

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

One of the great opportunities of being a member of CLA, and especially President of CLA or a member of the national board, is the chance to meet people in all parts of the United States. Although the number of chapters is not as large as we would like, there are enough to have a truly wonderful presence of CLA in all areas of the United States. Recently I had the chance to travel to Wisconsin and meet with the members of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Catholic Library Association. It was a great trip where I caught up with friends who are active on the board and who participated in Leadership, but it also gave me the chance to meet the members who support the WCLA and do an awesome job in the Catholic libraries in the Catholic schools of Wisconsin. Thank you to Jean Elvekrog for her wonderful hospitality at the Dells as well as at her home in Waunakee. Jean knows one of my weaknesses is visiting quilt stores and lucky for me, there is a quilt store located a few blocks from Jean's home. So my trip was doubly special in not only meeting great CLA members and new friends but also the chance to visit a wonderful quilt shop.

Following my visit to Wisconsin, I traveled about twenty miles to the Neumann Chapter meeting of CLA at Archbishop Ryan High School in Northeast Philadelphia. The Neumann Chapter is my home chapter and I had the wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and meet new librarians/members. The meeting was well planned with helpful sessions, networking opportunities and the chance to participate in planning the spring meeting. The spring meeting was actually planned by polling the librarians in attendance so that when they left they had already saved the date in their calendars. It's in my calendar and I'm looking forward to meeting up with all these won-

derful librarians again. A special thank you goes to Mary Rochford, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Educational Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, for her support of the Neumann Chapter by encouraging the archdiocesan principals to send their librarians to this meeting.

At both meetings, the members were energized about CLA, excited about the opportunities for scholarships and enthusiastically talking about making every effort to attend the national convention in Indianapolis. Here's another chance to travel and meet new CLA friends/members and renew acquaintances from past conventions. As for me, I get to visit another new city. This December issue contains the entire convention program. I know you will find something of interest and new experiences that will make it worth your while to make the trip to Indianapolis. There will be lots of wonderful workshops with terrific speakers, interesting authors and awardees especially Vera B. Williams and Walter Dean Myers, to name just two. There are opportunities to network with fellow librarians, visit exhibits, pray together and consider touring the city, either its art museum or some of its quilt shops. There will be lots to do, lots to see, so come and do it with some really wonderful people, the members of the Catholic Library Association. If I'm not able to travel to your chapter meeting, be sure that I will be looking for you at the convention.

During this blessed Advent season, please know that I will keep all the members of CLA and their families in my thoughts and prayers. I want to wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas, as well as a healthy and happy New Year.



President, CLA