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## **Editor's Notes:**

The *Trillium News and Views* is one of the public faces of the Ontario provincial council. The newsletter and the provincial website: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) provide you with information and suggested actions, from the provincial officers, on the theme and projects the council is pursuing for the coming two-year term. We hope that you will share this good news with others and use it in your council as a tool to educate members and encourage them to get involved in some of the ideas and programs.

This issue contains the resolutions that were passed by the delegates at the provincial convention in July along with suggested actions to be taken to bring about the desired results. In this issue you will also find a brief report on both the provincial and national annual conventions.

The 13 provincial officers along with the 13 diocesan presidents form the provincial executive. They meet in the fall, the spring, immediately before and immediately after the annual convention to plan, direct and oversee the work of the League in Ontario. Over these next four issues of the newsletter you will get to know each of these women a bit better through their profiles. This issue introduces the provincial president, president elect, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice presidents and past president.

You will notice that we no longer include personal contact information (address, phone number, email address) in the newsletter, with the exception of the newsletter subscription form. The provincial executive approved a privacy policy in February 2011, which brings us in line with the *Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA). This federal legislation was implemented on January 1 2004 and deals with the proper handling and use of personal contact information by organizations. For more information you will find a link to our full privacy policy on the home page of our website. You may still contact us through our website and your email will be forwarded to the person you want to reach.

Please promote subscriptions to the *Trillium* to all members in Ontario by using the enclosed subscription form. Two issues for \$5 is a good deal. The spring newsletter will include the provincial convention package and registration information.

The newsletter may also be read, or downloaded, from our website.

*Mary Lou*

***Centred on Faith & Justice ~Led by the Spirit***  
**Ontario Provincial President**  
**Marlene Pavletic**

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20

Much time has passed since the provincial convention and the election of a new slate of provincial officers. It is both exciting and pleasing for me to welcome all the members of the 2011-2013 provincial executive. As scripture teaches us, we are gathered together in His name to continue the good work of the League. Thank you for all the prayers and best wishes extended to me personally and to the new executive. We are a great team and together we can and will make a difference...with God's help.

Hamilton diocese hosted the provincial convention in Hamilton in July, which was a great success with 300 in attendance. Many women attended for the first time and were impressed. Plan now to assist members to attend a provincial convention. If all Catholic women could experience the sisterhood felt at conventions, membership in the League would soar! It's a great way to recruit new leaders.

Three resolutions were adopted at the provincial convention and forwarded to national council for consideration. The national chairperson of education and health will develop a strategy to make members aware of the issues addressed in these resolutions. The provincial resolutions will be posted on the provincial website. Encourage members to study them, discuss them and follow up on the suggested action plans.

Councils reported on special projects, focusing on poverty, which they held this past year. There is still much to be done in this area so the national focus on *Women Against Poverty (WAP)* is continuing. In addition, National President, Velma Harasen has requested we pay some attention to "spiritual" poverty and explore ways to address it. Loneliness, isolation and ill health are a few challenges faced by many in society today. Is there a way we can reach out spiritually to them? Are there women in our parishes who are spiritually impoverished? Discuss this in your parish councils. Let us know your plans.

The national convention, hosted by the Toronto diocesan council, was held in Toronto in August. Over 600 were in attendance. Four resolutions were adopted. They are posted on the national website and will be available in the fall League magazine. Members are urged to read them and discuss them. Members across Canada adopted these resolutions because they are meaningful. It's our job to act upon them.

Membership campaigns will be starting soon. Ask a friend to join. There are women sitting in church pews every weekend who are not League members - have you invited them to join? What about the member who didn't renew last year - have you contacted her? Membership in Ontario increased slightly last year; let's keep it up! If your parish

has not registered for online membership submission, I urge you to do so. A call to national office will guide you through the process. Memberships and per capita fees are processed more efficiently when submitted online.

National council has developed several workshops, which were mailed out to parishes this past spring. Please use these training tools and educate parish members. Leaders will never come forward unless we provide the essential information they require to feel comfortable taking on a leadership role. Conducting meetings, setting agendas, parliamentary procedure, roles and responsibilities, and public speaking are all topics we continually hear are needed in the parishes. The provincial executive is exploring ways to get this type of education out to the grassroots. Provincial and national development funds are available to assist you so please promote training. What are your needs in the parish? Do you need trainers? Let your diocesan and provincial executive know so they can be supportive.

The best advertisement for the League is its members. We are the role models. We need to work in a positive manner with our spiritual advisors and invite their support in promoting the League. New members need to feel welcomed. Invite them to become involved. Organize efficient meetings, engage interesting speakers and develop meaningful projects. Be open to change and new ideas. If we can smile and work joyfully together, we will make a difference, *for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we continue the good work of the League, for God and Canada.

#### **Executive Profile: Marlene Pavletic Provincial President**



Marlene obtained her degree from Lakehead University and worked in the healthcare field as a nurse, director of nursing and senior manager of a small acute care hospital and nursing home in northwestern Ontario.

Marlene joined The Catholic Women's League in 1989 as a charter member of St Theresa's Parish Council in Geraldton, Ontario. In 2005, after moving to Thunder Bay, she became a member of St Margaret's parish council. She is a Minister of the Word and the Development and Peace rep in her parish. She was a *Project Grow* facilitator; parish lay presider and diocesan convention convener. Marlene served as Hearst Diocesan President before being appointed provincial organization

chairperson in 2003. Since then, she has been the provincial chairperson of education and health and resolutions committees and served as president-elect and chairperson of organization from 2009-11. Marlene was honoured to receive her life membership in 2009. Bob and Marlene have two grown sons and a lovely daughter in law. Since retiring, interest in people and other cultures has led her to third world missions in Peru, the Dominican Republic and most recently, Honduras. Marlene is most grateful for the gift of the League in her life.

**Spiritual Advisor**  
**Most Reverend Fred J. Colli**  
**Bishop of Thunder Bay**

September 2011

Dear Members of The Catholic Women's League:

As I begin my term as the provincial spiritual advisor for The Catholic Women's League, let me say that I consider it a privilege to share so intimately in the work of this great Catholic organization and to be with them in helping to realize their goals in achieving goodness for the church and for Canada.

In the midst of what could be a very busy time as we 'start up' our activities and plans, with the opening of schools and universities and the closing of cottages and camps, I recommend that we not forget to remind ourselves that what unites us as members of The Catholic Women's League, is primarily our faith in the Lord Jesus and the witnessing of that faith in our lives and work. To do this properly we must be nourished in faith, and this comes about through our prayer, our celebration of Mass and through our appreciation of God's Word in our lives.

Recently, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI gave us a document called "Verbum Domini" which means the 'Word of the Lord'. In this text the Holy Father conveys the message to us, that we must open our hearts to God's Word, help it to sink into our being, and let this Word guide us in our daily lives. Too often the Word of God, even at Mass, is seen as secondary in importance to other prayers. Vatican II teaches us that Jesus is truly present in His word proclaimed, and when we hear the Word, especially the proclamation of the Gospel, we know that Christ is present and speaking to us, guiding us in His love.

