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Ontario *Sparks Catch the Fire!* Bi-Monthly Online Newsletter April 2014

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Catch the Fire! **National Reports**

National Office &
National Organization
Chairperson,
Barb Dowding

Ontario Evaluation Reports

Provincial Organization
Chairperson,
Pauline Krupa

Ontario Provincial
Sparks, Andrea Tjioe
& Hilarion Mitchell

We Have Seen the Lord

Ontario Provincial Organization Chair, Pauline Krupa

From my last writing you recall that I joined an RCIA team who are preparing candidates and catechumens to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. I am enriched by their thirst for knowing God and welcoming Jesus into their lives. We have developed a bond that is not unlike the sisterhood I feel as a member of the League. We are growing in a **Caring, Worshipping** and **Loving** relationship.



When I first sat down to pen this article I had decided to focus on the opening hymn sung at mass today because it speaks about how we, as brothers and **sisters** are called to walk in God's **light** and how as we walk in the **light**, we join together to do the work of the Lord.



Here's where the Holy Spirit took over! I'm being nudged to share a portion of Msgr. Pat's homily. He had us imagine what it must have been like for the blind man to go from darkness into **light**. Think about ourselves walking out into the bright sun from a darkened room. We automatically close out the sun and slowly reopen ourselves to the **light** and cautiously adjust to the brightness.

Think of a painting...perhaps The Last Supper...at first glance we know who and what it represents because we know the story. But do we take the time to review the story in the context of the painting? Can we place ourselves in the painting? It is only through reflection, review and a great deal of patience that the painting comes to life. Is this not the case for ***Catch the Fire!***

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Just over a year ago we were ablaze with enthusiasm for the **Catch the Fire!** Workshop. We have been filled with energy, rekindling our love for the League. Now we are wondering... What is the end result? Is this program rekindling our love for the League? Are we bringing in new members? Are we nurturing our existing members? Are we **relighting** the **spark** of those women who to date have not renewed their membership? Are we ready to join the hands of others and run joyfully into the **light**...the **light** of the League that is really the work of the Lord?

Ontario Spark's Report



Happy Easter!

We celebrate Christ resurrection **renewing** our commitments to our faith, family, friends and the League. This is the third **Catch the Fire!** Newsletter. In this issue we focus on the **Heat**,

Renewal and **Fanning the Flames** modules which also draws symbolic parallels with this holy season.

Since the February 2014 Newsletter, **Catch the Fire!** Workshops were conducted in Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa, Pembroke, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Thunder Bay and Toronto dioceses. Two members from Peterborough joined their sisters in Sault Ste. Marie for the workshop. A total of **226** members from **38** councils received training this period. Overall, **1319** members can boast that they participated in **Catch the Fire!** Workshops since July 2013.

Our **renewal** through the **Catch the Fire!** Workshops and this **Easter** will prepare us for our 2014 CWL conventions and beyond.

Breaking *Catch the Fire!* News
Ontario has
1319

Members trained since July
2013 to Present

Featured **Catch the Fire!** Modules **Heat, Renewal and Fanning the Flames**

Heat: Explains how members put their faith into action to influence authority. This module is about the resolution process from the idea stage; research & writing then adoption through the various levels of the League. It ends with the resolution being presented to the authority directed such as the League, government, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, businesses, and organizations.

Renewal: Working through resistance is the inspiration in this module. It looks beyond the devastation



and focuses on cleansing and renewal. The role-play exercise looks at the impact of our tone in drawing others closer or away from us. This module ends with the *Prayer of St. Francis*.

Fanning the Flames: Focuses on strategies to recruit, retain and re-member members. Participants share ideas on how the League has changed their lives, as well as recruitment and retention strategies. It also includes the fun activity on the different ways to use the letters **C W L**.



Participants and Trainers Feedback

Timmins on January 18th

"...do a short education session at a council meeting and focus on two or three modules i.e. -flame; -renewal; and re-membering".

Kingston on February 22nd

"The video from Salt & Light continues to be a major highlight of the workshop. The module Warmth was the most talked about".

"I learned so much about Resolutions".

"I learned that the League members are my sisters in Christ and I am blessed to be part of this group".

"Amazed at the resources available."

