



# The Seed Keepers

A Publication of the Catholic Network for Women's Equality (CNWE)

*Réseau Catholique pour l'égalité des femmes*

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Usually a good deal of thought goes into writing an editorial. I find that this time many ideas are up for grabs - and thankfully, our generous contributors to this edition of *TSK* have come to the fore: a prayer/an ode celebrating Mary of Magdala, another look at WOW history, significant points in their own histories including the 'times in between', a call to members of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church to more meaningful communication with not 'the flock' but with *us* — adult, educated, progressive members of 'The People of God/de'.



In this editorial, I will first step into memoir mode onto a lighter, brighter side and focus on Alex Trebek (RIP Nov. 8, 2020). Full disclosure, I have been a fan of *Jeopardy!* since forever, but the reasons I've chosen to point out Alex here are two. First, since he announced his diagnosis of 4th stage pancreatic cancer two years ago, he taught me how to live. This happened, when he replied to CBC's Rosemary Barton about his practice of continuing with his usual activities in the face of his likely terminal diagnosis. He said, "Well, I'm not dead yet." That statement put an end to my being bothered by many comments to me that I should opt out of my activities including CNWE activities because of my grand/old age. And, when I read his memoir, *The Answer is...: Reflections on My Life* (Simon & Schuster. 2020), I was deeply inspired by his way of facing death. So, as I tell it now, he taught me how to die. ... Did you know about the Alex Trebek mural that's recently been completed by Kevin Ledo? If not, see: [kevinledo#repost](#) from [@cbcnews](#) article Sam Juric-[@upherfestival](#) [#alextrebek](#) [#sudbury](#)

The Photo: The mural, caught by your editor, as Ledo is at work on August 15/21 in Sudbury.

Secondly, the Women of Afghanistan. Words fail regarding their horrific situation as it is unfolding under the Taliban. Besides requesting Divine Intervention, we need to act — advocating for their human rights.

Please keep your submissions to *TSK* coming. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this edition of *TSK*. Now, it's late, late summer and, certainly, time to deliver!

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# *A Report from Katherine Cameron*

## *on behalf of the National Work Group*

September 3, 2021

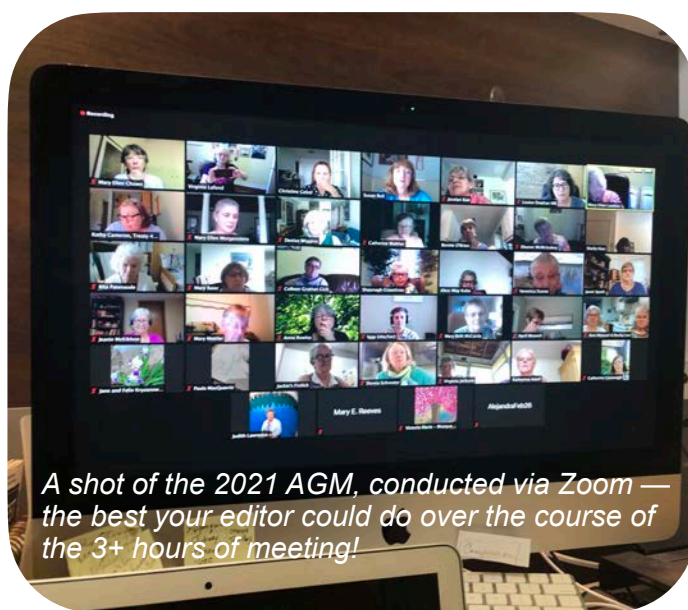
**G**reetings from your CNWE NWG!

We hope you have had some time to rest and re-energize over the summer. Members of CNWE worked hard last year as we prepared for our Annual General Meeting and the decisions we had to make, as confirmed by the attendance numbers at the special meetings and the AGM, and the input received from members by the NWG in preparation. I am sure we are all grateful that we adopted the model put forward by the Transition Team (TT), which allowed us to “lie fallow” over the summer and take a much needed break!

