

# WUCWO CORNER

**Agnes Bedard**  
National Past President



In February, members of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) executive were invited to Rome, Italy, to attend the International Congress on *Mulieris Dignitatem* (on the Dignity and Vocation of Women on the Occasion of the Marion Year), in honour of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Accommodations were paid for by the Vatican so, financially, it was a good idea. After the congress, an executive meeting was held and visits with pontifical councils organized. This meeting in Rome would be the only face-to-face meeting WUCWO planned for the year due to its regional conferences.

The regional conference in Africa will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, October 6-11 with the theme, *Women peacemakers: united in Faith and Action*. Twenty-four Catholic women's organizations from 19 African nations will be present. African women welcome Association des Femmes Catholiques du Gabon, WUCWO's newest member. Elizabeth Twissa from Tanzania is the Vice-President for Africa.

The regional conference in Asia Pacific has the same theme as Africa and will be held in Seoul, South Korea. It will be chaired by Vice-President for Asia Pacific Theresa Duck-Choo-Oh Kim who lives in Seoul. She will be welcoming delegates from countries as far south as New Zealand, as far west as India and Pakistan, as far north as Japan as well as the Island Nations of Fiji and Tonga.

The regional conference in Latin American and the

Caribbean will meet in Mexico City, Mexico, and welcome delegates from 13 full rights Catholic women's organizations located in six Latin American countries. The theme is *Women of Faith and Hope: disciples and missionaries of peace*. Monica Santamarina de Robles is vice-president for this region.

Delegates from close to 50 Catholic women's organizations from 16 European countries will meet in Verona, Italy. The focus of the conference is *The fight against trafficking in women for sexual exploitation*. Vice-President for Europe Maria Giovanna Ruggieri (who is also the WUCWO representative to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations) is arranging the conference.

The North American conference will be held in Winnipeg preceding the League's annual national convention, with the theme *Women as peacemakers*. This theme is paired with the League theme of *Love One Another*. The Saturday morning opening prayer will symbolically welcome women from all regions of the world to the conference. These women are welcomed, as are their concerns. To demonstrate this, I ask each delegate to bring "a picture of a sister" mounted on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper with information on the back about her country, way of life, work, concerns, joys, education, life expectancy, etc. At the conference, you will give voice to her concerns as well as your own. During the opening prayer these photos/pictures will be prayerfully carried forward and displayed. See you there! †

## OUR LADY OF AUVERGNE PONTEIX, SASKATCHEWAN

Twice annually, Our Lady of Auvergne Parish Council sponsors a fashion show at the local seniors' centre with clothing donated from the council's clothing sale. This past November, models included an 88 and 89 year old! Members and residents of the centre model the outfits. At the end of each show, each resident is gifted with a bag of clothing. It's a wonderful way for the council to spend an afternoon at the centre and much fun is had by all.

