



**June 2015 Edition**

**Featuring the Hamilton Diocese and the Organization Standing Committee**



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***Betty's Blog***



As I began to write this, I became very melancholy at the reality it would be my last blog as your provincial president. So I sat staring at the screen wondering how I could write what I was feeling in such a small amount of space. How could I convey adequately into words the gratitude for the many wonderful experiences that have become fond memories I will cherish for years to come. How do I express my appreciation for the friendships that I have made with my League sisters across the country? They are the jewels in the treasure chest of my heart. How do I share what a blessing it has been to work with an awesome executive of hardworking women representing the province with such joy. How do I let my sisters across this amazing Province of Ontario know how humbled and honoured I was to serve them? How do I let them know that wherever I went or whoever I spoke to, I represented them with the same passion and zeal that they possess? How do I properly thank my sisters in the League for their support, encouragement and prayers through the good or bad times? How do I tell them that my life's journey has been inspired and enriched for having walked with them? Overcome with emotions, I realized by sending my love it could convey them all. For, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:7

"A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam and for a brief moment its glory and beauty belong to our world but then it flies again and though we wish it could have stayed, we feel lucky to have seen it." *Author Unknown*. This is how I think of my term as president. Even though the amazing moments have me wishing I could stay, I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity. It has been an incredible journey and a joyous experience.

With my GPS (God's Phenomenal Spirit) to guide me, my journey of faith continues on a wing and a prayer.

Blessings, love and extra HUGS (Holding Unending Grace and Spirit),

*Betty*



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



## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

The **Hamilton Diocese** is comprised of 100 parish councils who are united with  
**ONE HEART, ONE VOICE, ONE MISSION**

Last September, at 3 regional meetings, we asked all councils to donate a \$25 gift card to **Walk-with-Me Victim Services**. This is a survivor-led organization dedicated to delivering and coordinating services for victims of human trafficking, and networking with community partners to improve the lives of rescued women and men. Through this initiative, we were able to present Timea Nagy, founder of Walk-with-Me and a human trafficking survivor, \$3000 in assorted gift cards (gas, Tim Horton's, grocery and Walmart) to help with their needs.



At our 2014 annual convention the Diocesan Council presents **the Frances Lovering Woman of the Year award**. It is named to honour Frances Lovering, a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada and the first Hamilton Diocesan President. The nominees are Catholic Women's League members who have demonstrated the objectives of the League in their service to the League, parish and the community. Parish councils are invited to nominate a member of their council for this distinction. The nominees are announced at convention and each receives a flower and then the woman of the year is announced and she receives a plaque and the diocesan plaque is put on display in her parish for the coming year. The 2014 Women of the Year was Anne Rehkopf of Holy Family, Hanover.





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## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

