



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

April 2017 Edition
Featuring the Diocese of London
and the Spiritual Development Standing Committee

Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call

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70 years of Faith filled Service!

**Plan now to attend the 70th
Annual Ontario Provincial Council
Convention**

**July 8 – 12, 2017
Thunder Bay ON**

**Registration forms and
information at www.cwl.on.ca**

Come join your League Sisters



Pauline's Ponderings...

Happy Spring!

Snow is melting and days are warmer ... how wonderful is that! Most likely, parts of this vast province have daffodils, crocuses and tulips, popping up everywhere. Perhaps a robin has greeted you. All these wonderful signs of new life bring to mind my journey as an Easter person. At the Easter Vigil, our RCIA team will welcome a wonderful young woman into full communion with the church. Each of you has travelled a journey of one kind or another in the recent past. Take time to celebrate where it has taken you. Perhaps the outcome has not been exactly what you had hoped for, but be assured, if God brings you to it, He will see you through it.

In the most recent weeks I have poured over diocesan annual reports to help me prepare Ontario's report for the national annual report book. I am in awe of all that you have accomplished in one year. At your diocesan conventions you will hear a part of that report. Once you have, give yourself a pat on the back ... it is only because of you that it could be penned.

I encourage councils to join with our sisters across the country on May 4, for the *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative and Hospice Care*. The *Care Kit* is available on the national website.

Preparations are moving along very well in preparation to greet you in Thunder Bay in July for the 70th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention. Word on the street is that the anniversary committee is planning a grand celebration! In honour of Canada's sesquicentennial anniversary of Canadian Confederation plan to wear red or white on Monday July 10, 2017.

Wishing you all the joy of this most holy Easter season. The Lord has risen....He is risen indeed!



Diocesan Convention

On April 24-26, 2017 close to 400 Catholic women of faith will gather at the Arden Park Best Western Plus in Stratford ON for their 97th Annual London Diocesan Convention. The theme this year, *Inspired by the Spirit - Women Respond to God's Call*, will be most evident through the celebration of daily mass, prayer services and encounters with sister delegates. There will be lots of red and white to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial as well.

Keynote speaker, on Tuesday will be Pamela Bryson-Weaver, Her topic will be "Autism Spectrum Disorders". Pamela is the driving force behind the website LivingAutismNow.com and author of "Living Autism Day-by-Day". Three full days of faith, fun and fellowship are planned giving attendees every opportunity to learn, share and experience the gifts of this wonderful spiritual women's organization.



The May edition of the ON-Line Newsletter will feature councils from the Hearst and Timmins Dioceses and the Past President/Historian position.

FEATURING COUNCILS FROM THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

As a Year of Mercy project, the **London Region** (19 councils of the London Diocese), decided to fund raise for the London Community Chaplaincy. The LCC provides support to children and families living in two of the largest low income housing complexes in the city of London. A beautiful handmade quilt was donated to them and they asked for our help with a quilt raffle. Our role was to print and sell the raffle tickets and so at our Fun Night on May 10th, our project began. LCC and each council were given tickets to sell. \$2,040 was raised. The draw was made on November 28th at our Advent Tea by a representative from LCC, who gave a brief presentation of their good works. Pictured is Betty Poole, the LLC representative.



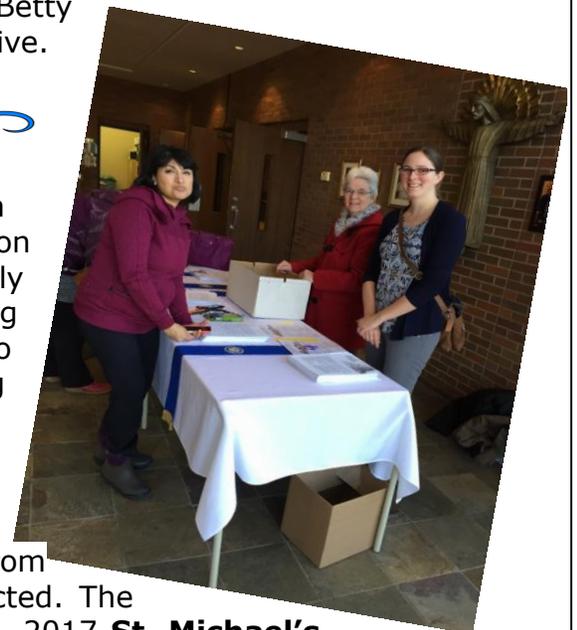
Letter writing Campaign

Many parishes in the London Diocese are actively involved in letter writing campaigns to be sent to the government asking them to protect the conscience rights of those in the medical profession who believe every person's life is a gift from

God and should be protected. The

weekend of March 18-19th, 2017 **St. Michael's**

Catholic Women's League, London helped collect letters signed by parishioners after all weekend masses. Guest speaker, at these masses, Dr. Ramona Coelho, spoke on Euthanasia and the need to protect the conscience rights of all those in the health care profession.