Where does God's Word fit in your life? Do you read the scriptures daily or at all? Do you use the bible for your prayer? Have you ever prayed a 'scriptural rosary'? The Pope writes: "The word of God has bestowed upon us the divine life which transfigures the face of the earth, making all things new. His word engages us not only as hearers of the divine revelation, but also as its heralds...the Spirit of the Risen Lord empowers us to proclaim the word everywhere by the witness of our lives." {Verbum Domini Part III- *Proclaiming to the world the "Logos" of hope* [91]}

As we commence our meetings, scheduling events and celebrations, may we let God's Word dwell within us and empower us, in our prayer, in our work and in our daily lives.

Sincerely in Christ,  
+Fred J. Colli

## **Spiritual Development Committee**

### **Patricia Rivest, Chairperson**

“Spiritual development is the very heart of our organization and the essence of our existence.” This statement is found in the executive handbook. Our mission statement also affirms the holiness and spirituality of the League. Our role as spiritual development chairs is to work, with our members, to provide a variety of opportunities for personal and collective spiritual growth that will allow them to: grow in the knowledge of God; grow in the love of Christ and grow in the rich grace of the Holy Spirit.

This task may seem overwhelming. But it need not be. We have one another to help, we have the prayers of the members and we have the guidance and love of Our Lady of Good Counsel. How blessed can we be!

We have many tools and resources to assist in our work:

- national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under Resource search- Spiritual development
- provincial website [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) under Links-Prayer Room
- various workshops, days of reflection, retreats, spiritual advisors, and personal contact with members – the resources are endless!

I was blessed to attend both the provincial and national conventions. Each one was a unique experience. The liturgies were very moving and the music was beautiful. I returned refreshed, renewed and filled with many memories. This organization affords each member love, joy and acceptance by the connection of our faith. Seeing old friends and catching up, making new friendships are reasons why every member should experience a convention and catch the spark!

Does your council celebrate? Do you celebrate your faith? Do you celebrate your members? Do you mark special occasions in the lives of your members? In the rush of this society, it is refreshing to slow down – smell the roses – and tell each other “You are important to me”. Celebrate new members, reaffirm executives, bless your incoming executive and remember the blessings and graces that past members brought to your council. (Resource – Ceremonies Booklet, which is available to view and download from the national website)

Book of Life – Please continue to send the names of your deceased members to national office as soon as possible. By doing so, this will ensure that these names are forwarded to the provincial and diocesan spiritual development chairs and are lovingly written in the respective Book of Life. It is strongly recommended that you use the on-line method of notifying national office of your deceased members. If you have any questions on this process, please do not hesitate to contact national office.

Advent is a new beginning for the church’s Liturgical Year. Advent is a very special time of the year when we again celebrate the history of salvation as it unfolds in our lives. We wait in joyful – awe-filled anticipation of the Christ Child – the fulfillment of God’s promise to the world. How is your council celebrating Advent? Some of the councils are

planning an Advent tea/luncheon. This is a time to gather together for a few hours – to shut out the busyness of the Christmas hustle and bustle – share your faith – enjoy time together. ***Treat yourself to the gift of time.*** If you would like help in planning this time together, I would be pleased to help.

There are many good books available in the planning of your Advent program – an excellent magazine is “The Word Among Us” [www.wau.org](http://www.wau.org). There are also many good books at your nearest Christian bookstore.

The first Sunday of Advent will be the arrival of the new roman missal. The website for the approved Canadian edition of this missal is [www.romanmissal.ca](http://www.romanmissal.ca) and you may also visit the website for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)

If you can assist your spiritual advisor to make the introduction and use of the new missal easier, please do so. I am sure that the help would be appreciated.

### **Dates to Celebrate**

October 7	Our Lady of the Rosary
October 10	Thanksgiving – Be thankful for life’s many blessings
October 23	World Mission Sunday – As Christians we have chosen Christ and Christian values. We live our lives to bring about the reign of God and evangelize his Word. We are missionaries of God. Mission Sunday is a special occasion to experience our oneness with the entire world.
November 1	Feast of All Saints
November 2	Feast of All Souls
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 6	Canada’s National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Please work with your Christian Family Life Chairperson to plan a special mass or Holy Hour to celebrate the sanctity of all life.
December 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe National Day of Prayer for Aboriginal People
January 1	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God World Day of Peace
March 2	World Day of Prayer “Let Justice Prevail” (Malaysia)
April 26	Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel

### **Mini Reflection**

Find a quiet place. Clear your mind and heart of the day’s distractions. Open your heart. Breathe in ..... Breathe out. Reflect on the following questions.

“Do I notice the *everyday grace* in my life” “Are my eyes open to this *everyday grace*?” Please pray for the church, bishops, priests, religious, vocations and our League sisters. May Our Lady of Good Counsel shower us with her blessings as she guides and directs.

## **Organization Committee** **Betty Colaneri, Chairperson**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace 1 Peter 4:10*

As I write this, the school year will begin soon and so will all our meetings. Just as students have to make sure they have all their supplies to start the school year off on the right track, we need to do the same. Each standing committee chairperson should make sure they have their manuals and reference materials so they are prepared for another great year of working for God and His people.

### ***Recruitment and Maintenance of Members***

Often we get discouraged that membership is declining and we are not able to attract new members. Know that we are not alone! Many organizations have the same problem. It is essential to never give up, think positive and it will happen. Also important is the need to maintain memberships. When members have not renewed their membership, take the time to reach out to them to see why that happened. It may simply be an oversight and the member would appreciate hearing from you.

Submitting memberships has never been easier. You can do it all on line! Many have taken advantage of this process. By doing so the list of members is more accurate, the cheque that is sent to national is cashed sooner and the per capita fees forwarded to the diocesan and provincial councils are sent sooner. When all is said and done, everyone is in a better position with this process.

### ***Increase in National Per Capita Effective For 2012 Memberships***

The instructed vote on the proposed \$5.00 increase in national per capita fees passed unanimously at the national convention in Toronto in August. This increase will come into effect for your 2012 membership fees. Parish councils that find this increase a burden, because it reduces the amount of money from the membership fee that stays in the council, could consider holding a special fund raising event to help manage this decrease instead of increasing individual membership dues. This event could be a fun celebration to acknowledge the women in the council who work so hard.

### ***League Development***

It is important to plan a development day in your diocese. Educating members gives them the tools they need to take on leadership roles. Often members have reported that by calling it a "Leadership" workshop it discourages members from attending. Perhaps by referring to it as a "League Development" day or another catchy title would encourage more members to attend and further educate themselves. Often it is when you are not looking for them that you find your true gifts.

When having a development day, invite a life member or one of the provincial or diocesan standing committee chairpersons to participate. Not only are they a great resource as mentors but also they love to be asked! Don't forget to apply for national or provincial development funds to help you with the costs.



