



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

March 2015 Edition

Featuring the Toronto Diocese and the Christian Family Life Standing Committee

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

Betty's Blog



Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacity...
If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior...
If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with women...Mahatma Gandhi

I write this to you on International Women's Day. A day that I hope you took the time to celebrate all the wonderful women who have gone before us to lay down the path for us to follow. The women who are with us now that mentor and care for us. The young women who we look to with hope for the future. "Make it happen".

The theme is "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!"

As women of faith we need not look far for those that have inspired us and continue to guide us. Throughout all of history there have been women that at first glance would be the ones you would least expect to make a difference. With their true faith in God and love of His people they moved mountains. "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called."

The most incredible woman of all is Mother Mary with her selfless "Yes" that formed our history. The beautiful story of Mary's encounter with Elizabeth. It is that simple yet symbolic and profound gesture of compassion where our new national theme was derived from and what we as members are all about. Reaching out to others. In her wisdom she told them "Do whatever He tells you" and it still speaks to us thousands of years later. The amazing strength to endure the sword that pierced her heart to see her only son, crucified and put to death knowing it was meant to be. The devoted mother who stayed at the foot of the cross when others fled. Then how she held her son, Our Lord's, lifeless body wrapped in the agony of her own.

At a time when woman were excluded, Mary Magdalene had the courage to follow Jesus, learn his teachings and be the first to proclaim "I have seen the Lord!" Veronica's compassion gave her the courage to break through the crowds and past the soldiers to wipe the face of Jesus. These are the women, and many female saints, have that led the way on the journey of faith that we look to as role models for guidance.

I have always agreed with the phrase, "It is important to know where you are from to know where you are going." Knowing our history is how we can tell our story. Our faith, our families, the League. We are quickly approaching our 100th anniversary and look with gratitude to pioneers Katherine Hughes and Bellelle Guerin, who our award is named after. It was Bellelle Guerin, author and social activist that was the president of the Catholic Women's Club in 1917. In June 1920, she called a meeting in Montreal to consider the unification of the branches of the CWL that existed in major cities across Canada. She was elected first dominion president of the national federation, the Catholic Women's League of Canada. The following year at the first national convention, held in Toronto, she expressed her belief in the future of the organization. "We may be said to be laying the cornerstone of an edifice that will arise fair and beautiful, strong and proud before the eyes of the



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world."

During her tenure as national president Bellelle saw the CWL become an important force for the integration of Catholic immigrants into the community, as well as an advocate for legislation affecting women, such as minimum wage acts and the Mothers' Allowance Act of Ontario. She promoted what she termed "Catholic feminism," which, according to her, called for a woman "to direct thought, to guard morals, and to carry her influence into the scale of justice whenever righteousness demands." Sometime after 1921 she changed the League's motto from *Laborare est orare* ("To labour is to pray") to the more inclusive and patriotic "For God and Canada."

Bellelle's role in the CWL was recognized in 1922 at a meeting of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues in Rome, when she became the first woman in Canada to receive *La Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* from the papacy. She was also favoured with a letter praising her good works and with an apostolic benediction from the Vatican. By 1923 the national membership of the CWL had grown to 50,000. At the annual convention held in Halifax, Bellelle was made honorary president for life. Bellelle Guerin died in 1929 at age 79. That same year the Montreal branch of the CWL established an annual scholarship in her memory at Marianopolis College, a private college for women

In 1906 Katherine Hughes moved to Edmonton as a journalist on the Edmonton Bulletin, where her duties included reporting on sessions of the Alberta legislature. Hughes remained active in the Canadian Women's Press Club and participated in the work of the Women's Canadian Club of Edmonton. In order to assist newly arrived Catholic immigrants, especially those from Eastern Europe, she established the Catholic Women's League of Edmonton in November 1912, the first branch of an organization that was not launched nationally until 1920. A dynamic, highly talented, and intelligent person who showed an amazing ability to transcend social, political, and cultural barriers, to accommodate herself to her new surroundings – whether on an Indian reserve, in the west, or amongst Irish activists – and to thrive. Her strong Catholic faith and belief in causes remained the cornerstones in her life.

All our past presidents, provincially and nationally have continued that esteemed tradition.

