

Peterborough Diocesan Past President Glenda Klein and member Joanne Hough, “We are having a most enjoyable time and the girls are most responsive to our initiatives.” The two CGLs in Edmonton made advent wreaths and prayer books, as well as creating valentines for shut-in members of the sponsoring CWL council. In the words of Natalie Rose, “The joy and dedication I am seeing in the girls is rewarding. They seek to learn everything about the League, evidenced by their numerous questions.”

Janet Koller, St. Alexander CWL Parish Council President-elect in Fenwick, Ontario, hopes that introducing a CGL would meet the needs of young girls and their mothers

in her parish. “Many of the activities for young girls lack the spiritual guidance and support that is essential in development and spiritual growth. I truly believe the CWL of our parish could play an important role in ministering to our young girls and to help prepare them as women. I know the end result would bring rejuvenation and spiritual growth to our parish community.”

As national Christian family life chairperson, I couldn't agree more with Janet Koller's summation of how important it is to support and develop young girls. It is hoped that at the completion of the pilot project, this project will be further developed and launched nation-wide. †

CHILD'S ART CAPTURES SPIRIT OF THE MISSIONS



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In the winter issue of *The Canadian League* you read in the article “Do You Know What a Mission Is?” about the eager students answering Fr. Philip Kennedy's questions during a visit to their school. The school visit is a main part of the Catholic Missions In Canada (CMIC) School Awareness Program.

Another part of the School Awareness Program is the CMIC and ME! Story and Art Contest. Started in 2006, the contest invites students in both elementary and secondary schools to submit a story or a piece of art work that either reflects a mission community in Canada or depicts how they see CMIC. Students are also invited to submit a short story if they don't feel that they have been blessed with artistic talent. Students of all ages, whether they are in private or public school or home schooled, are encouraged to participate and be as creative as possible.

What a thrill it was to view the talents and visions of today's youth! After much consideration and deliberation, the staff of CMIC selected a winner, Kenneth Lau Kwan Kit, a Grade 7 student at St. Raymond Catholic School in Mississauga, Ontario. Kenneth's art embodies the purpose and spirit of CMIC.

The drawing depicts outstretched hands lovingly holding a Canadian maple leaf. You can almost see how gently the hands are holding the leaf, showing its fragility and how it needs to be protected. The canvas behind the hands has two images. One is a beautiful day full of sunbeams, blue sky and green grass. The other side depicts an inspiring moonlit starry night. On the wrist of the right hand is a youthful green

bracelet, off which a simple wooden cross hangs.

This artwork can be interpreted in many ways. One way is that our country (the leaf) is fragile and needs to be protected. What better protector than our Catholic youth (hands and cross bracelet). Another is that as Catholics (cross bracelet) we must love and protect our country (leaf in hands).

Regardless of how this drawing touches you, one thing cannot be denied. Is it not awe inspiring to see how a child interprets the work of our missionaries?

Youth today are passionate about causes they support and connect to. CMIC has just scratched the surface of this energetic resource. Going through the schools is the most logical way to reach the youth, however, compact curricula and busy schedules make it difficult for teachers to find time to teach their students about our missions and the missionaries that serve them.

CMIC is asking League members to help us reach the youth. If you have any connections in the schools in your area, please let them know about our youth awareness program. Maybe your parish youth group would like our president, Fr. Kennedy, or a missionary to visit and share their experiences. Information about the School Awareness Program can be found on the CMIC website at www.cmic.info/schools or by calling us directly at (866) 937-2642.

There are so many youth in Canada that are eager to serve God and nurture their faith by supporting the less fortunate right here in Canada. Please help us show our youth that Canada is still a mission country. †