. On the 5th we attended to the ordination of Anthony Chidi Onyirioha as Deacon for the Archdiocese of Hobart at Christ the Priest Church Kingston. Congratulations Deacon Anthony.

Lastly Melinda Tankard Reist gave talks at various Catholic schools around Tasmania a few weeks ago on the dangers of the sexualisation of young girls (and boys). Five years ago she formed Collective Shout, an organisation aimed at fighting this harmful culture.

Her Facebook page is: [www,facebook,com/collectiveshout?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/collectiveshout?fref=ts)

And web page [www,collectiveshout.org/](http://www.collectiveshout.org/)

PS Spread the Love of God, read stories of Saints to your grandchildren and children and through these saints let them realise the Love of God.

Pope Francis's visit to the Philippines January 15th-18th 2015

On November 8th 2013 the South of the Philippines particularly the province of Tacloban suffered the worst devastations from typhoon Hyan (known locally as Yolanda); when Pope Francis heard the news he was moved by compassion and decided he must go there. So during 2014 all sectors of Philippines society joined in preparations for the Pope's visit. Prayers for his safety were said after masses, the government was in full alert for any contingency, and the laity was very much involved.

Pope Francis arrived on January 15th 2015 and received a wonderful welcome. The streets from the airport to the Papal Nunciature where the Pope would stay were filled with people chanting in Filipino "Papa Francisco We love you" this chant followed him everywhere he went during his visit. On January 16th a Eucharistic Celebration was held in the morning with the Pope, Bishops, Priests and Religious; as space at Manila Cathedral was limited lots were drawn on who could attend. In the afternoon Pope Francis had the Encounter with the Families which about 20 thousand people including Catholic Women's League board members and other church organisations were able to attend inside the theatre. The streets again were lined by those who hoped to catch a glimpse of the Pope and receive some blessings.

On January 17th Pope Francis was scheduled for a six hour visit to Tacloban, but due to bad weather caused by typhoon Amang, the visit had to be cut to three hours. This trip was very meaningful for the Pope who said "This typhoon is for me" as he experienced for himself how frightening it could be. The Pope together with all the people were drenched but were thankful for the short time together. An estimated 2,000 people attended the Eucharistic celebration.

On the morning of January 18th Pope Francis attended Encounter with the Youth at the Santo Tomas Pontifical University, the most ancient school in the Philippines, and had dialogue with the students and youth. A young girl almost in her teens, who had been abandoned by her parents, recounting her dreadful experience of pain and exploitation of life in the street burst into tears sobbing "why do children have to suffer so much? At a loss for words Pope Francis remained silent for a while before

he could helplessly say " I do not know...it is a tragedy" he silently embraced her. Then he continued "Today's world doesn't know how to cry. In the Gospel' Jesus cries for his dead friend. We must learn from the children how to weep. It is in weeping that we understand something" He added that women have much to say because they can see and experience things from a different level. In the afternoon there was a Papal Mass for the general public in Luneta which about 6 to 7 million people attended. People patiently waited up to 6 hours despite the rain and cold wind to attend.

On 19th January we saw the Pope depart for Rome, a day of heavy hearts both for Pope Francis and the Filipino, with much emotion in the air.

Pope Francis, in his persona, in the way he reached out to those hurting, in need and marginalized, showed us that Mercy and Compassion is in the concrete. He left us with important words that challenge us to work especially in the year of the poor. As followers of Christ, like Mary and Joseph, we are to make a home for Him in our hearts, families, parishes and communities. Here I invite ALL to continue, to pray that we would let mercy and compassion be the foundation in the way we act everyday every moment.