At our 2021 AGM on June 19th, the members in attendance voted unanimously to retain CNWE’s status as a Not-For-Profit Corporation incorporated in the province of Ontario. This vote capped three years of highly demanding collective discernment, research, consultation and visioning work around the future of CNWE, the human resources in volunteers and officers we would need to continue, and upcoming changes to corporation law in Ontario that would affect us. In the process we affirmed that the sort of advocacy work we do requires a corporate identity, insurance protection, and a legally protected name by which we could issue press releases, organize campaigns and continue to build and promote a distinctive public profile. Working closely with the Renewal Circle and the Organizing Circle\*, we anticipate that most of

the work of the NWG in the coming year will be around two things: how to apply the network model to our corporate entity, and the review and revision of our constitution and bylaws to align with the soon-to-be declared changes in the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporation Act. It will be a year of transition. At the same time, members will continue CNWE’s work through different projects, initiatives and Energy Circles toward women’s equality in an inclusive church.

A special “thank you” to Janet Speth for continuing to do the work of the treasurer until our new NWG can meet and get organized!  
And so, refreshed, let us begin!



*A shot of the 2021 AGM, conducted via Zoom — the best your editor could do over the course of the 3+ hours of meeting!*

**Kathy Cameron**  
**Susan Roll**  
**Louise Dowhan-Bertouille**  
**Shaunagh Gravelines**  
**Therese Koturbash**

\* As per motion at AGM:  
“The Transition Team proposes that CNWE membership endorse until the 2022 AGM, the evolution of the Transition Team into a ‘Renewal Circle’ that will work with the Organizing Circle to facilitate the network model.”  
As of the writing of this newsletter, the TT is still evolving, and the Organizing Circle is yet to be established. Stay tuned!

# Advocacy ...

## Rosemary Ganley\* on



### *The Peterborough Catholic Church's Communication\*\**

We have been shocked by the recent discovery of unmarked graves at the sites of residential schools across Canada. We feel shamed and sorrowful, having gone uninformed about this dark past in Canadian history.

There is the ghastly involvement of the Catholic church at the official level, in 16 of 70 dioceses, and by some of its religious orders.

Our society is in dire need of clear, open communication from the Catholic Church. But it is woefully unschooled in modern communications. Websites are not up to date, email addresses are lacking, press conferences an unknown thing.

Yet the bishops' first responsibility is as teachers and communicators. Almost all need to take a journalism or public relations course. Hire competent people, not to "spin" the news, but to think ahead, advise the boss, and know the necessity of telling the full story to a waiting public.

That means investing in research, writing, and publishing and in keeping good relations with media outlets and reporters. Because people sure aren't going to weekly church services and hearing bishops' letters anymore.

Today, skepticism deepens, negative public attitudes harden, and members of the church exit, as some Quebec Catholics have done publicly via the Declaration of Apostasy.

At the same time, almost all native leaders continue to call for a visit and apology from the

Pope as a necessary condition of reconciliation. It is a paradox.

I think one cause of the failure of leadership is the exclusion of laypeople from it. Members of this church have been placed in one of two categories, one above and one below. Only one group makes decisions, makes policies, makes declarations. Some of them are wrong and harmful. The membership today is restless, angry and disillusioned.

It is clericalism: the undue reverence of the priestly class by the lay class, to the detriment of both. The Church decides even the most intimate details of wedded life. This absolves the baptized from thinking too much or exercising proper oversight.

Those images of "sheep" and "flock" must be abandoned in 2021.

I was once elected to the Parish Council in my church in Quebec. The province had passed the Fabrique Act, whereby we had fundamental responsibility for financial matters. I strove unsuccessfully to carry it out. I visited the downtown archdiocesan office to complain because the parish priest paid us no mind, building a cottage in the Laurentians with donations. I quit, unable to do my duty. Sadly, I didn't speak out publicly.

Disempowered people are demoralized. It has been one cause of the scandal of thousands of priests worldwide involved in the sexual abuse of minors.

***"[T]he bishops' first responsibility is as teachers and communicators. Almost all need to take a journalism or public relations course."***

After the revelations at the Mount Cashel Orphanage in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1991, there was a massive exodus of parishioners. Catholic schools were defunded in the province. Newfoundland's dark humour soon spoke of the most dangerous job in the province being that of altar boy.