Members have expressed their concern regarding the Maple Leaf Service Pins. The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* states: “The Maple Leaf Service Pin was introduced in 1971 for members who have served the League in an exceptional or meritorious manner. A council must order this pin as a presentation item. It is the responsibility of the council to determine criteria for awarding of the pin. Suggested criteria:

- Be an active League member for a minimum length of service of seven to 10 years
- Have performed specific outstanding League service on a one time basis or over several years.”

In the first directive I sent out to the organizational chairpersons and the provincial executive, I stressed that we must strive to turn the negative into positive. I have always been a visual person so picture the negative sign. Now put a line vertically right in the middle of it and that negative not only becomes a positive but a sign of our faith. Only with God all things are possible.

My focus for my term will be encouraging members to create a buzz about all we do, create some honey and attract new members. A little honey goes a long way.

Let us work together to be part of the God’s disciples of **BE-12’s**.

**BE** (haviour) – **12** (Apostles)

**BE** Positive  
**BE** Enthusiastic  
**BE** Compassionate  
**BE** Helpful  
**BE** A Mentor  
**BE** Loving  
**BE** Friendly  
**BE** Giving  
**BE** Approachable  
**BE** In The Moment  
**BE** Willing  
and my favourite  
**BE** Passionate In Whatever You Do!

Extend a hand and open your hearts to all the women of our parishes to want to “**BE**” with us!

The League has so much to offer and something so good has to be shared. It’s time!

*Good League members do not just happen; they must be encouraged, trained and supported.* (Executive Handbook)

## **Communications Committee**

### **Pauline Krupa, Chairperson**

*and whatever you do or say, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:17

Greetings,

How exciting for me to be your communications standing committee chair for the next two years! It is my hope that we will “communicate” well over the next two years. As we all know communicating is more than just talking....it is listening too. Not long ago I heard someone say that the Lord gave us two ears and one mouth so that we could listen more than we speak. We are told in the Bible “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...” (James 1:19)....not to sound too “punny”....I am all ears!

#### **The Provincial Website ([www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca))**

Many of us know that this website exists and yet do not use it much. My goal is to add a few new items to make it more desirable for members to visit. Over this past year our national website has undergone a number of changes and updates. It is timely for Ontario to follow that example. To that end, I will meet with Blue Earth staff, the company that hosts our site, to discuss our capabilities and vision for the future. Many of you might have ideas on how to improve our website. Please take the time to contact us via the website to share your ideas. One new feature that has been approved by our president is the addition of the *OPC (Ontario Provincial Council) Communications Bulletin*. Our goal is to keep members “in the know” as situations are happening in and around the province.

#### **W.R.A.P. – White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign October 16 – 23, 2011**

C.A.S.E. (Canadians Addressing Sexual Exploitation) continues to “observe the proliferation of pornography and specifically its very alarming growth on the Internet.” This year’s focus for the ribbon campaign is on Internet service providers (ISP’s). Some changes have been made over the past few years so councils are encouraged to visit the website [www.4case.ca](http://www.4case.ca) for the most up-to-date information. CASE has a limited number of DVD’s for sale for \$10, entitled, “The Children Need Someone Like You”, which you might find useful at a meeting. CASE also has a Ribbon of Signatures Kit available for a suggested donation of \$25. The kit includes a pre-printed one-meter long ribbon with a powerful message, which every member should sign. Signed ribbons should then be presented to your member of parliament. To order these materials contact CASE by phone at 519 682 2273 or e-mail [case@4case.ca](mailto:case@4case.ca)

#### **Be League – E- newsletter**

In mid 2009 national office introduced *Be League*, an electronic newsletter, which focuses on council activities across Canada. Your news needs to get to all members across this great country so consider submitting an article and a photograph highlighting your good works. The *Be League* is produced on the 15th of each month and posted on the national website under Media.

### Promotion of The League

At the National convention in August the National Chairperson of Communications, Mary Nordic, shared the advertisement that appeared in the *National Post* earlier this year. This advertisement featured the WAP (*Women Against Poverty*) project celebrating our response to those in need by being a voice for the voiceless. It can be viewed at: <http://www.cwl.ca/recentcorrespondence/National%20Post%20Advertisement%202011.pdf>

Are you aware of all the promotional materials that are at our fingertips through the national website under *Resources*?

We must be our own best advocates for the Catholic Women's League. Plan to market your council this fall as you approach your membership drive. Some of the provincial presidents, including Ontario, reported an increase in membership at our national convention in August. Would it not be amazing for every council to report an increase next year? A very simple and extremely effective way to promote The League is to wear your CWL pin proudly. One member from our council wears her pin all the time...like wearing a watch. She truly makes a **bold** statement to everyone she meets that she belongs.

### E-mail (Electronic Mail)

E-mailing is now among the accepted ways to communicate with one another. Many of us grew up with sending a letter in the mail and now e-mails are more the norm. Not long ago I received an article that first appeared in the *Globe and Mail* entitled the "E-mail Charter". After reading it I came to realize that I fall short on almost all of the suggestions. The following is a brief synopsis. The author stated that e-mail is now "enslaving us" and to reverse the e-mail spiral he recommends:

1. Respect recipient's time. – minimize the time your email will take to process
2. Short or slow is not rude. – its okay if replies take a while and don't give detailed responses
3. Celebrate clarity. – have the subject line include the important information
4. Quash open-ended sentences. – avoid vague invitations such as "thoughts?"
5. Slash those surplus ccs. – avoid "reply all" unless it is absolutely necessary
6. Tighten the thread – clean up the messages that keep adding on to your response
7. Attack attachments. – avoid graphics, logos, signatures
8. Give acronym gifts. – use things like EOM and NNTR
9. Cut content fewer responses. – avoid responses that lack content
10. Disconnect – agree to spend less time on e-mail

As I continue to discern over this, I think that life would be much simpler with less e-mails and / or less text to read in e-mails, but I am also very aware of all that is good. I am indeed very excited about the EOM (end of message) and NNTR (no need to respond). Had you already figured that out?

*To announce and communicate by words and action, the Good News of the gospel*  
(Executive Handbook)

## **Resolutions Committee**

### **Anne Madden, Chairperson**

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight*

Proverbs 3:5-6

**What is a resolution?** A resolution, in the Catholic Women's League, stems from an idea or an issue that you as a member may be concerned about and think needs action or change. It may be from a personal experience, something on television, radio, Internet, newspapers, magazines or from personal observations and discussions. I challenge each of you to pay special attention to your surroundings, take notice of the minute details around you, pause, and really look at your piece of the world. Is everything as it should be? Are there things that could be improved upon? Resolutions start from these simple beginnings.