An Account of the Papal visit by Amparo Lim, CWL Philippines

(Published In *Women's Voice*, March 2015)

Mary Walsh

Vale

Patricia (Pat) Irene Quinn

21st March 1929 – 2nd June 2015

Pat first joined Catholic Women's League Tasmania as a member of the Lindisfarne branch, where she held office, not only at branch level but also as Southern Vice-President. Some years later Pat moved to Kingston where she also became a very loyal member. In spite of many health issues she served several terms as President of Kingsborough branch, holding this position until her untimely death. Pat was a very talented water colour artist and needle woman, entering her work in the Craft Exhibitions at State Conference many times over the years. We shall miss Pat for her friendship and dedication to all things CWL. She lived our motto "May God Be Glorified in all we do".

FAMILY VIOLENCE WORKSHOP.

On Friday 19th June 2015 an excellent workshop on Tasmania's ongoing response to the vexed problem of "family violence" was sponsored by the Tasmanian government. The Premier, Will Hodgman, and the Minister for Human Services and Women, Jacque Petrusma, welcomed the 80 plus participants and sought their help in assisting the government's initiatives in formulating an Action Plan. The development of the Action Plan is being overseen by the Family Violence Cabinet Committee and will be released in August 2015.

More information on the development is available on www.dpac.tas.gov.au.

Importantly you can email your ideas for improving the Plan to

fvap@dpac.tas.gov.au. All correspondence will be received in confidence.

At the workshop the process of examining the five identified key issues was well organized – small tables of six were given a limited time to address the following issues and suggest practical actions to limit violence.

1. Attitudes that lead to family violence;
2. Retaining "Safe at Home" legislation as a key response;
3. Strengthening support for adults and children affected by violence;
4. Strengthening legal responses to family violence;
5. Strengthening perpetrator management and rehabilitation.

Discussion at the tables was lively and at times controversial. Early formation of attitudes of respect – often seen as gender equality – was recognized. Identification of what really works so that encouragement and funding be properly directed. Addressing family violence requires a "whole-of-community" effort.

Each table was asked to list their top three priority actions and the following list resulted:

- multi-year funding of programs, services and organisations;
- better access to and better capacity of services;
- promotion of just what services are there and increase community understanding of what they are trying to do;
- addressing gaps in legal services;
- providing more short and medium term accommodation for offenders leaving the family home;
- developing a community strategy to change attitudes and behaviours that lead to family violence;
- supporting a continuum of primary prevention education Kinder to Year 12, across all schools teaching how to form and maintain respectful relationships;
- ongoing professional development, to educate professionals (in law, justice, health and community services) about identification of family violence and how to respond.

On the last point the discussion at our table considered the vital role of the police as the first point of call; it appears that a high percentage of calls for assistance involve domestic violence and yet how much of the training of our well regarded police force is devoted to family violence.

As well, according to the submission to the Victorian government by the Magistrates Court and Children's Court of Victoria **family violence matters more than any other issue in the past decade have dominated the courts.** The magistrates, inter alia, called for the institution of dedicated family violence courts, a fast-tracked listing model and expansion of men's behaviour change programs.

Most of the suggestions (except for part of the education programs) dealt with action **AFTER** violence had occurred.

I think that we need to look more closely at what causes the violence and disrespect in the first instance. Many of issues which are inherently violent are condoned – and even legislated for e.g. abortion which is demonstrably violent towards the unborn baby is allowed in Tasmania up to birth; euthanasia which is inherently violent towards the frail and vulnerable is projected as an act of compassion; prostitution which is inherently violent towards children as well as adults is being promoted by several groups as a human right; pornography –especially since the classification of MA18+ films/videos is available at the corner shop as well as through the internet.

Another issue to be considered is the changing attitude towards the family and marriage. An interesting statistic from United States – in 1965 (fifty years ago) 25% of Afro-American families were headed by a single parent – to-day 71% of Afro-American families are cared for by a single parent. All too often single mothers are called upon to raise their families in difficult circumstances – they do a wonderful job - but it is not easy.

Catholic Women’s League Tasmania should be at the forefront in responding to these difficult social problems. Report prepared by Eris Smyth.

Branches Please Note

The following motions are to be presented to the National Council Meeting on Tuesday 22nd September 2015 at the Novotel Sydney Parramatta Hotel.

