



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



## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

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**Thanks to Hamilton  
Diocesan Council and  
Ontario Provincial  
Christian Family Life  
Standing Committee  
Chair person for their  
submissions.**

### **PAPAL INTENTION:**

#### **General:**

That migrants throughout the world be welcomed with generosity and authentic love, especially by Christian communities

#### **Missionary:**

That Christ reveal himself to all humanity with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem and is reflected in the face of his Church

December 2012 Volume 1, Issue 4

## December is dedicated to Advent and the coming of Christ

### Marlene's Musings

December has arrived with much busyness and frenzy. No doubt many of us are involved in various activities and preparing for family gatherings. There are presents to buy, baking to get done and cards to mail. With so much to do, we often lose sight of the spiritual significance of the Advent season.

It is important to make time for quiet reflection, prayer and penance. The season prepares us for the birth of Jesus and directs our thoughts to Christ's second coming. It brings us the vision of life and hope for the future.

Traditions such as Advent calendars and wreaths are physical reminders which help us to focus on this special time of the liturgical year. Let us spiritually prepare ourselves during these four weeks. Take time to reflect in silence.

May your hearts be filled with joy as you experience the true spirit of the Nativity.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.*

Blessings,  
Marlene

### DAY OF SPIRITUALITY FOR HAMILTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council hosted a *Day of Spirituality* on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Anthony Daniel Parish, Kitchener.

Diocesan Spiritual Development Chairwoman, Ana Sousa led the 60 women and 1 gentleman in prayer

before introducing the first of two facilitators, newly ordained Fr. John Redmond. Fr. John spoke on *The Year of Faith* and lively dialogue ensued following his presentation.

Laith (Leo) Qumsieh of *Christians of the Holy Land* presented a talk on the declining numbers of Christians living in the Holy Land. They viewed

were shown a variety of olivewood carvings to purchase.

Email:  
laithqumsieh@yahoo.



**PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

**Advent Litany**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

You are the light in our darkness.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Son of God, save us from our sins.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Son of Mary, deepen our love.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Bring hope into the loves of all people.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Give your peace to all nations.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Be the joy of all who love you.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Bring unity among all who believe in you.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Bless us as we gather here in your name.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Lord Jesus, stay with us always.

*Come, Lord Jesus.*

Let us pray:

May Christ give us his peace and joy, and let us share them with others. All peace and glory are his for ever. Amen.

**Operation Christmas Child**

Each year the Diocesan Council gathers for an Advent dinner. At times it is a retreat and a pot luck dinner and at other times we gather in friendship to enjoy each others company and dinner. Over the years we have exchanged gifts in a *Secret Santa Exchange* but over the past couple of years we have decided to donate to a worthy cause. Last year we bought chickens and goats through our donations to *Chalice*. This year we have decided to support *Operation Christmas Child* <http://www.samaritanspurse.ca> by filling up shoe boxes with various items and blessing a child overseas.



Vocations are a topic that appears under the Christian Family Life Committee. On the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, my pastor spoke about his own vocation

**HAMILTON'S NEWS**



**Parish Wide Baby Shower in Support of Birth Right**

St. Luke's Catholic Women's League, Hamilton, held for their second year, a baby shower for the *Hamilton Birthright Organization*, an Emergency Pregnancy Service. *Birthright* is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers. It offers confidential support and encouragement to women facing unplanned pregnancies. The response from the Council members

and the parish community was overwhelming as you can see.

This project was extremely easy to develop. The project was announced just prior to Thanksgiving a fitting time and the items were placed in the Sanctuary for all of the parish community to see. It also coincided with *Life Chain Sunday*.

*Birthright Hamilton's* President is Teresa Hartnett whom many of you heard at the Provincial Convention in Kingston.



**VOCATIONS**

during the homily. The second reading that day (Hebrews 5.1-6) spoke of vocations and when preparing his homily he remembered the event that was held to celebrate his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination and of the Spiritual Bouquet he received from the parish. Father mentioned that we all have been called and we each have a vocation.

We are directed by Christ and at times we falter but with prayer He will guide us on the right path. Please support our priests. Send them a "thinking of you" note, invite them for dinner and have them bless your home.



## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE STANDING COMMITTEE AT WORK FOR US

On behalf of the Provincial Council I attended the National Pro-life Conference in October 2012. There were many speakers who spoke on many topics. Every speaker was very good and presented a lot of information.

I think the ones that affected me the most were probably Professor Mark Mostert speaking on Eugenics and how society is still trying to create the perfect human being, Reggi Littlejohn and her presentation on China's One Child policy and Claire Culwell an abortion survivor. Claire told her story of surviving a surgical abortion and learning that she was a twin. Her mission to share her story and to save unborn babies from abortion was very moving.

After hearing Claire's story we then viewed the movie "October Baby" which tells the story of a teenager who learns she is adopted, an abortion survivor and that she had a twin brother who did not survive the abortion. I strongly recommend that you view this movie and/or read the book and make sure you have the tissues handy.

I encourage you to pray the rosary to end abortion.

