



CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!



Parkland Holy Trinity CWL November 14, 2022

1. President, Mariette Huot welcomed members, our guest speaker, Violet Poitras, and three first-time attendees to our regular meeting held in Our Lady's Room.
2. Marian Walshe, Spiritual Development leader, shared the opening prayer.
3. Secretary, Judy Cruise, proclaimed the *Traditional Land Acknowledgement*.
4. Judy shared the Secretary's report. She asked if there are any changes or omissions to the Minutes of the October 3rd Regular Meeting. There were none. She moved that the Minutes are approved as submitted.
5. The President introduced our guest speaker, Violet Poitras, Elder from Paul Band First Nations. She presented her with tobacco as an honor and a gift in a cultural way and as a request to tell her story in hopes of understanding her culture and her ways.

Violet, who speaks both Stony and Cree languages, regularly speaks to local Kindergarten to Grade 9 school students in the Parkland area about the meaning of *Truth and Reconciliation*, in an attempt to understand and heal together and to move on from what has happened in the past. She does this through teaching them about her language and way of life, adding that it is important to keep one's identity and to learn about our heritage from our parents and grandparents. Her ancestors did this through sweat lodges and powwows and the "moccasin telegraph". She spoke of the way her ancestors' accepted newcomers with open arms and taught them how to survive the stark winters, just as the Europeans were accepted in the Nova Scotia area and Spaniards were accepted by the Mayans and Aztecs further south. These newcomers brought horses, trinkets, beads, mirrors, needles, cutlery, tobacco and more, and traded them for furs. In today's powwows, we see evidence of many of these items as participants wear beads, feathers and dance in ribbons.

Violet is twelfth of 17 children in her family. Her dad and three others left their residential school, following a railway track and sleeping in haystacks. He didn't talk about his time in the residential school. Four of her sisters were taken away in a truck and when they came home, she didn't know them. They spoke only English. Violet attended Residential School for one year. It was not a good experience for her. She then went to a Day School up to Grade 9, by which time, she was 17 years old and did not return. Her days at the day school were not pleasant either. She still finds it too difficult to speak about.

She speaks with the students she sees about Treaty 6 and the importance of learning how to communicate with and be respectful toward our families, our elders and other officials in our society and to continue learning from them. She has written about her life and wishes to have a movie made of her experiences. When questioned about the meaning of drumming, she said the drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth and makes people feel different, sometimes healing. Ribbon skirts represent healing. She noted that red, yellow, white and blue are Treaty 6 colors.

BREAK

6. **Volunteers Required** - The President requested that members consider signing up as volunteers for membership renewal registration, for our upcoming Bake Sale and for the Advent Celebration.
7. **Memorial Service for our Deceased Members** - to honor those who have been called to God before us. Patricia Heatherington led members in a symbolic service to honor CWL deceased members and our indigenous sisters. One-by-one, Annette Vasseur read the names of our deceased members. As each name was read, a picture and information was displayed and a rose was placed in a vase. A single yellow rose was placed to honor all our missing and murdered indigenous sisters, especially those who were victims of the residential school system, human trafficking, drugs, alcohol, depression and violence. Each person who has been a part of our lives was lovingly remembered in her own moment. Candles were lit as those present prayed for them to rest in peace and in love and for all who loved them. Their names are inscribed in the "Book of Life".
8. **Updates/Announcements**
 - i) Mariette thanked Alison Beil and Caroline Campbell, who attended in place of Marian Walsh, for representing our CWL at the Memorial Services held on November 11th in Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.
 - ii) **Regional Meeting - December 3rd** in Devon from 09:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Three workshops throughout the day cover the topics of: *New Structure and What Does It Mean, Leadership and Policies and Procedures*. The cost for the lunch is \$18.00. This Meeting will be held the previous weekend at St. Matthew and the following weekend in Sylvan Lake. **COST WILL BE PAID BY OUR COUNCIL**
 - iii) **Advent Celebration - December 12th** - Bring your favorite dish to this Potluck meal and celebration. Special guests for the event will be ladies from the Quilters' Guild who worked on quilts for Jessie's House, together with Jessie's mother and one other guest. Ten of the larger quilts have been presented to Jessie's House to fill their current need. The remainder of the quilts will be displayed at our December Bake Sale.
 - iv) **IWIN - Prayer Warriors needed** - With each backpack, there are two bracelets. One stays in the backpack to remind the victim to be strong and stay off the streets. The other is given to the donor to remind him/her to pray for the victim. Contact Mariette if you wish to become a prayer warrior.
 - v) **Quilters Needed** - Contact Mariette if you are interested in working on one square of a "Women of the Bible Quilt". Those interested will be provided with instructions.
 - vi) **Synod on Synodality** - Sr. Susan noted that this is the new way in which our Church will function and an exciting time in the history of our Church. There has been so much participation around the world that it has been extended for one year. All of our priests will lead on one topic. Mariette will share information with ladies online through Lydia.
9. The President shared her report, a copy of which is attached.
10. Together, ladies recited the **League Prayer**.
11. Next meeting - **Advent Celebration** - December 12th.