

A REFLECTION ON THE THEME LOGO

Mary Nordick

National Chairperson of Community Life

Canadian poet Joyce Kilmer wrote, "I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree". British romantic poet William Blake wrote *A Poison Tree*. A song from the segregation era in the United States spoke of "Southern trees bear strange fruit", a reference to the lynchings that were all too common where racism flourished. How can we forget the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden or the Tree of Life, Christ's cross, originally a shameful agonizing form of execution?

The theme logo for *Women of Peace and Hope* is a beautiful flourishing tree. What kind of tree will grow in our parish councils? Will it be a tree of hope and peace rooted in the fertile soil of gospel values of love and justice, nourished by and nourishing our members? Or, will it be a poison tree, rooted in disagreements and backbiting, feeding grievances and hurts, spreading the fruits of rancour, and offering poison rather than shade?

Which tree will it be? †



LOVE ONE ANOTHER QUILT

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council

Renfrew, Ontario



Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council came together in friendship to learn the fine art of quilting under the guidance of a local craftswoman. Although most of the council members were novices, they were so inspired that they undertook to design and produce a quilt for Renfrew's new hospice. On several Sunday afternoons, members met in the church hall to "measure and cut, measure and sew, measure and iron, measure and trim" until the quilt was complete. In keeping with Resolution 2007.03 *Hospice Palliative Care: An Integral Component of the Canadian Health Care System*, the council hoped to contribute to the quality of end-of-life care in its own community. The sessions afforded them the opportunity to learn a new skill while sharing thoughts and prayers for those who would use the quilt. Members reported, "It was a very rewarding experience that filled us with warmth and compassion."

MEMORIUM



Marian (Hepditch) Littlepage

Nova Scotia Provincial President

Marian, passed away peacefully at home on March 19, 2009, after a difficult battle with cancer. Born and raised in Clattice Harbour, Newfoundland, Marian dedicated her life to the service of others.

At the age of 19 Marian entered the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland and remained there for 13 years. After eventually leaving the congregation she moved to Nova Scotia where she taught mathematics in the public school system for the remainder of her teaching career. She went on to complete two Masters degrees which helped her immensely during her six year tenure as director of religious education at St. Thomas More Parish, Dartmouth. Dedicated to promoting God's will on earth, Marian joined the Catholic Women's League (CWL) in 1983 and held offices at the parish, diocesan, and provincial levels – including her most recent tenure as provincial president. Two of the self-proclaimed highlights of Marian's life with CWL included receiving the peace candle at the national convention in Charlottetown in 2000, and receiving her life membership in 2006. Marian is survived by husband, Ken, and children, Sean and Leah. In celebration of her life a funeral mass took place in St. Thomas More Parish on Monday March 23.

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