Our delegates, State President Sandra and Past President Lola and the Alternate delegate Jan need to know the views of members before voting.

Please discuss these at your **August** meeting and send the results to State Secretary Lillian before **Friday August 28th**.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC

Motion 1 Western Australia

Adult Immunisation:

That Catholic Women's League Australia Inc meeting in National Conference in Parramatta New South Wales, requests the National Executive to write to the Federal Minister for Health requesting that, as part of the current *Immunise Australia Program*, a higher priority be given to improving adult immunisation rates. We believe that this would be best achieved through a targeted education program and by offering free booster doses of dTpa (diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough) vaccine at recommended intervals.

Rationale:

The Federal Government's latest (April 2015) *Immunise Australia* initiative i aims to

- provide an incentive to immunisation providers to complete "catch up" vaccinations;
- include activities to improve the community's understanding and awareness of the National Immunisation Program; and
- broaden and improve immunisation data capture to assist immunisation providers boost coverage rates.

However there is only passing reference later in the "Fact Sheet" to adult vaccination.

- The first step to improve immunisation rates in adolescents and adults is to understand the current coverage of vaccines given to these groups.

Whilst parents themselves may be aware of the need to receive booster doses of vaccine to protect their children from infection, we believe that other adults within the wider community are not. Older adults in particular, who may be involved in caring for grandchildren, and in doing so are likely to come into contact with other young children, may pose a significant risk because it is many years since they were vaccinated.

We believe there is an urgent need to educate the wider community in this area and in particular to encourage adult Australians to receive booster doses of the dTpa (a diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough vaccine) at medically-recommended intervals (currently 10 years). These should be available free of charge under the National Immunisation Program. Improving immunisation coverage rates Fact Sheet.

Motion 2 Western Australia

Social justice principles relating to the surrogate mother, egg donor and children:

That Catholic Women's League Australia Inc meeting in National Conference in Parramatta New South Wales requests the National Executive to write to the Federal Attorney General and the Assistant Secretary, Family Law Branch, to request that social justice principles relating to the surrogate mother, egg donor and children be carefully considered before any new laws are passed.

Rationale:

1. In response to concerns relating to International commercial based surrogacy cases, Federal, State and Territory Governments have identified the need to establish a national approach to surrogacy laws. The plan is to consolidate laws that are currently being used in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory, with a view to addressing both the inadequacy of Australia's domestic legislation and the obligations of Australians as an international citizen.
2. It is essential that in this process the best interests of the following are considered:
 - **The surrogate mother:** in our view both altruistic and commercial surrogacy are based on the assumption that a woman can be used as a mere vessel and her reproductive capabilities can be isolated from her bodily integrity and used or even bought.
 - **The egg donor:** In the USA and Canada commercial surrogacy has turned egg donation into a highly profitable business, with little or no regard to the health and wellbeing of donors.

- **The child/children involved:** In our view surrogacy of any kind is not in the best interests of the child as it violates his/her basic rights (recognised by the United Nations in the Convention on the Rights of the Child).
 - To preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference;
 - Not to be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child;
 - Not to be separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests
 - To rely on the common responsibilities of both parents for the upbringing and development of the child, and their primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child on the basis of the best interests of the child; and
 - That in adoption decisions, the authorities shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.
1. ¹ Quoted in Nicholas Tonti-Filippini, *The Contradictions of Baby Gammy: disability, discrimination and the true cost of surrogacy* in **The Thomas More Centre Bulletin** Volume 24, n3 Spring 2014.

MOTION 1 Queensland

Foreign Aid:

That Catholic Women's League Australia Inc meeting in National conference in Parramatta New South Wales, write to the Australian Prime Minister requesting that the budget cuts to overseas aid be reconsidered.

Rationale:

Aid breaks the cycle of extreme poverty in the world that condemns millions of people each year to an undignified and unfair life. Aid provides people living in extreme poverty with an opportunity to live a life to which every human being is entitled.

