

PRESENCE IN THE MEDIA

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One of the speakers at the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations General Assembly, that League representatives attended last summer, was Sherry Kennedy Brownrigg, co-founder and general manager of KVSS Catholic Radio in Omaha, Nebraska. I would like to share some of her thoughts with you.

We read the headlines. We get nearly all of our information from some source of media. Media tell us what to think about and suggest how we should think about it. It decides for us what we will know about a certain subject. Media have incredible power, power that can be used for great good or great evil. One increasingly prevalent form of media is the Internet and Canada is one of the countries having the highest percentage of Internet usage per capita.

Through media we cultivate a sense of mutual responsibility and gain a greater capacity for dialogue. It can keep cultural traditions alive and band together people with common goals and values. It can bring us stories that we would never otherwise hear, and introduce us to people we would not have the chance to know. Images of terrible disasters are broadcast around the world, allowing billions of people to see the damage and suffering of other humans and respond to it.

Encourage your local media to report those stories that foster the qualities of peace, justice and moral values. Reward them when they do a good job; it is important to tell them when they get it right! Media outlets need to hear from you often to even begin to know who you are. If you are working for systemic change, that takes even longer. When you speak out for peace and justice, you may be ignored. This does not sell; it's not controversial.

Think of all the women in the New Testament. Think of their "medium" as the spoken word: the woman at the well telling everyone in her village that she had met Jesus; Mary Magdalene telling the apostles about the tomb; and, Mary herself presenting her Son over and over again. St. Paul is the ultimate journalist of his day. He travelled the known world to tell people about Jesus. If he were alive today, St. Paul would be using modern technology to spread the gospel. What if St. Paul had kept quiet?

We are the modern day apostles and we cannot be quiet. If we are present in the media actively working for peace, justice and moral values; work with the love Christ commands us to have for our sisters and brothers; and, do it together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. If you want something done, ask a woman! †



Please remember to request nativity stamps from Canada Post this year. While they are not available yet, Canada Post has recognized the demand for these stamps and will surely offer them again this season.

OUR LADY OF THE FOOTHILLS PARISH COUNCIL, HINTON, ALBERTA

Two of the newest council members prepared a banner that depicts the new theme, *Love One Another*. Pictured are Colleen Butler, a two-year member, and Brenda Lalonde, a one-year member. Congratulations, Colleen and Brenda, on your enthusiasm!

