

Prayer vigil for trafficked persons

By Judy Albiani

On Fri. March 26, the Winnipeg Diocesan Catholic Women's League held a prayer vigil in the form of the Way of the Cross at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Charleswood.

The program was written by Sr. Johanna Jonker of Micah

House, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg's Centre for Social Justice. The reflections between the Stations were on the true-life story of one young woman's experience of being exploited and abused. Her name is Liliana.

Msgr. Maurice Comeault led the praying of the Stations

which were beautifully linked to the experiences and suffering of both Jesus and the trafficked. The story of Liliana was told by four voices, two female and two male, two younger and two older. This interplay reflected the reality of who is affected by the issue of human trafficking, which is all of

us.

The summary at the end of the service included excerpts from the Palermo Protocol, a paper written by the Western Bishops Conference. The summary also included statistics of the sexual exploitation of young people in Winnipeg.

It was a very powerful experience and

it shone a bold light on the situation these women find themselves in. There were approximately 70 people in attendance.

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