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Diocesan Lenten Retreat

London Diocesan CWL Lenten Retreat was held in Windsor this year on Saturday March 4th, 2017. The ladies of **Corpus Christi CWL Council**, Windsor, hosted the day. Our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Greg Bonin facilitated. The theme was: *Abide in Me - Choosing to Live Faithfully in an Era of Chaos*. Members from Regions all over the diocese attended this faith filled day.



A Special Invitation is issued to all CWL members in or near Toronto to attend the taping of two masses. A mass for the **12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care** will be taped on Wednesday, April 26th at 5:00 p.m. at Loretta Abbey Chapel, 101 Mason Blvd., North York. This mass, sponsored by the national council, will air May 4, 2017 as part of the day's activities.



A mass for the **Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel** will be taped on Wednesday, April 19th at 4:00 p.m. This mass will be broadcast on April 26th. Celebrant for both masses will be Father Patrick O'Dea. You may visit Vision's website at www.dailytvmass.com and the mass can be viewed at www.youtube.com/dailymass



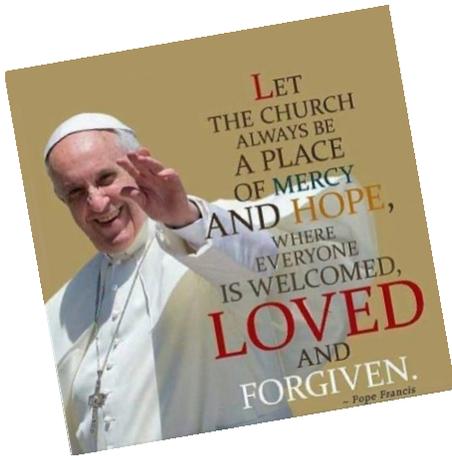
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Spiritual Development Standing Committee

Chairperson: Colleen Martin



MERCY AND HOPE SPRINGS FROM OUR FAITH

Pope Francis called us to a year of mercy and now continues to remind us of the greatness of the Lord's mercy. He also reminds us that having faith in the Lord's mercy brings us hope.

If one looks to the bible for messages of hope, there are many; however, one speaks to me powerfully:

Romans 15:13 *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

There would not be any hope in this world if not for the grace given to us through Christ's sacrifice; His death on the cross for our sins and His resurrection.

During this time in the liturgical year, Easter the central event of our faith, it is appropriate to take a few moments and think about what HOPE means to us personally in light of the Easter Triduum. Does your HOPE manifest itself to others through your life; actions, expressions, words?

James 2:14-18 *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."*

ENCOUNTER WITH THE RISEN JESUS

During this season of Easter, we will once again hear of the encounter with the risen Jesus, by Mary Magdalene and the disciples, on the road to and in Emmaus. *"Our eyes were opened"*. It is difficult for us to imagine what these encounters would have been like personally, for these individuals, or is it?

Do we not encounter the risen Jesus in our





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everyday lives; in the homeless person as we walk on the street; in the hungry child at the breakfast program where we serve;... in the pregnant young woman who calls the help line where we answer; in the friend consoled who is grieving the loss of a loved one?

MATTHEW 25:40 ... *"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."*

Be open to encounter with the risen Jesus in your life.



Lyme disease in Ontario

Submitted by Colleen Randall, Education and Health Chair

Recent studies by an Ontario researcher shows increasing evidence that Lyme disease is prevalent in north-western Ontario, particularly Kenora. John Scott from Lyme Ontario found eight different species of tick known to carry Lyme disease were found within a 50 kilometre radius of Kenora.



Some common names for the ticks Scott studied include the pale beaver tick, the groundhog tick and, of course, the black-legged, or deer tick. He said the small arachnids used in the study were taken from animals including mice, dogs, hares and humans.

Please take precautions, no matter where you are, such as covering up, using insect repellents, check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks, remove a tick as soon as possible with tweezers and don't assume you are immune!

Catholic Education Week in Ontario

Submitted by Colleen Randall, Education and Health Chair

Catholic Education week in Ontario is April 30th to May 5th. Find out what you and your council can do to assist and/or participate in the program. Have you offered your help yet? More info is available at <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/>

