



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



## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

**November 2015 Edition**

**Featuring the Diocese of Kingston and the Legislation Standing Committee**

**ONE** HEART  
VOICE  
MISSION

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***Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>***

***First Sunday of Advent***

***Year C***



### *Pauline's Ponderings...*

#### **Greetings:**

Yesterday at mass Father Terry's homily brought closure to what I should write about for this month's ponderings.... It is not often that we attend mass on Sunday and it is All Saints Day.... He said that this day entrusts us with three tasks...

First task: Remember the saints of the past.

Second task: Acknowledge the saints of today.

Third task: Claim our own place in the communion of saints.

Pondering this, I easily could fulfill the first two tasks. We all have our favourite saints that we think about and pray to regularly. In this first year our project across the province will focus on today's saints and blessed.

Task three is a whole new pondering.... In our creed we state that we believe in the communion of saints.... that is the faithful of Christ who are here to do the Lord's work.... we as members do this work each and every day in small ways. Father Terry also mentioned a young boy's definition of a saint after being in church with his mother who pointed out different images of the saints in the stained glass windows...his definition: "the saints are the ones who let the light shine through them." Each of us is a living saint...how brightly does the light of Christ shine through you?

November is a month for remembering, so take a moment of your time to remember. Remember our loved ones who have gone before us, our wonderful country that afford us so many things and the love of our heavenly Father.



We remember the men and women  
who have served  
and who continue to serve our country  
during times of war, conflict and peace.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead: Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved: and now we lie  
In Flanders fields!*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you, from failing hands, we throw  
The torch: be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields*

*Composed by Lieutenant Colonel John  
McCrae at the battlefield on May 3, 1915  
during the second battle of Ypres, Belgium*

**St. Joseph's CWL Council, Kingston**, enjoys a program titled **Speaker Series**. Although a simple concept, it has reaped rich rewards. The Chairs of the Community Life Standing Committee discerned opportunities not only to have their members minister within the community but also to bring the community to them. Once the concept was adopted, we determined topics of interest to the members and resources in the community to match these topics. This step continues to unfold. Next, we determined format, agenda space, and recognition to the presenter. Spiritual development, business and social aspects of the meetings remain intact. One-half hour is allotted to the speaker either at the beginning or end of the meetings, whatever is mutually convenient. For recognition, a donation of \$50 is given to a charity of the speaker's choice.

We have been enriched by such topics as, poverty reduction, mental health, personal witnesses, aging wisely, and creating peace, to name but a few.

Submitted by Lee George and Alice Gazeley, current co-chairs, Community Life Standing Committee  
St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League Council, Kingston, ON



**The December issue will feature the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall and Ottawa and the Education and Health Standing Committee.**

**Stay tuned!**



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In an effort to encourage leadership among League members, **Sacred Heart of Jesus Council, Marmora**, are endeavouring to show that they love and honour their leaders by presenting service pins.

On April 26, 2015, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Diocesan President Margie Royle presented Margaret Monk, a 60+ year member and former president of Sacred Heart of Jesus Council in Marmora, with the prestigious Bellelle Guerin award. Following Mass, a luncheon was held with over 100 guests attended.

Five Maple Leaf Service Pins were presented at Mass on October 4th and the recipients were honoured at our annual "Grandmother Night" meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Sisters in Spirit Vigil

At the beginning of the October General Meeting at **St. Gregory the Great Council, Picton, ON**, a '**Sisters in Spirit Vigil**' was held. Members gathered to remember and reflect on murdered and missing aboriginal women across Canada, as suggested by NWAC (Native Women's Association of Canada). The vigil began with the recitation of **The Great Spirit Prayer**: <http://www.manataka.org/page1040.html>

A picture of St. Kateri Tekakwitha dressed in red, was on the centre table with a simple branch from a red maple tree. One of our members read to us and shared photos of the REDress Project, <http://www.redressproject.org> and the installation of Winnipeg Metis artist Jaime Black.

A wooden bowl held paper 'rings' with names of several of these missing women written on them. Each member lit a candle and placed one ring on their candle as we listened to the sung version of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Each decade of the Chaplet prompted members to add another ring to their candle, so that each member contemplated five names during this vigil. It was a very moving and reflective prayer service. It helped to unite us with the sufferings of the families of our aboriginal sisters.



Submitted by St. Gregory the Great CWL Council, Picton, ON



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*Winds of Change*

**Legislation Standing  
Committee**

**Carol Richer, Chairperson**

In his homily during his daily Mass at Santa Marta on September 16, 2013, Pope Francis spoke of the two virtues required of good leaders -- *love for the people and humility*. He stated "You can't govern without loving the people and without humility! And every man, every woman who has to take up the service of government, must ask themselves two questions: 'Do I love my people in order to serve them better? Am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?' If you don't ask those questions, your governance will not be good. The man or woman who governs -- who loves his people is a humble man or woman." Pope Francis also noted that citizens cannot be indifferent to politics. "None of us can say, 'I have nothing to do with this, they govern .... Politics, according to the Social Doctrine of the Church, is one of the highest forms of charity, because it serves the common good". He further stated "A good Catholic meddles in politics, offering the best of himself, so that those who govern can govern.... We give the best of ourselves, our ideas, suggestions, the best, but above all the best is prayer. Let us pray for our leaders, that they might govern well..."

Canada has voted. We have a new government. We are being promised change, but what kind of change can we expect? The onus is going to be on us to speak up, and to fight for what we believe in. As Pope Francis has stated, we must pray for our leaders.

By the time you read this, our new Prime Minister will have named his cabinet. We will know who is responsible for what. It would be fitting to congratulate each of them on their election.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, our Catholic Women's League National President and many others have written to the government voicing our concerns. Check both websites to stay current with what is happening. Remember, the National President is the only person who can speak on behalf of The League.

The new government will be laying out its plan with the presentation of the Speech from the Throne in early December. Once that date is confirmed, mark it on your calendar so that you can hear first-hand what the plan for change is going to encompass.

There is an old saying that tells us, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, you have never been in a tent with a mosquito." If one pesky little mosquito can command that much attention, don't underestimate the power that your voice has to make a difference. How we respond to the injustices that plague society lets the world know who we are and how we care.