*A resolution may be directed to the League itself at any level, or it may be directed to outside groups or institutions, such as the government (all levels), Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, businesses etc. When directed within the League its purpose is to propose a plan, establish a policy, recommend action, commend, censure, thank, etc. When directed to a group outside the League, a resolution's purpose is to influence others to take action that the League itself cannot take, to state the League's position on an issue, to petition, to express concern, to show appreciation, etc. (National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Appendix 1: Resolutions). A resolution dealing with a diocesan/regional issue is as valuable as one going to provincial and/or national; perhaps it is even more important because it could be a unifying opportunity within communities in a diocese or a grace-filled moment to make a local difference.*

Preparing a resolution is straightforward and simple:

- Become aware of an issue
- Discuss with your council
- Form a committee
- Research and gather support material
- Draft the resolved clause(s)
- Draft the whereas clause(s)
- Draft the bridging clauses(s)
- Draft the accompanying brief
- Draft an action plan
- Present for adoption
- PRAY AT EVERY STAGE

*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook, 2010* (available as a free download from the National CWL website: [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) gives step-by-step instructions for writing a resolution. Once the resolution has been completed and it has been adopted by motion at a parish council meeting, it is sent to the diocesan chair of resolutions. Her committee will review and prepare it for presentation at the diocesan annual convention. After it has passed at the diocesan convention and, if it is a provincial or national issue, then it is sent to the provincial chairperson of resolutions to be reviewed by the provincial resolutions

reading committee and the provincial resolutions review committee in preparation to present the resolution to the provincial convention. Once it is passed at the provincial convention and if it is a national issue or a provincial issue that other provinces would benefit from also, it will be sent to the national chair of resolutions for consideration and the review process is repeated by the national resolutions review committee.

It is the responsibility of the resolution committee at each level along the way to review the resolution, the brief and check the background material to ensure everything is correct, current and meets the criteria for a resolution. The committee will also ensure that it contains the necessary information to proceed to the provincial or national level if required. During this whole process there will be ongoing consultation between the respective resolution chairs at parish, diocesan, provincial and national levels, on all proposed resolutions that may come forward to ensure the final resolution meets League standards.

The Provincial Resolutions Review Committee meets in June and is comprised of:

- resolutions chairperson (chair)
- president-elect
- legislations chairperson
- immediate past-resolutions chair (if on current executive)
- past president
- resolutions secretary (appointed)
- president (ex officio)
- spiritual advisor and/or designate from ACBO (ex officio)

The provincial president and provincial president-elect present all the resolutions that are passed at provincial and national conventions to the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) in September for input and approval. The Resolutions Government Visitation (RGV) Committee presents the resolutions to the provincial government at one-on-one meetings with the premier and ministers or executive members of their staff, to discuss action and potential legislation related to current and past resolutions.

The RGV committee is:

- resolutions chairperson (chair)
- president (ex officio)
- president-elect
- past President
- legislation chairperson.

Resolutions are extremely important and play a major part in the League's work. Resolutions can be a powerful tool "to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order" (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*). The League can serve the church's mission and be a Christian witness through resolutions *The National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Appendix 1: Resolutions*.

**Be Aware, Be Involved, Be Empowered!!**

## **ON.11.01      SAFE, POTABLE WATER FOR FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES**

Whereas, The health and safety of First Nations communities have been threatened because of water contaminants causing skin disease, eye and/or nose irritations and illness; and,

Whereas, Approximately 100 First Nations communities are without access to safe, potable water; and

Whereas, Implementation of the *First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP)* by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AAND) to provide safe, potable water has been successful in some areas, many others still have problems retaining qualified personnel to operate and maintain the facilities being installed; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled, encourage their members to educate themselves and monitor the progress of the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan as a solution to the problem of water contamination that has been a longstanding threat to the health and safety of residents of First Nations communities; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled, urge their members to contact their federal and provincial members of parliaments to advocate for consultation with the Assembly of First Nations to establish training programs that support the need for qualified personnel to operate and maintain the facilities being installed; and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the national council for consideration at the 91<sup>st</sup> annual national convention, August 2011.

### **ACTION PLAN**

- Encourage their members to become more aware that water contamination has been a longstanding threat to the health and safety of residents of First Nations communities
- Urge their members to:
  - Monitor the progress of the *First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan*
  - Write letters to their Members of Parliament to advocate for the establishment of training programs that support the need for qualified personnel to operate and maintain the facilities being installed
- Invite an Aboriginal person who has lived on a First Nation and experienced the impact of the lack of clean water to do a presentation.

#### **ON.11.02 LIMIT THE SODIUM IN OUR FOOD**

Whereas, Individuals in Canada consume over twice the recommended daily intake of salt which can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke; and

Whereas, Commercially processed foods account for approximately 88% of sodium intake; and,

Whereas, The current federal Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada are voluntary recommendations and not currently enforced, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled request the national council to urge the federal government to legislate the implementation of the recommendations of the Sodium Reduction Strategy Working Group; and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to national council for consideration at the 91<sup>st</sup> annual national convention, August 2011.

#### **Disposition of Resolution:**

This resolution was forwarded to the national council who forwarded it to the education and health standing committee for further consideration and action. It is understood that information to educate members regarding this issue will be forthcoming from the national committee.

### **ON.11.03 Raising Awareness of Colorectal Cancer and the Importance of Early Detection**

Whereas, It has been proven that early detection of colorectal cancer is directly related to a reduction in mortality from that particular cancer; and

Whereas, Ontario has one of the highest rates of colorectal cancer in the world; and

Whereas, Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Canada and the number of new cases diagnosed yearly remains high; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in its 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled, urge the provincial government and Cancer Care Ontario to increase funding for education so that the importance of testing for early screening for colorectal cancer remains a health care priority; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in its 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled, encourage its members and their communities to:

- become informed about the importance of early detection and all available diagnostic options, and
- take a proactive role in their own health and well being; and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded through the national executive to the national chairperson of education and health standing committee for education/action.

#### **ACTION PLAN**

- Write letters to the Ministries of Health at both the Provincial and Federal Government levels urging them to continue their funding for research and education for colorectal cancer
- Encourage and educate members to:
  - Become better informed about the early signs of colorectal cancer
  - Become informed about the importance of early detection and all available diagnostic options
  - Take a proactive and informed role in their own health and well-being
- Invite guest speakers to inform members and your communities about colorectal cancer



## **Recording Secretary** **Carol Richer**

As recording secretary, our primary role is to keep complete and accurate minutes of all meetings. These will become part of the council's archives and history. Take the time to read the available manuals – the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, the *Constitution and By-Laws*, and the *Handbook for Secretaries*. These provide you with helpful information to assist your president in preparing an agenda, recording the minutes, approving minutes, maintaining the elections register and setting up a motions book. Sample agendas, minutes, and elections register are provided to guide you. Additional information that will assist you in understanding and fulfilling the duties of this position can be found in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* in Articles XI - Duties of Officers, XV - Eligibility, Nominations and Elections, and XX - Parliamentary Procedure. These manuals may be downloaded free or ordered from national office from the national website

**<http://www.cwl.ca/Resources%20-%20manuals.htm>**

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10<sup>th</sup> Edition* and *Robert's Rules of Order in Brief* should also be part of every recording secretary's tool kit. Has your council had difficulty in the past getting people to assume the role of recording secretary? Perhaps you might consider asking those who have the ability, but may be reluctant to take on the role, to be part of your "minutes editing committee". This would provide them with the opportunity to see first hand that it really isn't such an awesome task and hopefully give them the needed push to "give it a try".