World Vision estimates that Australian aid in 2011/12 directly saved the lives of over 200,000 people, helped provide education for 500,000 children, assisted

at least 10 million people affected by disasters and helped 440,000 people gain access to clean water and 400,000 to access adequate sanitation. (1)

By cutting foreign aid we are perpetuating poverty, a leading cause of conflict throughout the world. When people do not have access to clean water, education, medical help and a source of food, they often resort to desperate measures, thus contributing to global instability. Providing aid is the way Australia, a member of the UN Security Council, can encourage long term regional and global security.

www.world.vision.com.au

Motion 1: South Australia.

Proposed changes to the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice

That Catholic Women's League Australia Inc meeting in National Conference in Parramatta New South Wales request State and Federal members of Parliament to oppose the proposed changes to the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice.

Rationale:

Proposed TV standards threaten children. The well-being of Australian children has come under a new threat. Once again we as Canberra Declaration signees have an opportunity to pray and act.

Free TV Australia, an industry body which represents all of Australia's commercial free-to-air television licensees, is seeking major changes to the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice.

The changes to the Code of Practice would mean that violence, sexual content and advertisements for alcohol, gambling and M-rated movies and DVDs would be screened during popular programs that children watch.

In particular, Free TV Australia seeks to move the M (Mature – content generally suitable for age 17 and up) classification start time from 8.30pm to 7.30pm. Roslyn Phillips, the National Research Officer for Family Voice Australia, explains that “M-rated programs may contain moderately strong violence, including sexual violence,

injecting drug use, coarse language and simulated scenes of intimate sexual activity.”

The proposed Code of Practice also drops the AV (adult violence) classification and allows MA15+ programs to be screened from 8.30pm. Gambling and alcohol advertising will continue during sports broadcasts.

Another major proposed change is eliminating the G (General Audiences – all ages admitted) rating by introducing a PG (Parental Guidance suggested) rating across all channels all day. This means that children would no longer be safe to watch television unsupervised by their parents.

Complaints about a given program quickly made by phone or fax would no longer be accepted. Only written complaints by a person, who can show that they have actually watched the program, would be allowed. This makes the complaint process slow and cumbersome and therefore less likely to be used.

Motion 1 National Executive, CWL Queensland, CWL South Australia.

Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

That Catholic Women’s League Australia Inc (CWLA) meeting in Parramatta New South Wales expresses concern about the high prevalence of domestic and family violence directed predominately against women and wishes to manifest this concern in the following way:

- That we will lobby the Federal government to allocate more funding and support to programs and initiatives that aim to eradicate the existence of domestic and family violence, including and not limited to launching a significant national advertising campaign, aiming to combat domestic and family violence against women;
- That we will lobby the State and Territorial ministers to hold a national crisis summit on family violence with State and Territory leaders and openly engage with sector stakeholders to coordinate a national response to family violence; and
- That we will continue to work with relevant community groups and government to help set in place an intergovernmental liaison group to prevent family violence in the first place through attitudinal change.

Rationale:

The situation vis a vis domestic and family violence in Australia is alarming. The vast majority of dangerous, abusive and violent behaviour that occurs in the privacy of peoples' homes is committed by men against women. In 2011 to 2012 three quarters of intimate partner homicide victims were women.ⁱ Around one in five Australian women have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner.ⁱⁱ In 2012 an estimated 25% of all women aged 18 and over had experienced emotional abuse by an intimate partner since the age of 15.ⁱⁱⁱ Official statistics show that nearly 1.93 million Australians over the age of 15 years have experienced violence at the hands of a current or previous partner.^{iv} Furthermore it is a fact that between 80 and 100 Australian women die at the hands of their male partners every year – and a woman in Australia is more likely to be killed in her own home by her male partner than anywhere else or by anyone else.^v As an organisation that aims to support the rights of women and children, it is evident that CWLA cannot stand by and not take action with regards to this deeply concerning issue. Our action must be based on empathy and support for the rights of women, including the woman who faces domestic and family violence and seeks support to escape from her situation.

