

STONE SOUP TO KINDLE THE CWL SPIRIT



Stone Soup to Kindle the CWL Spirit promises to be a collection of faith-based inspirational stories prepared by and for CWL women like you. It is being compiled by Manitoba Second Vice-President Faith Anderson and will be a must have for members. It will provide joy, laughter, tears and, as always, *companions on the journey*. Here is a sneak preview of the type of stories you will find.

MY COMPANION... MY FRIEND... MY SISTER

Pat Battensby

B.C. & Yukon Provincial President

There have been so many companions on my League journey who have touched and mentored me. One individual stands out front and centre, and her name is Ann. Ann is Irish and I am Italian. We did not readily agree on CWL issues but did travel together. After the annual national convention in Prince Edward Island, Ann found herself in the emergency room with an acute sore throat. The next day Barb and I were attending a meeting and I got an urgent call that Ann wanted to see Barb and me in hospital, and to please bring some spaghetti.

Ann was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis/myositis or flesh eating disease, but on the inside of her body, and she was extremely ill. At our next event, there were about 30 CWL sisters who gathered in the Perpetual Adoration chapel. Lennie told us that when Mother Teresa had a serious problem she would pray the Memorare on every bead of the rosary. This we did for the hour and one half lunch break, and prayed many more times afterwards.

Ann stayed in this condition for three months, unable to have visitors other than her family. We never doubted that she would be well, you might call it blind faith, we just knew. Ann had received a shoebox full of mass cards and cards of good wishes from her CWL sisters across Canada. These gave her immense comfort.

More symptoms developed and before much longer, Ann was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. One August

day, we were planning on going to an anniversary barbecue for the Our Lady of Good Counsel Society when Ann called and asked me if I would go to hospital with her as she was suffering from severe pain. We found that Ann had spontaneously fractured her hip. The side effects of the intense chemotherapy had made her skeletal structure weak and her bones very thin.

I saw such power of prayer. Finally Ann had a hip replacement, did physiotherapy and exercises with great enthusiasm as only Ann can do, and now I am pleased to say that she is four years clear of the cancer and feeling full of good health and enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, I was diagnosed with macular degeneration and before long lost my driver's license. Guess who drives me to mass, adoration, meetings, dinners, shopping and just fun things? My friend, sister and companion, Ann.

God works in strange ways but the power of prayer is overwhelming. To this day, I am grateful to my CWL sisters across the country who steadfastly kept up their support of Ann by prayers and good wishes.

My confidence and strength in the value of being a member of this remarkable organization, The Catholic Women's League of Canada, is unshakeable. If only we could impart this gift to all women in the church, what a magnanimous gift we would be sharing!

THE CATHOLIC FAITH TAKES... IN ALL SITUATIONS!

Ella Ell

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President

When I was in Grade 4 in our little country school in Saskatchewan, I had the chance to attend my first real movie. The local town hall doubled as the movie theatre.

When we arrived from our long walk from the country school, the windows had been covered and the hall was mostly dark.

I proceeded down the aisle and immediately genuflected, much to the amusement of my fellow Catholic students. ✠