## Pornography Hurts Ad/Bus Campaign

The Hamilton Diocese began *Pornography Hurts Campaign* in the late 1990's as an awareness of the detrimental effects of pornography on children. In 1999 Canadians Addressing Sexual Exploitation granted permission to use this poster. We added *Sponsored by The Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus* on the bottom.

Posters are on buses throughout the diocese that allow signs. Our councils financially contribute to this campaign during the annual *C.A.S.E. White Ribbon Campaign* held in October.

In 2007 a permanent billboard near Owen Sound and two Roadside TV boards strategically placed are viewed by over 100,000 people daily. A third Roadside board was added this year and a fourth was added free on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls. Wait to see where we go next!

(see poster below)

## TIDBITS

### Canadians Addressing Sexual Exploitation

Mary Hawkley, president of Canadians Addressing Sexual Exploitation (CASE) has announced that, with regret, CASE will cease operations as of December 2012 due to declining physical and financial resources. CASE thanks the League for faithful support over the past 33 years. An article celebrating CASE's history and many accomplishments will be featured in the winter issue of The Canadian League.

### Advent Wreath Evergreens

Various evergreens, signifying continuous life, traditionally make up the Advent wreath. The **laurel** signifies victory over persecution and suffering; **pine, holly, and yew**, immortality; and **cedar**, strength and healing. Holly also has a special symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any **pine cones, nuts, or seedpods** used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming human.



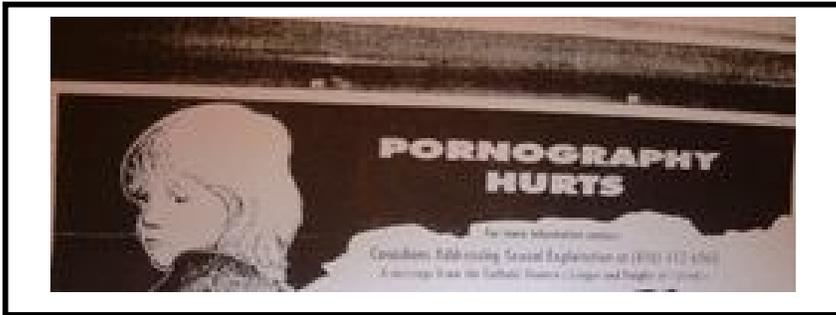
### The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

will be celebrated around the world, January 18-25, 2013.

This worldwide week of prayer encourages all Christians to meet, to participate in common prayer and other community activities, and especially to pray that all be one as Christ desires. Catholics across the country and throughout the Universal Church will be celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For more information visit

[http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Our\\_Faith/week-of-prayer.cfm](http://www.councilofchurches.ca/en/Our_Faith/week-of-prayer.cfm)



Poster that appears on all buses in Hamilton Diocese



Ann sitting with Crèche at Stone Road Mall

**Just when you think that it is nearly impossible for one person to make a HUGE difference.....** After the Stone Road Mall in Guelph decided that the Nativity Statues did not fit with this years decorating strategy, Ann Lindsay, President of St. John's Parish in Guelph, took action. Ann informed the other council in the city of this outrage and it all snowballed from there. The residents of Guelph were so outraged that the mall management had no other choice but to put the statues back on display.



**St. Michael's Council in Waterloo**

This picture is of Martina Smith, president of St. Michael's council in Waterloo cutting the anniversary cake. They began their meeting with Mass and at the conclusion of Mass Very Rev. Con O'Mahony blessed a quilt which the women of hangs in the entrance of the church.



**Holy Cross Georgetown Celebrates 60 Years**

**Photo Left:** Zenaida Van Klink, Past President, Bishop Douglas Crosby, Mary Jo Jans, President, June Santaluce, President Elect and Fr. David Wynen at the reception of Holy Cross, Georgetown's 60th Anniversary. **Photo Centre:** Bishop Douglas Crosby and Marg Wilcox are cutting the anniversary cake at Holy Cross, Georgetown. Following Mass, the Bishop personally congratulated Marg for her 60 years of dedicated service to the League. **Photo Left:** Bishop Douglas Crosby blesses and dedicated the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the assistance of Fr. David Wynen. The Catholic Women's League of Holy Cross, Georgetown raised money to purchase the statue as a part of their 60th anniversary celebration.

**Up-coming Events**

- December 8**  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 12**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 12**  
National Day of Prayer for Aboriginal Peoples
- December 13**  
St. Lucy
- December 24**  
Christmas Eve
- December 25**  
Nativity of Christ or Christmas Day
- December 26**  
St. Stephen, First Martyr
- December 27**  
St. John, Evangelist
- December 28**  
Holy Innocents
- December 30**  
Holy Family
- January 1**  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

**Seniors Christmas Dinner at St. Francis of Assis, Kitchener**

LtoR: Rosanne Sogan, Hamilton Diocesan President, Maria Cabral, Judith Booth, Parish President, Mary Katherine Diermert, Beani Watson, President Elect. Maria and Mary Katherine were awarded the Maple Leaf Service pin and Mary Katherine also received her 25 year pin.

