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Ontario Sparks Catch the Fire! Bi-Monthly Online Newsletter December 2013

We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the **light** of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives **light** to all in the house. In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”



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Send Catch the Fire! Post Workshop Evaluations To
National Organization Chairperson, Barb Dowding

Provincial Organization Chairperson, Pauline Krupa

Ontario Provincial **Sparks**, Andrea Tjioe and Hilarion Mitchell

Ontario Provincial Organization Chair: Pauline Krupa

This gospel reading about the **light** hidden under the basket is reflective to what is happening with **Catch the Fire!** in Ontario. For many, **Catch the Fire!** is alive and well and living in their dioceses while still in the infancy stages for others. Teams are working very hard at planning, travelling to communities, presenting, exciting attendees, turning people on but all that good news is being hidden under a basket because our stories are not being shared. So, please, please, share what is happening in your diocese.



Goals for the **Catch the Fire!** Newsletters

This is our inaugural issue of the bi-monthly on-line newsletter. We will keep the **spark** alive by featuring news from **Catch the Fire!** workshops across Ontario. The primary goals of the newsletters are to:

- Provide **Catch the Fire!** communication updates from the provincial dioceses
- Keep the fires burning and the momentum of **Catch the Fire!** workshops within the dioceses
- To promote the sharing of ideas
- Rejuvenate, increase and retain membership in the League

Your Ontario Sparks

Our roles following the 2012 National Convention were to facilitate the **Catch the Fire!** Workshops throughout Ontario with the help of each diocesan training team. During the first year all diocesan teams were able to manage independently of the Sparks. Hence, our role for the 2nd year of **Catch the Fire!** will focus on summarizing training that has taken place through this newsletter to align with the original goals for the **Sparks**.

Featured Catch the Fire! Sections

The first three sections of the 12 modules **Catch the Fire!** Program are **Light the Match, Spark and Kindling**. They provide a basic introduction to League by reviewing the Objects, structure and available resources to allow members to experience faith, fun and fulfillment in the League. Some of the available resources that facilitate members' growth in these sections are *Leading the League, For God and Canada video, Constitution & Bylaws, Manual of Policy & Procedures, and Executive Handbook*. These modules can assist councils with their 2014 membership drives.

Councils should review their membership list from National office; focus on all members including those that did not renew in 2013. They are encouraged to host a CWL information event and extend an open invitation to all women of the parish. The slides from sections 1-3 are excellent to retain and recruit members. They include the For God and Canada video containing heartfelt testimonies on membership in the League.

Pauline Krupa has developed a re-member strategy for the next two years, as part the social justice project. Specifically, it is to re-member those who are in nursing homes or ill at home who are not able to purchase a membership. These are the women who have given their time to make each of our councils the success they are across Canada. Looking into their eyes we definitely find the Lord. This resource is now available on the provincial website.



News from Around Our Ontario Dioceses

Training workshops from the July 2013 Provincial Convention to June 2014 within the Ontario Diocese.

Catch the Fire!				
Training Workshops July 2013 to June 2014				
Diocese	Training Sessions		Total Members Trained	Number of Councils at each CTF Training
	Completed	Future		
Alexandria-Cornwall				
Hamilton	Oct. 19		21	9
	Oct. 19		72	8
	Oct. 26		19	7
	Nov. 9		23	3
Hearst				
Kingston	Nov. 9		9	3
London				
Ottawa	Sept. 21		18	3
	Oct. 5		19	6
Pembroke	Sept. 7		45	4
	Oct. 10		40	8
	Nov. 9		27	11
Peterborough	Sept. 28		49	6
	Nov. 8	Early 2014	30	3
St. Catharines	Sept. 21		39	6
	Oct. 5		45	7
Sault Ste. Marie	Sept. 14	Spring 2014	11	2
Thunder Bay	Sept. 21		19	3
	Nov. 16	Winter 2014	27	1
	Nov. 30		17	3
Toronto	Oct. 19 th	March 2014	62	19
Ontario Total			592	112

"GOOD THINGS GLOW IN ONTARIO"



Highlights and Feedback from Ontario Workshops

We hope that the sharing of ideas on what worked well and how challenges were addressed will assist others as they provide **Catch the Fire!** Training in their diocese.



It was uplifting the number of young women present that was sharing their

ideas.