I recently attended my last national meeting as your president. There I sat in awe of the amazing women who sat around the table representing Canada. Each with different talents and gifts yet with the same faith and passion for the League and all it represents. Their incredible sense of spirituality radiates in all that they do.

This Lenten season, think of all those that have given of themselves to those in need. Those who have and continue to reached out with compassion to the broken hearted, poor and marginalized. Give thanks to God for them and for you because you are one of them.

Wishing you and your families the "Joy" of Easter.

"Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love." Mother Teresa

Blessings and hugs,



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Focus on Family **Submitted by Christian Family Life Chair, Marlin Taylor**

This is the year Pope Francis will be welcoming the bishops, clergy and lay experts from around the world to discuss and focus on the global family of faith.

Focus on the Family Canada newsletter gives some eye opening information on Family of origin.

What is a family of Origin?

Our family of origin is the family we were born or adopted into. It's the people who raise us and who we spend most of our childhood with. The importance of an individual's family of origin is enormous. Since parenting shapes a child's core beliefs about himself or herself, our family's beliefs about what it means to be human and the purpose of life will have a tremendous influence on what we learn and how we develop. These beliefs will, in turn, inform every decision and choice you make and every relationship you have.

The beliefs, values and rules of a family are passed down from one generation to the next through living life together daily, and this is how an unhealthy or healthy family of origin is perpetuated. It also points out "In marriage all too often man and women look to their spouse for what they didn't get in childhood from their parents.

I will quote two statements that they emphasized on.

The Father wound:

We all come into the world helpless, dependent and needing acceptance, to be treated as worthy, and to be blessed. The *father wound* is the absence of this love from your birth father. The wound can be caused by:

Neglect – I am unimportant

Absence – Divorce, separation, death

Abuse – Mental, physical, sexual, spiritual

Control – Oppressive domination

Withholding – *Love, blessings and/or affirmation*, deficiencies that lead to a profound lack of self-acceptance.

It states "often a person's image of God the father is contaminated by the personal

The Mother wound:

We all come into the world needing the tender presence of a mother's touch, nurture, care and love. In fact the mother's influence begins when we are in the womb. The absence of this mother love is a wound that is created in three ways:

Mother is separated from the child through:

illness of the mother

mother's death

divorce

The experience he or she has with the birth father."

Again it states: "Jesus...provides an assurance of worth and helps you know the True Self that He created."

I found this information helpful in the new face of "Family" for more details please check the website: Focus on the family Canada <http://www.focusonthefamily.ca/>



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In keeping with this year's national theme, "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission", the **Toronto Diocesan Council** has invited its members to consider this theme along with the subtheme "One Family in Christ". Councils have been asked to consider hosting an event in their parishes that would encourage participation by parish families, in all their diverse forms and functions. By lending their support and enthusiasm to these parish social events, councils are endeavouring to help create stable, happy marriages and families. Also, the hope is that parish families will see the parish community as part of their community of love, support and encouragement. In this way, the family may be restored as the basic unit of society.



Euthanasia and Assisted suicide: my social justice project.

Since the recent ruling by the Supreme Court regarding assisted suicide, we all know the policy has serious implications for Christians who believe in the Sanctity of life. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario voted on March 6, 2015 on a draft policy relating to: "Professional Obligations and Human Rights" We as Catholic women have to continue to voice our concerns to our MP, MPP and our physicians. We are encouraged to keep praying and saying those Rosaries that the right decisions are made.

Submitted by Christian Family Life Chair, Marlin Taylor

Annual Pot Luck Luncheon for the Nativity Youth Group

"The CWL at **Nativity of Our Lord in Humber Valley Region** connects with the youth in many ways. For example, we have an annual event every February that has become very popular with both the youth of our parish and our members. We hold a pot luck lunch for the Youth Group following their 11:30 Sunday Mass. The ladies prepare pans of mac & cheese, pasta, pizza and many of the youth favourites. It is a rewarding experience for everyone involved. The ladies enjoy spending time with the youth and the youth enjoy connecting with the 'mothers' and 'grandmothers' of the CWL .



Pictured here are:

Mary Ann Amodeo
Courtney Storm
Stephanie Blaquera
Ana Garcia
Nancy Fenech
Donna Capobianco
Stacey Thompson with her



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Family and Ministry to Seniors & Youth



Last Fall the CWL at **Nativity of Our Lord in Humber Valley Region** held a movie night for the parish. This was so well received that we had another one this past February. There was no charge to the families in the

parish and CWL provided refreshments. It was a great way to involve the Youth Group again and they had their popcorn machine operating at high speed. Over 100 people were in attendance. Everyone is already looking forward to the next one!