I speak of all of this because, although late, and bound to be disregarded by many observers, the Catholic church in Peterborough has just issued a letter on the burning issue of residential schools. It is from Bishop Daniel Miehm, and it contains factual information first gathered by the Archdiocese of Toronto and sent out by Peterborough communications director Deirdre Thomas, who was once Director of Education of the local Catholic schools. It begins: "We acknowledge the terrible suffering that took place and condemn the system established by the federal government and operated by faith communities. It is a sin of omission by failing to oppose residential school

policy and a sin of commission in staffing and administering some schools."

It continues with answers to 12 questions, including how many schools there were, what the goals were, whether the Vatican holds secret archives, and what is the status of apologies. What is the purpose of the delegation to Rome planned for late fall?

The statement is at :

[www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/about-us/residential](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/about-us/residential) schools.

May it be the first of many communication tools used often by this leadership.

**\*Rosemary Ganley** is a journalist, and a long-standing member of Toronto CNWE.

*\*\* This article was originally published in the Peterborough Examiner (July 29, 2021).*



## *Did you hear?*

### *America*

**Cardinal Marx, Archbishop of Munich, offers Pope Francis his resignation, citing 'responsibility for the catastrophe of sexual abuse'.**

**June 4, 2021 Gerard O'Connell**

Cardinal Marx told the pope that in the aftermath of the MHG survey commissioned by the German Bishops' Conference, "I stated in the cathedral of Munich that we have failed."... And this means that I must also draw personal consequences from this. This is becoming increasingly clear to me."

"I believe one possibility to express this willingness to take over responsibility is my resignation," Cardinal Marx said. "In doing so, I may be able to send a personal signal for a new beginning, for a new awakening of the church, not only in Germany. I would like to show that not the ministry is in the foreground but the mission of the Gospel. This too is an element of the pastoral care. I therefore strongly request you to accept this resignation."  
- Retrieved from the internet, June 5/21

### *Vatican News*

**Pope Francis rejects Cardinal Marx offer to resign**

Pope Francis rejects the resignation of Cardinal Reinhard Marx as Archbishop of Munich. "Thank you for your Christian courage, which does not fear to be humbled before the reality of sin," the Pope writes to the Cardinal. "Taking up the crisis, personally and communally, is the only fruitful path."

- Retrieved from the internet, Aug. 29/21



*Celebrating Mary Magdalene*

by

Victoria Marie\*



**A Lost Treasure**

To you, Mary Magdalene  
my thoughts keep returning  
In my heart I feel kinship  
grow from ember to burning

You, a woman at the cross  
understood his message and theology  
Jesus included and loved women  
a forgotten part of Christian  
cosmology

You walked with Jesus  
first to see Christ risen  
the disciples you tell  
say you're hysteria driven

You mistake Christ for the gardener  
When Teacher calls you by name  
with heart bursting, you know  
You will never be the same

Apostle to Apostles, a title  
Gregory the Great aimed to refute  
In sermons, in art, future popes  
keep on this defaming pursuit

Reclaiming your honour  
A task women vigorously pursued  
We celebrate your feast, your liturgy,  
is for us faith-nurturing food

In dismissing you, dismissing us  
sadly, what our brothers forget  
without you, without us  
they stray from the path Jesus set

Recently, our Pope Francis  
proclaimed your true worth  
woefully, we living women  
deemed less than from birth

We love our brothers and pray they  
will discover our worth and our  
measure,  
our hope, some day they'll admit  
they've lost eons of God-given  
treasure.  
Oh men, women are, amen.

Victoria Marie 2017-06-15

\***Rev. Dr. Victoria (vikki) Marie** is co-founder of the Vancouver Catholic Worker and priest/pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Tonantzin Community. She is an activist who supports racial and environmental justice issues.

Book review ...

Susan Roll\* on Ida Raming's book:

## 55 Years of Struggle for Women's Ordination



Ida Raming.  
**55 Years of Struggle for Women's Ordination in the Catholic Church. A Pioneer looks back.**

Translated by James A. Turner. Vienna / Zürich:  
LIT-Verlag, 2020.

German original 2018. ISBN: 978-3-643-91265-7  
(paperback), ISBN 978: 3-643-96265-2 (pdf). 127  
pp. €24.90.

Available as download.

have passed on while their goal has not (yet) been attained. Only Ida can tell the story with her own distinctive personality, accompanied by a commentary at once insightful and ironic. She never loses sight of the larger issues and implications of ending the magisterial refusal to countenance even discussion of women's ordination: an end to rejecting the gifts of the Spirit, women attaining equality so as to "breathe the air of freedom," challenging inherently anti-Christian male hegemony, and building the greater good of the Church itself.

