

CIRCULAR No 3 - August, 2009.

Dear Members,

At the Provincial Presidents' Meeting in Canterbury, 19 to 26 June 2009, we agreed that **the Role of Mothers, and Mary's vision for a Union of Mothers from all classes**, was very relevant in today's world.

We looked at our roles as encouragers and teachers, how we advocate on behalf of others, the needs of our Provinces as we Pilgrimage Together in bringing people to Christ in many different ways.

In our closing service, we were urged to continue to be reconcilers and peacemakers in our communities.

I will be detailing an exercise that I hope each Diocesan Executive will take time to complete before the next AC in preparation for a discussion session. You will have this information by the end of the year.

ADVOCACY.

By now you will have received Libbie's Newsletter and her comments on this subject. It was mentioned at the Canterbury Meeting. I have just returned from a meeting of the Australian Womens Coalition (AWC), where time was spent discussing the importance of advocacy in today's political climate.

Forums are being planned for September and October, mostly in capital cities, and I will have the opportunity to invite a few people to participate. They in turn, will be asked to encourage/train others in advocacy. Please consider carefully who you would like to send to these meetings as we may not have much time to respond. As yet I do not know the exact times and venues of these meetings.

AWC.

An issues paper on Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace (EOWW), will be sent out from the Office of Women in the near future. It will seek a quick response. Responses will be directed to policy makers in the Office of Women. Please respond to this issues paper as it could help shape working conditions for women and impact on our lives. We had speakers on the subject from Sydney University and the National Federation of Australian Women (NFAW). Both presentations gave background statistics and information which show that financial equity for women in Australia is deteriorating.

AGMs and Conferences.

The next two months will be very busy with a number of AGMs and Conferences taking place around Australia. I trust that yours will be a time of prayer and fruitful discussion. I will be attending Conferences in Brisbane and North Queensland and Grafton's AGM; travelling to Perth to work on the Handbook update and spending the weekend with my daughter and her family.

While in England, Ed presented my Australia Report to Wakefield Diocese while I was in Canterbury. After the Canterbury Meeting, I presented my report to Oxford Diocese in a typical English garden setting, (the threatening storm held off); and later to the Council of Southwell/Nottingham. We also stayed with members of Dioceses in Ireland and had many discussions about MU. All these members send their best wishes to MU Australia.

NEW BADGE.

The new Australia logo badge was well received as a gift in England. Ed loves wearing his on his jacket lapel.

NEW PRAYER BOOK.

Our new Prayer books are in the Dioceses. A very big THANK YOU to all those who helped revise it.

FAMILIES WORLDWIDE.

I have just received word from Reg Bailey that progress has been made. Elizabeth will be sent material that can be reproduced in Australia for our own use. I hope that each branch will receive a copy as it is a vital link with what is happening Worldwide.

Best wishes,

Deane.

19 August, 2009.