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# THE UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

REGISTERED CHARITY No: 249901

**ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM**

Under the Patronage of His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham



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The Union of Catholic Mothers was formed in Birmingham in 1913 at the express wish of Cardinal Bourne, from its parent organisation The Catholic Women's League.

The aims of The Union of Catholic Mothers were:

- to help married women to uphold the sacramental character and permanence of marriage
- to live in unselfish love, observing God's laws
- to assist them to bring up their children as practising Catholics and public spirited citizens.
- to teach and defend Christian values in family life and ensure a

Catholic education for their children

- to offer love, sympathy and practical help to the family experiencing difficulty

There was to be no class distinction, but a union of Catholic mothers, rich and poor, to pool their knowledge, to share their experiences, to help one another and to pray.

At that time the U.C.M. was known as "The Catholic Women's League Union of Catholic Mothers," and this title appears on the Birmingham Archdiocesan President's badge to this day.

In 1928 the U.C.M sought a greater measure of independence in order to develop it's own potentialities. A special constitution was drawn up and the U.C.M. was given new status and became a Standing Committee. New foundations sprang up everywhere, and in 1938 the Hierarchy separated The Union of Catholic Mothers from The Catholic Women's League. The U.C.M. became an autonomous body, independent of any other organisation, with it's own National Committee, Diocesan Branches and Parish Foundations.

The Oratory Foundation

meets each Tuesday evening, after Benediction, in the Lower Cloister Hall. On the second Tuesday of every month, an open meeting is held after the 12.45p. m. Mass, for the benefit of those not wishing to venture out at night.

The Union was founded to help Catholic mothers to keep the faith alive in their homes, to support others with love and encouragement and to pray for vocation to the priesthood. For nearly ninety years the U.C.M. have continued to live up to these values of family life. Long may they continue to do so. ■

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