Hamilton on February 22nd

"Hearing testimonials – sharing with others our experience, believe CWL is important and valuable, the video, love to hear people talk about the value of resolutions – think it is the most undervalued committee, a very pleasant and casual pace".

Ottawa on March 1st

"This was my second time and I enjoyed the day a lot".

"By seeing again the potential of the CWL".

"How blessed I am to be a CWL member".

"The strength of the League".

Toronto on March 22nd

"Participants are awe struck by the workshop contents and were willing to share examples from their councils. They are very committed to the League and are willing to learn and promote the League activities".



"The CWL does even more than I could have imagined"

Pembroke on April 5th

"Realization that resolutions can influence government and make change".

How Can we Make it Better



Include more stretch breaks.

Consider a nominal fee to increase registered participant's commitment to attending and reduce last minute cancellations.

Promote the day as a gift to self.

More spirituality and time for sharing.

Random Acts of Kindness

Conflict is healthy in councils as it stretches the council, just like an elastic band. Conflict need not be destructive, so long as members focus on the issue and not on other members.



S'mores

Workshops: This is a collection of workshops listed below which will be launched at the 2014 Provincial Convention in

Cobourg. Betty Colaneri, Provincial Diocesan President and Pauline Krupa, Organization Chair will unveil the format and expectations at a luncheon with the diocesan organization chairs. This first phase will include a "homework assignment" in preparation for the second phase that will take place in the Fall. All diocesan organization chairs are encouraged to be present for both sessions. The **S'mores** topics are:

- *Conflict Resolution*
- *Discernment*
- *Effective Meeting*
- *Elections*
- *How to develop a Manual of Policy & Procedures*
- *Long & short term planning*
- *Mentoring*
- *Parliamentary Procedure*
- *Professional presence*
- *Protocol*
- *Standing committee explorations*
- *Stepping out in style*
- *Who's Who*

National Per Capita Fee Incentive



Two councils in Ontario with the highest percentage of participants at **Catch the Fire!** Workshops will

have their \$13.00 national per capita fees waived in 2015. Submit numbers of attendees by council name to Kim Scammell, Executive Director at national by June 1, 2014 to qualify for this incentive.

Heading to Cobourg for our 67th Annual Convention

July 6 – 9, 2014

Once again we will focus on the "good things glow in Ontario" as we continue with the **Catch the Fire!** launch **S'mores**. To highlight the activities, we are preparing display boards and a video which will feature photos and comments from participants. We look forward to receiving your pictures of your presentations in jpeg format, along with catchy phrases and comments. The more "stuff" the better! Submissions appreciated on or before **June 15, 2014**.

Catch the Fire! Unscramble Puzzle

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Sault Ste. Marie **Catch the Fire!** Recruitment Poster

Excerpted from Karen McDonald, Sault Ste. Marie, Diocesan Organization Chair,
Directive #5 March 17, 2014 (used with permission)

Sisters ... it's time to...

Catch the Fire!

All women are invited!

Together we will learn with our sisters in the League!

Consider yourself invited!

Hope you will join us ... we will have fun!

Test your knowledge of the League!

Hear facts about the CWL you may never have heard before!

Experience the League in a whole new "**light**"!

Feel the "**warmth**" of sisterhood ... be sure to bring a friend!

Innovative ideas await that are "**kindling**" for your council!

Rekindle your passion for the League!

Expect to be rejuvenated and revitalized by this presentation!



"One kit, 12 modules, 12 goals, 1 day"

It's back ... "**brighter**" than ever ... spreading like "**wildfire**" across the nation and our diocese in 2014. We have the blessing of national council and are very excited to present **Catch the Fire!** for a second straight year!

We encourage all women to attend and to witness the positive "**energy**" that comes from this dynamic, interactive presentation ... there is something for everyone ... it is guaranteed to "**spark**" interest in the CWL

It will "**re-ignite**" that passion for the League that many of our councils are looking for ... evaluations from four presentations of **Catch the Fire!** in 2013 proved it.

Come and see what others are talking about ... even if you "**caught the Fire!**" last year, this time around promises a new and different experience.

Our team is ready ... we just need **YOU!**

Hospitality of the Hearth

[Add your **Catch the Fire!** Workshop Dates]

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