

MO Admin Fall Meeting; Christmas

FROM:

Military Ordinariate Provincial President

TO:

Base Council Presidents MO Admin Committee,
MO Life Members,
MO Archivist



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Military Ordinariate Provincial Council



TO: Base Council Presidents
MO Admin Committee, MO Life Members, MO Archivist

FROM: Military Ordinariate Provincial President

DATE: December 1, 2012

MEMO: # 2 (2012-2014)

SUBJECT: MO Admin Fall Meeting; Christmas

Dear CWL Sisters;

Its December already and the snow is starting to fall. I remember like it was yesterday, sticking out my tongue to catch a fleeting snow flake and making snow angels. Living in Victoria, there may not be the prospect of making a snowman; however, Victoria can be beautiful. It has its magical moments. Mother Nature has a way of distributing beauty throughout our fair country.

The MO Admin met in Edmonton for our Fall Meeting. The weekend flew by as we dealt with business and tossed around various ideas to enrich the CWL base councils. As the MO Admin joins their base councils you will have the opportunity to view the prototype t-shirts with the new MO CWL crest. The t-shirts, 100% cotton are a rich royal blue with striking silk screening for the CWL crest on the front left side. They are available for purchasing from the MO Provincial Council Treasurer, Shelley Bahm at a bargain price of \$15.00 per t-shirt. The deadline for ordering is February 28, 2013 as a council order and will be available for pick up at the 2013 Annual Provincial Greenwood Convention by your delegate. We are in the process of trying to initiate more CWL items for your availability. There will be an order form sent out in January with a list of articles and their prices to fill out and send in to Shelley. I am so excited to see we are working towards the future, my sisters, just imagine, every CWL sister dressed in their attire displaying our proud CWL crest volunteering their services. What a sight that would be! How proud we are as Military CWL members! I am so elated to be part of such an astounding group of Catholic women.

As we have promised, a new idea was born for an incentive program. We will be unveiling a beautiful honour plaque that will have the new CWL crest in all its glory at the General Assembly for the 2013 Greenwood convention. The CWL plaque will be

established as a yearly incentive for base council names to be placed on the plaque for the most new memberships. It will be on display annually at convention. It's like having your name up in lights! Now that should be an additional motivation to promote new memberships and get your mojo in gear. I have already been informed new memberships are on the rise and that is wonderful news. Have you considered a year's paid membership for a Christmas gift to someone new in the parish? Don't let those transferred CWL members get away, welcome and guide them into their new base council.

During the base council November/December meetings, you will be exposed to a parish bulletin insert that was instituted in Regina, SK. I was made aware of its existence at the National Fall Executive Meeting in October. I suggest each base council to adjust the insert and make it your own to suit your CWL council. I believe it to be well thought out and eye catching. The insert represents the very meaning of sisterhood, spiritual growth and companionship that the Catholic Women's League promotes. I especially love the representation of the word "membership". I am attaching a copy for those that may not have had the opportunity to view it in its entirety. The CWL is always open to new concepts that inspire, stimulate and encourage the innermost beliefs of Christianity and Family.

The Maryline has officially been sent to base councils and what a rendition of humour, base council activity, spiritual and delightful illustrations it encompasses. Thank you to everyone that has participated, if not for the great interest and efforts made by its' editor/base councils, the Maryline would not exist. I highly recommend each base council to keep a hard copy in colour for those may not have access to computers; black and white does not do it justice.

Christmas Time: have you decided who will be at your table this year?

How would you feel if you had no one to share the greatest day of the year with? As a Christian family, we have an obligation to spread God's great message! What better way to enhance our love and generosity than to share your table. Christmas is the most spiritual and majestic time of year and what better gift to give the Almighty Jesus than to duplicate His Last Supper. Did you know that the Christmas Season is the loneliest time of the year for some and suicide rates are high during what is the most ostentatious time of the year? Wouldn't it be grand as Catholic Women if we could in a small way, put a dent into that statistic? As much as I love this time of year, my heart aches equally for those that get so caught up with presents and the famous turkey meal they overlook the true meaning, the act of benevolence.

Personally, my family advocates inviting young military personnel that have the misfortune of not being able to share Christmas with their family/friends. In the military lifestyle that so many of us have become accustomed to, we miss our family being so far away, it helps when we share with others that feel the same loss. We have found these invites to be met with such genuine delight and happy faces that we continue our offer every year.

There are many soup kitchens/hostiles preparing for an overwhelming number of people that need a place to eat the traditional Christmas meal, please consider offering your

services to lend a hand in cooking/serving or simply extending a radiant smile to give them that special warm feeling that so many of us already know with Jesus.

On another note, there have been many emails/Facebook concerns with what to respond during the Christmas season, happy holidays or Merry Christmas. Is there really a doubt in our minds? Merry Christmas of course! Remember, repetition is the tool, isn't that how our children learn? Well, that's the answer. If it is said often enough, then everyone will join in. You would be surprised by the number of store clerks that are afraid to state the obvious due to alienating customers, however, very relieved and respond in kind when they hear us say Merry Christmas. No stress necessary or apprehension **be** proud as Christians and say what comes naturally at this time of year.

“We have seen the Lord”, our 2013 theme. What better time of year, then Christmas to see the great works of the Lord and his people. During this time of year with fast traffic, people trying to reach places in record time and lack of manners we sometimes overlook the true meaning of Christmas. We see with our eyes and not our hearts and soul! It is during these times, we need to stop and reflect on a period when life was simple, when Christmas meant: the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Alleluia, alleluia, the Christ Child is to be born! Alleluia, alleluia!

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. Mark 16:15

May all my sisters and their families/friends have a very **Merry Christmas!**

God Bless

Donna Penney

MO Provincial President