## **Corresponding Secretary** **Glenda Klein**

### **League 101**

1. The title under which national council is incorporated is *The Catholic Women's League of Canada*. Even when used in a sentence, **The** should be capitalized; don't omit it.
- 2 **CWL** is an acceptable abbreviation but the *CWL Style Guide* says to drop the periods, i.e., do not use C.W.L. The plural is CWLs – no apostrophe.
3. Capitalize League as an alternate short form when referring to the CWL organization
4. Use *Catholic Women's League* after your church's name, e.g., St. Peter's Catholic Women's League. (Omit *the of Canada* here.)
5. Use the full title, St. Peter's Catholic Women's League or The Catholic Women's League of Canada followed by (CWL) or (League) in brackets, so that each subsequent reference needs only use the abbreviated CWL or League.
6. In writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper (or even bulletin inserts asking women to join), be sure to use, at least once, *Catholic Women's League*, as your readers may not know what the CWL is.

The *Style Guide for League Publications* is found on pgs109-112 in the National P&P.

**Treasurer**  
**Colleen Martin**

**Assistant:** Elizabeth Bortolussi

**Treasurer Tips**

**Five Smart Financial Controls**



*(Watch for more detail on this in the next newsletter)*

1. Require 2 signatures
2. Maintain a paper trail
3. Report monthly
4. Review and reconcile monthly
5. Conduct an annual audit or examination

If you maintain these controls, you will:

- Limit your personal responsibility for expenditures as they are approved by 2 officers of your council
- Ensure your ability to answer questions and provide written back-up for all your council's transactions
- Avoid catching executive members off-guard if the budget is getting close to expended or if it appears there will be an overage
- Reduce risks associated with unrecorded deposits or expenses or errors made by the financial institution your council deals with
- Ensure an independent review that will verify your council's policies as sound and identify areas where improvement may be recommended or necessary

Above all, you will avoid unnecessary headaches with these practices as you keep your council's assets safe and records clean and up to date.

**Steps to Good Budgeting**

1. Make a list of all regular spending items by reviewing the actual expenditures from the last several years; some examples are donations, council or parish activities, regular fund-raising events, supplies. Make a list of any irregular activities known for the upcoming year; an example might be a special, unusual event your organization has agreed to host or support during the next calendar year.

2. Review your current banking arrangements and other contracts you might have for service. Investigate options to ensure you have the best financial arrangements available to your council.

3. Determine monies available to your council based on current funds on hand and expected fundraising activities.

4. Prepare a draft budget and identify for your council's members the necessary versus luxury items included and revenues/fund-raising required to cover all items.

5. Review the budget against actual results monthly when you reconcile your records and report to your council whether actual results are on budget or whether revisions to the budget are recommended.

Taking time to prepare for your budgeting process each year will mean increased chance of a balanced budget and continued financial security for your council.

***1 Corinthians 14:40***  
***... and do everything in a decent and orderly manner***

## **Past President-Historian Shari Guinta**

*Our past and present is our history. S. Guinta*  
*If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday. Pearl Buck*

A past president is very valuable to her council and to the League. Her experience as president and other offices she has held is a resource in itself and should be used as such. As past president she should offer her assistance wherever necessary but must also be aware that each position is held by a capable woman who has the right to do her job her own way.

Be a mentor. Always encourage and support those coming behind you. They are your future too.

You may be asked to serve on committees and past presidents should be willing to be involved. She can give guidance with a voice of experience. The elections committee is often a job given to the past president and we all know how important this is.

### **Archives and History**

- I would encourage you to be aware of all that goes on in your council with a view to history and archives. A current and up to date list of executive members, president and accomplishments should be kept.
- Work with your chair of communications in ensuring that someone always has a camera ready. Pictures are worth a thousand words. They truly are.
- When pictures are taken, note who is in them and when archiving pictures be sure they are properly labeled. I have looked at some old pictures, for the Ontario council, just given to me, but I didn't know who is in them. Labeling and care with these pictures is so important.
- Archives are imperative. Keep those memories safe. It is worth the cost to have waterproof and fireproof containers if at all possible. If your council does not have a spot in your parish, church, office or diocesan office, please ask for an area to store your council's archives. These records should not be the basement or closet of someone's house.

*The passing on of history and tradition gives members a sense of pride and importance in belonging to the League (Executive Handbook)*

## Community Life Committee Verna Lynn Bergeron, Chairperson

**Sub-chairpersons:** Suzanne Mullins, Linda Marie O'Hagan,  
Vivianne Frankish, Connie Parry,

Community life standing committee has five ministries: the dignity and rights of persons; social and economic justice; refugees, immigration and citizenship; Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; and developing countries.

### **Development & Peace – the Horn of Africa**

*Reach out to others beyond our borders and change their world.*

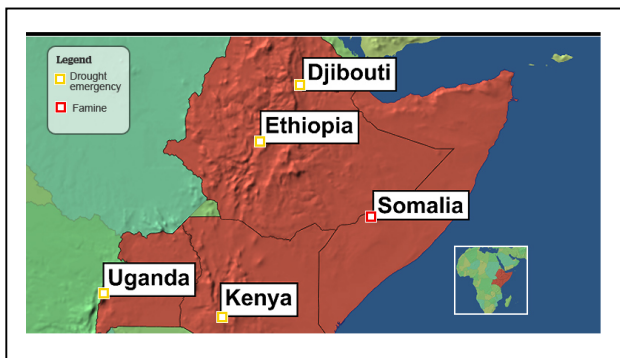
We've all seen and heard the reports in the media covering the crisis in the Horn of Africa. I would be remiss not to touch on this desperate situation at this time. For those of us who attended national convention held in August in Toronto, we are aware of the lively and passionate discussions that took place.

The media has made us aware of statistics such as 3,000 new refugees arriving every day at border refugee camps in Kenya; camps that were constructed to hold a maximum of 90,000 people are overflowing. Somalia has been hit the worst. Somalis are travelling great distances to refugee camps in the hope of receiving humanitarian aid. The hardship of the journey has taken its toll on the health of many who are already weakened by malnutrition, particularly children, who often arrive at the camps with critical medical needs.

The shortage of food and rainfall has always been a great concern for this region. Consecutive years of food and rainfall shortages, added to the fact that the region is in civil strife, have placed an exceptionally hard burden on the people living in the Horn of Africa.

In a speech given by Pope Benedict XVI in July 2011, he said: "*Jesus reminds us of our responsibility to do everything we can to help those who are hungry and thirsty.*"

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is collaborating with Caritas Kenya, Caritas Ethiopia and Caritas Somalia in providing emergency aid and relief to the estimated 11.6 million people suffering from the severe drought in the Horn of Africa.