### League Development – A New Twist

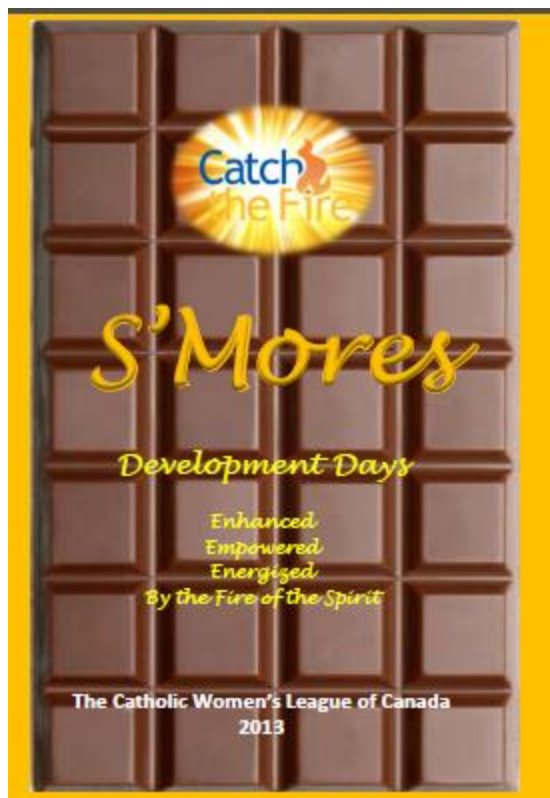


One task of the organization chairperson for the province of Ontario is to plan for League Development, which must take place at least once in the two-year term. In a time when we are striving to be financially prudent and fortunately, in a time when we were not dealing with serious issues, the decision was made to hold a teleconference with the thirteen diocesan organization chairs. I can happily report that the first conference held in November was so successful we held a second one in March 2015. The agendas included membership, *S'Mores* and annual reports. We were also updated on euthanasia and physician assisted suicide and learned how to prepare a power point presentation. This use of technology has proven to be an effective way to foster League Development.

### ***S'Mores – the just dessert after *Catch the Fire!****

Dioceses were presented with the *S'Mores* binder at the provincial convention in July 2014. The binder contains a variety of modules that can be used by the diocese or individual councils. Organization chairs had time to review the document and devise ways to best utilize this resource. It was agreed that each of the modules lends itself to a workshop that can be conducted at parish council meetings, League Development Days or as a one-day event similar to *Catch the Fire!* Every diocese has in its possession a hard copy and an electronic copy of *S'Mores*.

**Articles submitted by Pauline Krupa, Organization Chair**





## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

### Dedicated CWL Sisters



This photo was submitted by Sharon Huska. She took it on a recent trip to Spain.

We are blessed to have dedicated CWL members all over the world.

### Membership Statistics

The trend over the last number of years has seen a decline of nearly 2000 members each year across our province and in all of Canada. The following shows Ontario's diocesan memberships up to the end of April 2015:

Alexandria – Cornwall	603
Hamilton	7340
Hearst	198
Kingston	2402
London	9953
Ottawa	1303
Pembroke	1561
Peterborough	1532
St. Catharines	2082
Sault Ste. Marie	2387
Thunder Bay	2277
Timmins	466
Toronto	5600
Total to date:	37704

These numbers reflect 81% of 2014's total number. (49,526)

**What ways do YOU work to increase our total for 2015 to over 50,000?**

Article Submitted by **Pauline Krupa,**  
**Organization Chair**

In 2012 the Hamilton Diocesan Council introduced the ***Our Lady of Good Counsel Bursary for Seminarians***. The purpose is to provide financial assistance to a seminarian who is attending a local seminary. The bursary is presented at the annual Diocesan Vocations Mass in September. The Vocations Mass is a joyful celebration of faith hosted by the Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Serra Clubs and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton where we pray and give thanks for the gift of vocations to the priesthood and religious communities in the Diocese.



*Fr. Wojciech Kuzma, Vocations Director, accepts the bursary on behalf of a seminarian*



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## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



The **Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton** proposed a Lenten project that would include the assistance of the entire parish. The hygiene products collected over a 4 week period (one product per week) were: soap, toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. In addition toothbrushes and zip lock bags were donated by the Public Health Services Dept. of Hamilton. On the 5<sup>th</sup> week Catholic Women's League members gathered to put together the Hygiene Kits. They were able to assemble 326 full kits and 60 partial kits. The kits were then given to the Good Shepherd Centre (a Catholic shelter for the poor) and to inner city high schools – both Catholic and public. The project was an eye-opening experience as many in the parish had NO IDEA that high school students had need of these items (either because they are living on their own or they are from impoverished families who cannot afford such luxuries).

At **St Mary Parish in Elora**, they held a Gingerbread Nativity Social on the First Sunday of Advent. They had CWL members bake gingerbread in the shapes of the Nativity scene: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, wise men, stables and animals, ahead of time. Icing was made and decorations were purchased. Tables were set up with all the pieces to make a set. Nineteen families including over 40 children, put the pieces together and decorated them. All the leftover pieces went to the school to the kindergarten class to use. Advent handouts and other crafts were available to take home. It was a lot of work to put together, but well worth it. The children and parents really enjoyed themselves.



***Our next issue will be daily from the 2015 Provincial Convention  
Published especially for those who will not be with us.  
Check out the website home page for the link***