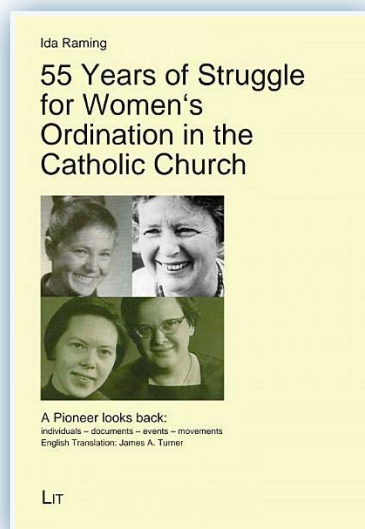
The history begins with the admission of women to the German universities in the 1920's, although they would not be admitted to study theology until 1946. A campaign to bring the issue forward began at the time of Vatican II and Pope John XIII's recognition of the women's movement. Ida traces the movement primarily through the European developments right up to the year 2020, including Maria 2.0, the Synodal Way, and the Catholic Women's Council (founded in 2019 for the German-speaking countries and globally in 2020). She has praise for several early Canadian prelates at the Council: Bishop Coderre and then-Bishop, later Cardinal Carter. But there is no mention of the remarkable 1970's initiative in which Cardinal Flahiff brought to Rome a request from the Canadian bishops to open discussion on women's ordination, after much committee work by Prof. Mary Schaefer (a CNWE member) and other women.

The first time I met Dr. Ida Raming was at the 1989 European Society of Women in Theological Research conference. I recognized her right away as one of the major figures in the movement for the ordination of women, and we had a very nice conversation. I felt like I'd met a celebrity.

My most recent visit with Ida took place in September 2019 while she was in hospital in Stuttgart following a fall. And darn it all, even lying flat in a hospital bed she kept up a steady discourse on her and her partner Iris Müller's lifelong passionate engagement for ordination, told funny stories and sent greetings to a raft of mutual acquaintances. I could hardly keep up.

This book is a testimony to that single-minded determination and single-hearted passion. But unlike her earlier publications this book tells the background story – the "history of the struggle" — of the movement for the ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church, primarily from the perspective of German-speaking Europe. The specific issue here has to do with the Vatican's refusal to open the "Amt," the official office of ordained priesthood, to women, and not with pastoral ministry as such.

Of the four original pioneers Ida cites, two have passed away (Gertrud Heinzemann and Iris Müller), and two (Josefa Theresia Münch and Ida herself) are still living. This gives the story urgency as well as poignancy, because at some point the witnesses will



This book will not only fill in some possible gaps in your knowledge of how the movement developed, but bring you into dialogue with a stalwart, still-struggling (and proud of it) pioneer.

\*Susan Roll resides in both Ottawa and Buffalo, NY. She is a longstanding member of Ottawa CNWE and is serving on CNWE's National Work Group.

Reflection

Cecily Mills\*:

*LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD*  
*The Shape of Transition Periods*



A little less than a year before, I had flown in the opposite direction, returning to Canada after spending three years in Nicaragua. At that time I couldn't wait to get back to Central America. "I haven't reached Miami yet and I'd like to be back in Nicaragua", I had written in my journal on the first lap of that long journey home. Little did I know then how long the journey back would be. The first day in Canada had been a total culture shock. I'd felt like I'd landed in a strange alien planet. My brother Mike had picked me up at the airport in Montreal. Everyone was asleep when we arrived at his house at 2 a.m. I woke up at 8 a.m. surprised that I hadn't heard a sound. I'd forgotten how soundproof houses are in North America. My sister-in-law, niece and nephew had already left for work or school and Mike was preparing breakfast.