The number of people affected per country is as follows:

- Ethiopia: 4.5 million people
- Kenya : 2.7 million people
- Somalia: 3.7 million people
- Djibouti: 146,600 people

The international community is being called upon to rise up to help save the lives of men, women and children who

are dying of starvation. We may question if our donations will actually reach the people in the Horn of Africa. I don't believe that should be our question. Jesus calls us to give to

those in need, to feed the hungry; He doesn't call us to give once we are assured of it being received. Our trust is in God to meet the needs of His people. Psalm 22 tells us "*...he has not ignored the suffering of the needy. He has not turned and walked away. He has listened to their cries for help.*" We are the international community being called upon. Our question should be "*what will I do to help?*"

### **Human Trafficking And Refugees In Ontario** (Report from Suzanne Mullins)

Canada is recognized around the world for its leadership in resettling refugees and people who need protection. Many publications are available on a variety of topics related to our refugees. These are available from:

Distribution Services, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

Fax: 613-954-2221

website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/index.asp>

The government is also committed to improving the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to protect foreign workers and live-in caregivers from potential abuse and exploitation. To achieve this, they have proposed new penalties for employers who fail in their commitments to their employees.

Human trafficking is a \$40 billion global enterprise, second only to the drug trade. When the majority of people think of human trafficking, women come to mind. However, trafficking also involves children, men and refugees. Due partly to the number of illegal activities involved in trafficking, estimates of the number of victims vary widely.

The province will work with stakeholders to develop a crisis line, available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for victims of human trafficking who have been exploited for the purposes of commercial sex and forced labour. This crisis line is expected to be available soon.

Providing information or updates on these programs at your monthly meetings allows members to be knowledgeable about these issues and, provides them with strategies that enable them to share in the eradication of this social injustice.

### **Prayer Time – Upcoming Special Intentions of Pope Benedict XVI**

"Dear Lord, ...we pray that the nations of the earth, through knowledge and mutual respect, would grow in true harmony and peace, for you are the Prince of Peace. We also pray that children and young people may be messengers of the gospel and that their dignity may always be respected and preserved from all violence and exploitation."

Because of God's tender mercy,  
the light from heaven is about to break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide us to the path of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)

Resources: <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng>,  
[www.wau.org](http://www.wau.org); [www.worldvision.ca/drought](http://www.worldvision.ca/drought)

## Education and Health Committee Marlin Taylor, Chairperson

**Sub-Chairpersons:** Suzanne Mullins, Carol Pitcher,  
Theresa McGuire, [Hannelore Crawford](#)

*Why do I speak of being worth more than ten thousand talents? Or worth more than the whole visible world? A human being is worth more than the whole world. Heaven and earth and sea and sun and stars were made for his sake. (Saint John Chrysostom 347-407)*

Catholic Education is still facing many challenges in Ontario. With the upcoming provincial election on the **6<sup>th</sup> of October** members are reminded to discuss their concerns with their MPP and then go out and vote.

**November 14-18, 2011 is Ontario's Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.** This week focuses on promoting a safer learning environment which is essential to a student's success. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness of bullying-related issues with parents and the local community. Contact your local board as soon as possible and have a presentation on their policy at your council meetings. Be prepared to take part in the activities at your local schools. Social justice is necessary to develop many aspects of our environment and the relationship we have with our neighbours. Let it begin at home and school.

**The Ontario Safe Schools Act:** One of the main objectives of the Ontario Ministry of Education is to provide a safe learning and teaching environment. They now have in place specific policies to help prevent bullying in schools. All schools must have policies on bullying prevention, an intervention plan and procedures in place to deal with these situations. Resources and training for teachers and principals has been implemented. A partnership with *Kids Help Phone* helps school personnel in providing confidential counseling services for children and youth. Within the schools a safe schools team is also an intricate part of implementing this policy. "*Progressive discipline*" is a new strategy and requires that the whole school be involved and it results in promoting a positive school climate. It enables the principal to:

- \* choose the appropriate consequences to address inappropriate student behaviour
- \* offers students support to promote positive behaviour.

What the new law means for parents: This new legislation clarifies how all school board employees must handle incidents at school.

It:

- Requires all school staff to report serious student incidents that could lead to suspension or expulsion
- Means principals will learn about events that happen in school that negatively affect the school climate

- Ensures parents know that schools will respond appropriately to serious student incidents
- Ensures parents know when their child is a victim of such behaviour.

#### **CANCER:**

The information and statistics on cancer are from Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) ([www.cancercare.on.ca](http://www.cancercare.on.ca)).

#### **Facts:**

- Cancer is the #1 cause of death
- 1 out of 2 people will be diagnosed with cancer in 2012
- 1/3 of all cancers can be cured with early detection
- 40% Canadian women and 45% Canadian men will develop cancer in their lifetime.
- 30% new cancer cases will occur in young and middle aged adults aged 20-59
- 1 out of every 4 Canadians will die from cancer
- 50% of all cancers can be prevented and caught with early detection
- Screening for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer has proven to be effective

**Colon cancer:** Ontario has one of the highest rates for colorectal cancer in the world. Men and women over the age of 50 and those who have a history of the disease are at most risk. It is the second deadliest form of cancer, but when detected early through Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) or Colonoscopy, there is a 90% chance for a cure. Only 24% of Ontarians over the age of 50 have had the FOBT in the past two years.

One of the Provincial Resolutions requiring the attention of this standing committee is:

**ON 2011.03 Raising Awareness of Colorectal Cancer and the Importance of Early Detection** - see the resolution and action plan in this newsletter.

*It is vitally important that we work for universal access and excellence of quality in the health care system. (Executive Handbook)*

## Legislation Committee Colleen Randall, Chairperson

It is my pleasure to be able to communicate with so many of you through our provincial newsletter. It is my hope to be able to grow in knowledge with you about how a bill becomes law under several different circumstances. Each newsletter article throughout my term will include a piece of this information. The following explains the stages of the pre-legislative process and is found on the website for the Legislative Assembly of Ontario : [http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/general-information/files\\_pdf/files\\_en/preleg.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/general-information/files_pdf/files_en/preleg.pdf)

*“The process by which ideas or proposals are turned into legislative proposals and put on the Government’s agenda is highly complex. The diagram which follows this explanation gives an outline of the process.*

*Arguably, the pre-legislative stages outlined below are more important to the fate of a proposal than the formal legislative process. This is because strong party discipline and the tendency of the electoral system to produce majority governments combine to create a solid and predictable block of support for government initiatives. The largest constraint on the passage of government bills by the legislature is time, not the ability of opposition parties to defeat legislative proposals.*

*As a result, the most critical moments in the life of a bill often occur in the pre-legislative stages, where there are many opportunities for a proposal to be defeated, to be significantly amended, or to be given too low a priority to continue its journey to the legislature. Several features of the pre-legislative process are significant.*