Non-CWL members enjoyed the first part, video and history of the League but could not relate to the rest of the materials. It was suggested that there be a workshop for new and non-members and that a separate workshop be held for experienced members on concerns, standing committees, annual reports etc.

Information overload so consider a two-part presentation.

Encourage participants to sit with members that they do not know in order to make new friends.

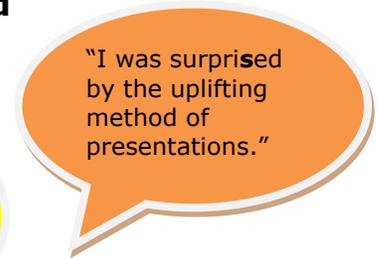
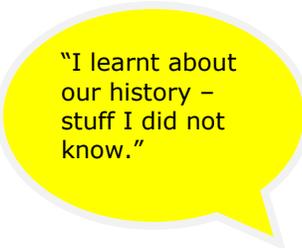
Flames with scripture readings were on walls, flames on each table were processed up at end of workshop.

Some of the **Catch the Fire!** presentation slides were too busy, no way to update them so used a simpler resolution example to better understand the resolution process.

A resolution idea was sparked.

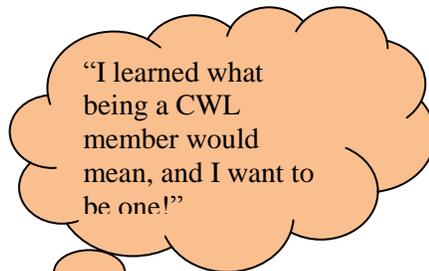
Recent Ontario **Catch the Fire!** Participants Said

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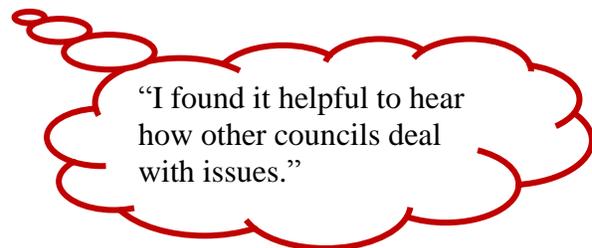


The powerful feeling of this sisterhood has re-energized my commitment.

The making of the chain link - great symbolic activity.



The real hope and believable possibility to improve parish CWL's effectiveness.



Learning about our advocacy to the government and increased awareness of the national power of the CWL

National **Catch the Fire!** News



National Organization Chairperson, Barbara Dowding at the August 2013 Convention reported that fires are burning across the country! One hundred workshops have already taken place in 463 parish councils, attracting over 3,500 participants. The response is overwhelmingly positive as members and non-members alike are being surprised and energized. While the numbers sound significant, this grand total equals roughly four per cent of our total membership! In her September 2013 update she reported that the CTF program has another year to go so there are still opportunities to train members. The intent is to provide leadership opportunities on the topics from the **Top S'Mores Training Requests** to assist members to take on leadership roles. See Barbara's reports on the CWL national website.

National **Catch the Fire! Membership Contest** is continuing. The parish council with the highest percentage of attendees at a **Catch the Fire** workshop will have their membership national per capita fee waived for 2015. Follow-up reports must reach national by the end of June 2014. We encourage all councils to take attend a **Catch the Fire** workshop.

News from Other Provincial **Sparks**

Your Ontario **Sparks** recently reached out to other provincial sparks in order to share updates on their training and best practices. British Columbia shared that they find it hard to believe that they are having trouble attracting women to the second set of workshops so they have suggestions that include contests to re-ignite the flame.

In Prince Edward Island their first **Catch the Fire!** Workshop for 2013 was scheduled in November. They are fortunate that distance is not too big an issue as they usually do not travel more than one hour to the areas. The workshops last year were well received. They have not provided training to all the areas so they will continue with their original planning which is working with small changes after each session as they learn and grow on the techniques of what works best.

Catch the Fire! Post Workshop Evaluation Report

This was developed last year and is posted on the provincial website. It is our only way of knowing what everyone is doing to set their diocese and Ontario **ablaze** and add a **flame** to **light** up the Canadian map on the national website.



We look forward to your feedback on this newsletter issue and subsequent issues.

Next Ontario **Sparks Catch the Fire! Newsletter** will be on-line in early February 2014.