After a few days with Mike and Nicole I had three weeks to wait in Quebec and Ontario before flying out to Milwaukee for an introductory weekend with the Volunteer Missionary Movement. I found it hard to wait until then, to put my future on hold for three weeks until I'd had a chance to evaluate VMM as a way to return to Central America. I felt that I was on a plane in a holding pattern. I was so impatient to land. And yet I knew that I must wait. I needed to take time to clear my vision, to refresh my dreams. In my impatience, I forgot that these delays, these holding patterns, can be blessings. I called to mind two such grace-filled delays. Once, I was coming into Montreal on a beautiful sunny autumn day for my mother's funeral. The air traffic controllers were on a work-to-rule strike creating numerous delays. Denied permission to land, our pilot had given us a grand tour of the area. I'd felt blessed that day. I had spent many happy years in Montreal and needed the comfort of these

*"I needed to take time to clear my vision, to refresh my dreams. ... I forgot that these delays, these holding patterns, can be blessings. I called to mind two such grace-filled delays."*

memories. Another time, early on a frigid Edmonton winter morning, my flight for Salt Lake City was cancelled due to mechanical problems and I was one of the last passengers to be redirected. I was sent to Seattle. Talk about a detour! Before we landed at Sea Tac we flew near Mount Rainier, its snowy coat glowing pink in the first rays of the sun. All I could think of as I marvelled at the sight of the majestic mountain that I had grown to love so much in the three years I'd lived in Seattle, was that God knew that I needed this moment and had planned this long detour to give it to me.

I savoured opportunities to be alone, to walk in nature. I felt happy to lose myself in books, especially Henri Nouwen's *Road to Daybreak*. Like me, Nouwen was impatient, in a hurry. Like me, at a crossroads

between two jobs, he found it hard just to wait. He wrote "I feel a burning desire to preach the Gospel, but I know in my heart that now is the time to pray, to read, to meditate, to be quiet and to wait until God clearly calls me ... God is not in a hurry." I was also undergoing a mild depression, with a common symptom, that my ability to make good and quick decisions had vanished. I postponed my departure on a new posting and went to Colorado for the Memorial Day VMM General Assembly. The environment there was warm, joyful, stimulating. The activities were visual, tactile and participatory. There was a lot of sharing. I was especially taken with the stories of VMM volunteers who had recently completed their two-year commitment. Equally important to me was meeting Gabe, VMM's Central American coordinator, who had visited several times in Chahal where I would be stationed.

Next morning I was waiting in the cafeteria line for breakfast when out of the blue I decided to go. Being a missionary meant being flexible! I could not wait for the “perfect” assignment, the “perfect” time. How could one ever foresee everything? I realized that my fear of the unknown was paralyzing. Deep down I knew that for me things always worked out better than expected. Like Saul, I’d been knocked off my horse. Immediately an intense feeling of contentment poured over me. I was going! When I stopped worrying I became free. I felt different: light, bubbly, hopeful.

Back in Edmonton I had all of July and August to myself. I spent a good part of this time “alone”, camping under a tent. Towards the end of the summer I felt ready to leave. The transition year had been very long and very hard. I needed to “come back” to be able to leave again. I needed to experience the “ending” before tackling a new beginning. It had taken me a year to learn that. Only then did I understand William Bridges’ words:

Endings and beginnings, with emptiness and germination in between. That is the shape of the transition periods in our lives and these times come far more frequently in adulthood and out far deeper into it than most of us imagined that they would.

**\*Cecily Mills** is a long-time CNWE member who has written a memoir about her time in Guatemala with the Volunteer Missionary Movement. **Jocelyn Rait** has excerpted her transition year between her times in Nicaragua and Guatemala and draws attention to the fact that this time cannot be rushed.

**Photo caption:** “By ‘my’ tree, on my way to the ‘bathroom’ in my Guatemalan nightgown and rubber boots!”

## *Pulse Beat of the New Energy*

*by*

*Eileen Curteis, ssa\**

*Peeling away  
the dark side  
of myself  
I am future oriented.*

*Sitting encased  
within my body  
is like driving a vehicle  
I have never driven  
before.*

*It’s like squeezing the air  
out of an old tire  
I no longer  
get diminished by.*

*With my soul intact  
I’m travelling  
in new zones  
that can no longer be  
calculated.*

*For miles around  
I can see  
the vastness of it.*

*Invigorated by God  
any stale energy  
is leaving me now.*



**\*Eileen Curteis**, Sister of St. Ann, is pictured at the right front, seated just beside your editor. 'Twas 1959 and we two were in Grade XI at St. Ann's Academy, Victoria BC. Close friends we were and though we are separated by thousands of kilometres now, we are still close. On August 12/21 Eileen wrote: "This poem is number 142 in my second book of the pandemic. I wasn't planning on writing anything further after the book *Exposed* but somehow the Spirit keeps gifting me and I remain open to this new Calling."