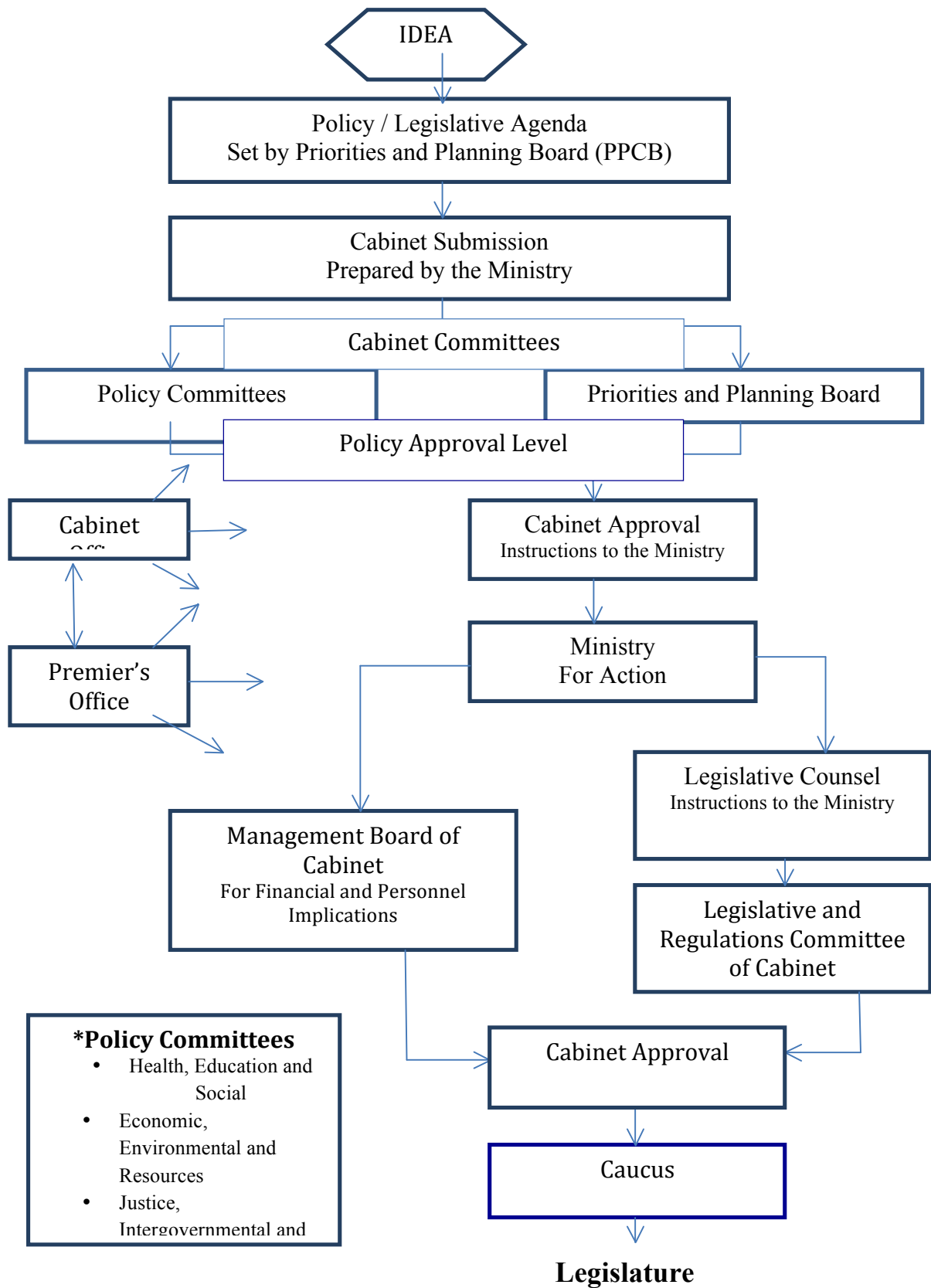
- *Firstly, it occurs almost entirely out of the public eye, protected by rules and conventions of confidentiality. The opposition, the press, and—most importantly—citizens learn only of the legislative proposals that survive the pre-legislative process, not the many more that are rejected or set aside at some step along the way.*

- *Secondly, the process is never quite the same from one government to the next. The pre-legislative stages involve the various structures and processes of cabinet, and these are entirely the prerogative of the premier to organize as he or she sees fit.*

- *Thirdly, while the actual drafting of legislation and regulations and much of the background briefing material is prepared by the ministry(ies) involved, significant direction is given by both the Cabinet Office and the Premier’s Office, two central agencies with a significant and ongoing interest in shaping, if not controlling, the government’s legislative agenda.*

- *Finally, the ultimate authority for any legislative proposal to proceed to the Assembly as a bill rests with the Cabinet, which is involved in the process (as sketched out below) at several points. Perhaps the most important of these is right at the start, when the Cabinet establishes the strategic priorities that are to dominate the government’s policy agenda. It will be expected that legislative proposals received from ministers, ministries or elsewhere will be geared to these priorities.”*





**Christian Family Life Committee**  
**Mary Jane A. Yaeger, Chairperson**

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life are what we usually think of when we discuss vocations. However we all have a vocation in life, whether it is to the priesthood, religious, single or married life. We must encourage everyone to fulfill his or her vocation whatever it may be and we must pray that we all follow the path that our Lord has set us on. We may drift a bit at times, but through prayer we will get back on track and someday be able to thank him for the gentle reminders He has given us on our journey.

In my own Diocese of Hamilton, The Catholic Women's League co-host a Vocations Mass with the Serra Club and the Knights of Columbus. This was started ten years ago and we have been celebrating and praying for vocations together with the host parish. Bishop Crosby will be joining us this year on Sunday, September 18 at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Parish in Georgetown. We always encourage all parishioners from across the diocese to join us for this special celebration. Consider starting something like this in your own diocese. Come together and pray for vocations.

Supporting our seminarians is very important, as they need our prayers and encouragement. The *Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund* is one way members in Ontario can help a seminarian on his journey to the priesthood.

***What is the Bishop Bernard F Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund?***

Bishop Bernard F. Pappin passed away on August 27, 1998 while serving as Spiritual Advisor to the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. In his memory the Ontario Provincial Council established the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund to assist diocesan seminarians in need of personal financial support. Seminarians studying for ministry in an Ontario diocese may submit an application for consideration to the provincial president by January 15th each year. The provincial administration committee reviews all applications against the criteria and announces the recipients of the awards by April 30th of the same year. This fund is financed **solely** by donations from Catholic Women's League parish councils in Ontario. Contributing financially to this fund is a wonderful way for your members to support vocations to the priesthood in our province.

Please encourage young people, whatever age, to pray and attend mass regularly.. Encourage them to participate and be involved in their parish as altar servers, greeters, Eucharistic ministers, commentators, or choir members. Invite them to join you in your ministry. Invite them to join the Catholic Women's League or the Knights of Columbus, as another way to get involved in living their faith.

