

## Companions on the Journey

a skit for use at a CWL meeting

**President:** Let us begin our meeting with prayers of thanksgiving tonight. I have some good news. Today Miriam called from the hospital with good news about her son.

**Susan (a new member):** Who is Miriam? What was wrong with her son?

**President:** Soon after she joined our council, Miriam's son Joe, who was 26 at the time, suffered from respiratory failure. They called 9-1-1 and he was taken to hospital with an acute case of anoxia. (Anoxia is the term used for a lack of oxygen.) They were told that he could remain in a coma indefinitely.

**Anita:** That was almost 12 years ago! I was the community life chairperson back then. I remember having to organize teams to do various tasks.

**Margaret:** I remember that Shirley and I took turns going to Joe's house to be with the children after school so his wife could visit him.

**Louise:** I drove Miriam to the hospital sometimes and we all helped to prepare meals for the family.

**President:** Let us not forget the most important thing: our CWL council has been praying unceasingly for 12 years! I must also add that many of our national sisters joined us in prayer.

**Susan:** You ladies did all of that for someone you hardly knew? Why?

**President:** We do this for everyone. It's part of who we are. It's part of our Mission Statement. Every two years, the national executive picks a theme, a sort of maxim to live by. All our themes are based on gospel values. For example, our current theme is *companions on the journey*. As CWL companions, we live the beatitudes: "Whatsoever you do to the least of My brothers and sisters, you do unto Me."

**Susan:** I'm glad that I came here tonight.

**President:** Let's get back to the topic. Joe is out of his coma! His is now classified as being in a "locked-in syndrome," which means that he is aware of his surroundings. Today his family is celebrating his 38<sup>th</sup> birthday! Miriam wanted us to share in the celebrations and I assured her that we would be there in prayer. So let us pray: Dear Lord, We have been praying to You through Mary Your mother, our patroness, for our sister Miriam on behalf of her son Joe. Today, dear Lord, we offer prayers of thanks for the great blessing we have received. May we always remember, as *companions on the journey*, never to doubt Your love for us all. Amen

(...over)

### **Discussion**

In groups of three to five, discuss the following questions.

1. The doctor suggested that Joe could be taken off the respirator. Miriam did not agree. Joe's wife thought that it should be considered.
  - i. Was the doctor right?
  - ii. Was Miriam?
  - iii. Was Joe's wife?Tailor your responses to
  - i. 12 years ago
  - ii. the present
2. Do you believe that support from the CWL members helped Miriam?
3. Could Miriam have gotten help from other community and government groups? If not, why not?

### **Closing**

#### **Hymn:**

“Companions on the Journey” (*Breaking Bread* #406)

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