## *Letters:*

June 23, 2021

DoomGloom to ZoomBloom in 15 Months:

When I saw that Linda Spear could not be at the AGM because she was “preaching at a funeral”, I rejoiced.

I loved my time as a funeral celebrant (2006-9). With training and practice, I felt I was made for this.

Today I am still reflecting on the Sunday 12B readings from Job 38 and Mark 4: ever since I took the preaching course at Queen’s University in 2002, I’ve been writing *The Four Pages of the Sermon* each week as taught: Trouble in the Bible, Trouble in the World, then Grace in the Bible and Grace in the world....

For the Grace in the World part, today I wrote:

*We have fastened the bar of the door.  
Here shall you come, waves of sex and gender abuse and no further;  
Your billows and huffing and puffing BE STILLED.*

*Go back from where you came, the Dark Side.*

*We rebuke you: stormy sex offenders,  
secretive cover-uppers,  
teacup trauma queens.*

I am living my diaconate now by hosting Sanon Family Groups (Zoom only) for the family and friends of those affected by someone else’s sexual behaviour — [sanon.org](http://sanon.org)(1)

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1)The above entry is 215 words: one for **Each Child who Matters** found at the residential school in Kamloops BC.

**Elizabeth Larocque, Saint John NB**

...

August 29, 2021

We have a little local chapter of Canadian Women for Women of Afghanistan. Yesterday there was a downtown gathering, well attended.

Minister Monsef, always calm, spoke. Her mother, Soriya, wept telling us about desperate phone calls in the middle of the night from classmates and distant relatives.

If we ever needed motivation, we have it here.

**Rosemary Ganley, Peterborough ON**

# Reflection

by *Monica Cullum\** as she turns 90!



**Editor's Intro: Being a fortunate recipient of Monica's 90th birthday letter, I asked and received her permission to edit it for inclusion in TSK. What follows is the best I could do with her nearly 4000 word marvellous missive. I trust I've done it justice.**

On August 25<sup>th</sup> I mark a significant birthday. It's said that friendships extend our lives so I know I have been blessed. Last week I spoke with my friend Phyllis in Toronto. Phyllis and I joined the Toronto Police in 1958. I came from Sudbury and Phyllis, a teacher, from Smooth Rock Falls – much further north. When people heard this, some knew a little about Sudbury but few had heard of Smooth Rock Falls. We formed a bond with those in our small circle – women from Scotland, England, Toronto and towns nearby, as well as Phyllis and me from the far north, all embarking on this new adventure. Indeed, we have been friends for over 63 years, brought together by a desire for adventure.

I think I had always wanted adventure and challenge but had no role models to show the way. Women became teachers, nurses or stenographers. When I worked in a hospital over the summer during high school the head nurse tried to persuade me that nursing was the career for me. Instead, I worked at numerous jobs knowing full well that as a woman my aspirations would be limited. Before my application to the Toronto Police, I had worked with the first privately owned TV station in Canada and did a morning show on radio and as a reporter, covering the courts and social events; in a bank; in a jewelry store repair department; for a municipality in the tax department; and for Kresge's – developing window displays. All provided me with variety and experience that I have carried with me. Most gave me confidence even when I knew there was no chance for advancement. As I look back I realize that I knew women were the workers and men were the leaders no matter what their

qualifications. Harassment — whether overt or implied — was a common occurrence.

Over the years I have had many friendships. Many of these dear ones are now gone – like Connie my oldest friend, Mary who joined me in my quest for university degrees, Audrey who was also one of the *first* in the Toronto Police, and Jane who encouraged me to develop my style. This makes the current ones even more precious.

One aspect of my friendships has never been based on a passion for movies. I have never been a fan. All the superficial glitz and glam of the Academy Awards do not make for me an assessment of success.

