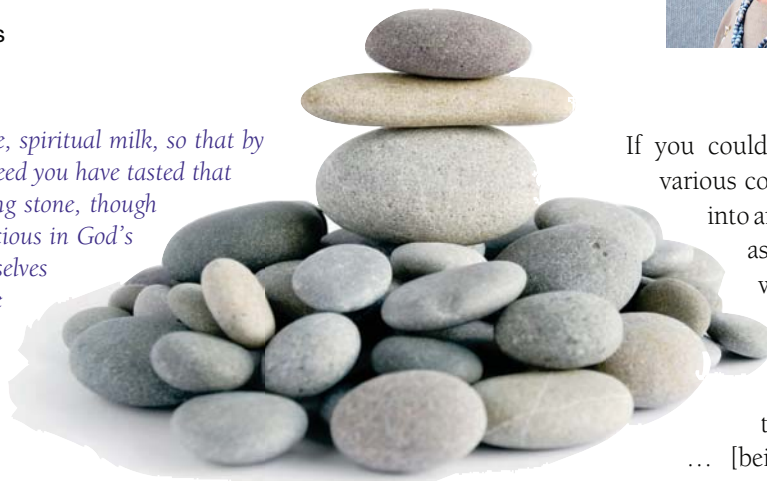


CALLED TO BE LIVING STONES

Betty Anne Brown
National Chairperson of Resolutions



Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:2-5)



If you could shape and form various colours of Plasticine into an image of yourself as a living stone, what would it look like? Can you imagine an assembly of all the “living stones ... [being] built into a spiritual house”?

Let us reflect upon God’s invitation to be living stones. “Love one another,” Jesus said. Love is the fire that burns beneath the surface of our outward appearances. It is this fire of love that will turn our hearts of clay into hearts of flesh. Evidence of this love, His love for us, is found “hidden in the pockets of daily life, waiting to be discovered” (Joyce Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary*, Ave Maria Press, All rights reserved, Used with permission).

What does it mean to be a living stone? The Irish consider stones to be the deadest thing you ever did see, and yet they speak reverently of all the spirits and life that goes on under such a dead surface. It all depends on the way you look at things.

Let us consider some simple stones in nature – gallstone, kidney stone, wizened seed, hearthstone, worry stone, touchstone, tombstone, cornerstone, diamond, stone soup and a stony pilgrim path. What could be going on under these surfaces? What could be their life force? What do they have to teach us?

pulse with energy and love! Remember that Jesus chose us “... to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

Can the energy, presence and love of your spiritual house live out the Mission Statement as members of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada? Can this dynamism of your living stone “call you to holiness”? How will it be of “service to the people of God”? Where will it find its expression in the work of a particular standing committee?

Recently in my prayerful reading I came upon the metaphor that we are not like billiard balls, hard on the outside, to be shot here and there and then to wait; no, rather we are like living cells with permeable membranes. A permeable membrane is like a J Cloth®, it has holes in it. We absorb things and allow things to pass out from us. We can react to stimuli; we can pull away or hug and grow around something that feels comfortable for ourselves. We are living stones! †

ST. PETER/SACRED HEART PARISH COUNCIL SEVEN MILE BAY, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

In 2007, members of St. Peter/Sacred Heart Parish Council made dozens of dolls in support of the Mikinduri Children of Hope. These soft knit dolls serve a dual purpose, first as packaging in the shipping of medical supplies to clinics in Mikinduri and then as presents handed out to children who visit the clinics. For more information on Mikinduri Children of Hope, visit www.mikinduri.com.



Pictured are (l-r): Teenie Dougay, Elaine Stewart, Lorraine Noonan and Betty Payne.