On both an organisational and individual level, we need to commit to increasing our own personal knowledge about this issue and participating in initiatives that support the eradication of domestic and family violence and the support of its victims, such as fund-raisers, awareness raising days etcetera. We furthermore need to promise that if we see domestic and family violence occurring in our communities, amongst our friends, parishioners, families and workmates, we will not stand back and do nothing but will offer to support the victim in any way that she wants or that is required. It is beholden on not just the National Executive but on each and every member of CWLA to write to our parliamentarians in an effort to effect real and lasting change. This motion has been composed with input from the CWL Queensland, CWL South Australia and the National Executive CWLA Inc.

i Australian Institute of Criminology, 2015

ii ABS 2013

iii Ibid

iv Domestic and Family Briefing Paper No 5/2015, Christopher Angus, p1.

v The ABS Personal Safety Survey 2006.

Motion 2 National Executive**Prevention of Youth Suicide**

That Catholic Women's League Australia Inc. (CWLA) meeting in Parramatta New South Wales, expresses deep concern and seeks to take action to help prevent continuing prevalence of youth suicide in Australia by undertaking the following actions:

That CWLA, as an organisation, will lobby the Federal government to take into account the recommendations outlined in the National Review of Mental Health Commission Report (Volume One) that was released in April 2015 and allocate adequate funding resources to ensure that the recommendations outlined in that report are fully realised.

Rationale:

There is a worrying prevalence of youth suicide in Australia that requires urgent action. The facts speak for themselves. Suicide is now a leading cause of death among young people, second only to motor vehicle accidents. In 2013, 108 males aged 15 to 19 years of age and 148 males aged 20 to 24 years of age died by suicide. In the same year, 40 females aged 15 to 19 years and 52 females aged 20 to 24 years died by suicide. Considering all causes of death, suicide accounted for 21.9% of deaths among 15 to 19 year old males, and 28.7% of deaths among 20 to 24 year old males in 2012. The corresponding percentages for females in both these age groups are 32.6% and 25.2% respectively.

As an organisation that professes to support the rights of young people, something must be done to rectify this situation. The National Review of Mental Health Services and Programs provides an opportunity to give young people the mental health support that they need in order to choose life over death. CWLA needs to commit to lobby the Council of Australian Governments to work towards halving the national suicide rate over the next ten years. We furthermore need to commit to never ignoring or failing to take action to support a young person who is showing signs of suicidal ideation. We need to find ways to connect to such a person with the mental health services that they may require.

<http://www.mindframe-media.info/for-media/reporting-suicide/facts-and-stats>

Viewed on 12 May 2015.

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF LIFE

Please consider joining in the prayer below to Saint Joseph. They have been composed by a priest with the intention that in Australia marriage remains between a man and a woman.

And please continue to pray them daily (if possible) in the days leading up to the Synod on the Family. Pass on the prayers as you see fit.

God bless,

Maree Triffett

Joseph! Beloved Guardian of the Life of all lives!

Joseph! Beloved Guardian of Family

Joseph! Beloved Guardian of the Body of Christ, His Church!

We invoke your powerful protection over all families, individuals and communities whose aim is to protect life from conception to natural death!

Inspire our Holy Father, Pope Francis and all the leaders of our Church in their deliberations now and at the Synod on the Family,

“to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying in our churches.” (Rev 3:22)

Joseph! In your elected office to protect ‘The Child and His Mother’,

act now and do for us what you did for Jesus and Mary,

when They were under threat from a murderous regime.

Save us by the holy ‘cloak’ of your paternal vigilance

and your obedience to the Will of the Eternal Father.

Give the ‘fathers’ of our Church your spirit to act swiftly and bravely

against the current threat to marriage and family life.

Saint Raphael, act swiftly to cure us of our blindness and may your spirit bring us all to chaste and holy union to counteract the attack on the sacrament

of Holy Marriage. Amen.

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