*"I like the page I'm on right now in my book of life even when I'm not sure what the book cover will say about my journey or about me as the writer."*

Surprisingly though, movies-made-for-TV have seen me through the hours of isolation brought on by Covid. You can only read for so long and watching a TV movie is convenient. With the help of Canadian tax dollars made in communities across the country, they entertain me. Opportunities for reflection are many – relationships, love, grief, and life choices are often part of the script. They inspire me to dream to taste chocolate in Belgium, visit an animal reserve in Africa, experience the beauty of Fiji, eat profiteroles in Paris, ride a gondola in Banff, sing in a pub in

Ireland, watch the northern lights in the Yukon, build a snow maze in Manitoba, stay in the Ice Hotel in Quebec or go pipising (clam digging) bare foot in Australia even when my realistic bucket list does not include these adventures. Strangely, live theatre or movies in theatres have never done this for me.

Actually, I have found a few things to do other than to watch TV movies. I have continued my association with the National Council of Women of Canada especially in advocacy work. Firearms control, federally sentenced women, accessible

child care and general issues impacting women's general issues impacting women's equality as well as the change to work environments continue to take my attention. We were pleased to see early learning and child care included in the federal budget as well as buy-in by several provinces and new policy adopted by the Canadian Medical Association on firearms control. I continue my support of the Catholic Network for Women's Equality as well. Also, over more than 8 months, I was involved with a challenging project for the Police Chorus (established in 1994) amending the Constitution and By-laws. The Chorus hasn't met to sing since March 2020 – a result of Covid. Trying to keep in touch with friends by any means possible has been a priority. Of course, reading is always a go-to. Right now, V.C. Andrews' 'Heaven', the first in her Casteel Family Series. Got this idea from a TV movie!!! And yes, I have had both vaccine jabs – Moderna.

Most of all I have been loved and supported by my family near and far. My dear Earl never lost faith in me and my endeavours even when he sometimes thought me crazy to embark on an unfamiliar path. ... My daughters, my grand-

children and my great-granddaughters all keep me going.

Life, after all, is like a novel with a beginning and an end and many chapters in between." ... We do have some control, moving from chapter to chapter, facing opportunity and change. ... What is the dress code for that? The Poem, 'When I am an Old Woman I will wear purple and a red hat' written by Jenny Joseph, then age 29, may give us a clue. It is an ode to non-conformity. We CAN write the script for the movie that is our life.

Recently, I was invited to lunch by a friend. Make-up and dress-up were *de rigueur*. It was one of those special times.

I like the page I'm on right now in my book of life even when I'm not sure what the book cover will say about my journey or about me as the writer. That's irrelevant. I'm here and I'm still writing my novel. Will it be a TV movie? Not a chance. (**Editor's note: Ahem! Monica, we are not sure about that!**)

\*Monica Cullum serves as an active member of Ottawa CNWE.

♀



## *About your CNWE Membership...*

***If you received this issue of TSK directly from CNWE, your membership is most probably up-to-date! However, if you're not sure, or if a friend forwarded TSK to you and you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Christine Gebel at [christinemgebel@gmail.com](mailto:christinemgebel@gmail.com) or call her at 437-345-5197.***

***CNWE membership expires March 31st of each year. You'll be reminded by the membership coordinator in January that it's time to renew!***



**Heartfelt Congratulations from all of us in  
CNWE  
to  
AMANDA WALTHER!**



**Want to know about CNWE?**

**~ See next page for our Vision, Mission, and Core Values**

**~ Go to: [www.cnwe.ca](http://www.cnwe.ca)**

**~ Visit us and 'like' us on Facebook: Catholic Network for Women's Equality - Canada**

**~ Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeFIJpA7axo>**

**Don't think twice! Pass this issue of *THE SEED KEEPERS* on!**





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**CNWE'S VISION:**

Justice and equality for all persons manifested in word and action in the Catholic church and throughout the world.

***The Seed Keepers***  
**Publication Team**

Virginia Lafond

Jocelyn Rait

...

**CNWE'S MISSION:**

As a Canadian organization, we connect, support and represent people who seek justice for all the baptized within the Catholic church, for women throughout the world, and for all of creation.

**CNWE NWG**

Louise Dowhan-Bertouille  
Winnipeg MB

Shaunagh Gravelines  
Sault Ste. Marie ON

Katherine Cameron  
Regina SK

Therese Koturbash,  
Dauphin MB

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**CNWE'S CORE VALUES:**

**Inclusivity**

**Creativity**

**Celebration**

**Compassion**

**Solidarity**

**Collaboration**

**Dialogue**