Promotion of Vocations



Mindful of instructions from documents of Vatican II that remind us, "the work of encouraging and fostering vocations belongs to the entire Christian community", the **Toronto Diocesan Council** of The Catholic Women's League endeavours to create the opportunity for people to discover their true vocation. Again this year, over two hundred CWL members attended the Serra Ordinandi Dinner to show their support and appreciation for the six men from St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater

Seminary. Every year Imelda Santos, the 2014 Diocesan recipient of the Bellelle Guerin for her service to the League, takes charge of collecting a spiritual bouquet for that year's Ordinandi Class. This year, over one million prayers, masses, sacrifices, rosaries and other devotions were presented to the Ordinandi by our Diocesan president, Mary Capobianco. Many councils also sponsored youth from their parish to attend. In the photo are (l to r) Scarborough Regional Chair Suzanne Cockburn and from St. Bartholomew CGL Amy Vaz, Sheilah D'Souza (councilor) and Nicole de Guzman.



**Recognition: Holy Family Catholic Women's League
London, ON**



Marriage and Family

Saint Maria Goretti CWL council along with members of the parish Knights of Columbus hosted an event in honour of the 60th birthday of their pastor, Fr. Edwin Galea as well as Deacon Ramon's 10th anniversary of ordination to the diaconate. Over two hundred parishioners were served a mouthwatering meal and enjoyed cake at the end of the event. They are indeed "One (big) Family in Christ"!

10 year pin

ADAMIAK, Elizabeth
ARMSTRONG, Ellie
CANDUSSO, Carol
CONNOLLY, Cecelia
CORRIGAN-LOBB, Caroline
CUSHING, Heather
HARTNEY, Jackie
HEALEY, Pat
LAVIGNE, Gisele
MARTIN, Barb
McCONVILLE, Margaret
MEINERT, Elizabeth
MORGAN, Mary Ann
PARSONS, Alice
VLASMAN, Hilda

25 year pin

BLACKETT, Kathleen
JOHNSTON, Dora
LOOBY, Maureen
LEENDERS, Willy
LYNCH, Lorraine
McGUIRE, Mona
O'MEARA, Marie
POL, Dorothy
SALTERS, Anne
SCARFE, Anna Mary
SMITH, Barb
STARRATT, Sue
TROLLER, Terry
VERSTEEGH, Mary Lou

40 year pin

BARRETT, Doris
BEVIL, Monica
FINNERTY, Rosemarie
GOURE, Simonne
GYSBERS, Catharina
HAGGARTY, Theresa
HOOPER, Rosina
KROETSCH, Mary
McKINLEY, Eunice
METTHAM, Helen
MURRAY, Karen
O'BRIEN, Mary Jo
PLOUFFE, Edna
VANDIERENDONCK, Cathy
Van Dyk, Mary



50 year pin

BOYER, Aneatha
BROCK, Ruth
HAGARTY, Jean
HAMELIN, Joan
HESSMANS, Elizabeth
McLAUGHLIN, Pat
RYAN, Freida
SERT, Julie
SWITALA, Maria
TERPSTRA, Joanne
VERHALLEN, Annie
WILLBURGER, Ilse
Valvasoria, Diane
Rostenberg, Elizabeth



60 year pin

DUCHARME, Ulene
NAGLE, Mary
OFF, Shirley
PARKER, Mona



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The Seminar on Life and Family (COLF) is March 19-20 2015: Double Tree Hotel, 1170 Chemin Aylmer Gatineau Quebec J9H 7L3. For more info check: www.colf.ca. Hotel toll free: 1800-807-1088. To book on line: www.doubletreeregatineau.com. If anyone in the Ottawa area can attend, the Agenda looks very interesting.

2015 Seminar on Life & the Family
**WHEN LIFE TAKES
US BY SURPRISE**
19-20 March 2015, in Gatineau (near Ottawa)
REGISTER NOW!

*Our next issue will be in April
Featuring the London Diocese and
the Spiritual Development Standing
Committee*