**May Our Lady of Good Counsel support you on your vocation journey.**

**64<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Provincial Convention**  
***Centred on Faith and Justice – Led by the Spirit***  
prepared by Geraldine Canning and Mary Lou Watson

The Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada held its 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Hamilton from July 10-13. The 300 attendees, representing 13 dioceses, gathered to enjoy each other's fellowship while they heard speakers and debated issues around this year's theme, *Centred on Faith & Justice – Led by the Spirit*. Bishop Douglas Crosby, of Hamilton diocese and the Ontario provincial spiritual advisor, celebrated the Opening Mass at Christ The King Cathedral joined by parish and diocesan spiritual advisors from across the province.

Members were inspired by several speakers during the sessions. Bill and Barb Johnston from *The Centre for Applied Human Dynamics*, explained through humour and personal examples four different communication styles. They asked the delegates two questions and based on their answer they were then to move into one of the four groups which best matched their predominant communication style. Bill and Barb ended this exercise by giving us tips and strategies on how best to work with people whose style is different from our own.

Father Rico Passero, a newly ordained priest from St. Catharine's Diocese, spoke on how members of the Catholic Women's League have helped him in his formation as a priest. He thanked the members of Ontario for awarding him the *Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary* and asked for their continued prayerful support in his vocation journey. Kristine Vasilloo of the Hamilton Good Shepherd Centre explained how two residences run by the centre, Martha's House and Mary's Place, offer refuge and support to abused and homeless women in the city. Dr Moira McQueen, executive director of CCBI, spoke briefly on a program they offer called *For People in the Pews* an everyday bioethics lecture series designed for parishes. She encouraged members to consider hosting this program for their own parishes.

National president Velma Harasen reminded us that the "success and strength of the League is at the parish level". She also said while "all Catholic women deserve to be members, some never join because they have not been asked" and she challenged each member to invite one other woman to become a member of the League.

Three resolutions related to health: (i) safe, potable water for First Nations communities; (ii) reducing sodium content in food and (iii) raising awareness of colorectal cancer, were passed by the delegates and sent to national for consideration at the National Convention of The Catholic Women's League August 14-17 in Toronto. The full text of these resolutions and their action plans appear on pages 14-17 in this newsletter.

Members had fun at the dinner and boat cruise around Hamilton harbour on Saturday night- singing, doing the limbo and other energetic dancing on the upper deck as the boat cruised back to the dock. They celebrated "Christmas in July" on Monday night dressed up in seasonal attire, performed skits, sang Christmas songs and learned how difficult it

was to make deer antlers from panty hose and balloons and then wear them on their heads. At the banquet on Tuesday night Shari Guinta, thanked convention organizers for a job well done, and said her past two years as provincial president were a gift from the members of Ontario that she will treasure for the rest of her life. Members then danced the night away to a live band playing their favourite tunes from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

The convention concluded on Wednesday morning with the following slate of provincial officers being elected to serve for the 2011-2013 term: President, Marlene Pavletic (Thunder Bay); President-Elect, Betty Colaneri (St Catharines); 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Pauline Krupa (Thunder Bay); 2nd Vice President, Anne Madden (Kingston); Recording Secretary, Carol Richer (Kingston); Treasurer, Colleen Martin (Thunder Bay); Past President, Shari Guinta (Hamilton); Standing Committee Chairpersons: Verna Lynn Bergeron (Hearst), Colleen Randall (Ottawa), Patricia Rivest (London), Marlin Taylor (Toronto) and Mary Jane Yaeger (Hamilton). These officers were installed, along with the incoming provincial spiritual advisor, Bishop Fred Colli of Thunder Bay, during the Closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Douglas Crosby at St. Joseph's Church Hamilton.

The new president then named five appointments which included: Corresponding Secretary, Glenda Klein (Peterborough), Newsletter Editor and Privacy Officer, Mary Lou Watson (Hamilton), Screening Officer, Joleene Kemp (Thunder Bay), Financial Advisor, Janice Deslaurier (St Catharines) and Life Member Liaison, Donna Shaddick (Toronto).

We are all invited to come to **Kingston 8-11 July 2012** for the 65<sup>th</sup> annual convention.



**Provincial Executive and Appointees 2011-2013**

## **91st Annual National Convention Centred on Faith and Justice**

*Prepared by Betty Colaneri and Pauline Krupa*

Over 600 members, spiritual advisors and guests from across Canada attended the 91<sup>st</sup> annual national convention held at the Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto from August 14-17. Congratulations to our National Spiritual Development Chairperson, Margaret Ann Jacobs for the thought provoking, heart-tugging prayer services throughout the convention. Each one centred on women and poverty issues. One could not help but leave with a lot to ponder over.

Monday was a full day of talks, music and insight in support of our theme *Centred on Faith and Justice*. The opening presentation by Dr. Nancy Reeves and Linnea Good asked, “How do we react to injustice and poverty”? “Do we know the difference between fairness and justice”? “Are we aware of our own poverty”? “Do we recognize the many levels of poverty and that it can be spiritual as well as financial”? Three of Dr Reeves’ statements that particularly caught our attention on the topic of Spiritual Discernment were: “I’d say yes God If I knew what you wanted;” *God uses our strengths and God strengthens our weaknesses*” and “to be fully present in the Eucharist we should be *Omnivert to deepen our relationship.*”

Sister Sheila Fortune, c.s.j then acquainted members with the Innu people of Labrador from Natuashish. Historically a nomadic people, the community were forced by the territorial government to live at Davis Inlet where conditions were unbearable. In the early 2000’s the community was relocated to an area where access to basic needs could better be met. Although living conditions have greatly improved, Natuashish is still plagued with many of the social conditions found in far northern communities. Sister Sheila spoke of the Innu’s great devotion to their faith. She spends a lot of her time working among the women of the Catholic community supporting families in need and she thanked the *Catholic Missions In Canada* for their financial support that allows her work to continue.

On Tuesday the business of the convention began with reports from provincial presidents. Each one reported on projects in support of the national “*Women Against Poverty (WAP)*” initiative. The activities varied from province to province with some similarities such as “Change for Change”, awareness walks and support for victims of the fire in Slave Lake. A number of unique projects were also cited such as: holding a beauty night for women living on the streets; providing garden vegetable cooking sessions; adopting a mom program; prayer programs for the homeless and *Nickels for the North*. Leadership training was seen as a need across Canada with an emphasis on getting back to the basics.

A number of provinces reported an increase in membership and new councils being formed. Ontario was applauded for holding its first ever *Meet and Greet* reception at Queen’s Park in March 2011. Nova Scotia provincial council started an investment fund for those living in poverty. Members have pledged to donate twenty-five cents a week to

this fund, which is projected to raise \$65,000 annually to support those in need. They challenged other provinces to do the same.

National standing committee chairpersons also reported on WAP projects and some made powerful statements calling all members to open their hearts and meet some of the challenges identified: baby boomers are reaching retirement but health care system and lack of doctors may not make this possible; there is a growing need to advocate for accessible palliative care for all; we need to consider the work and support of resolutions as faith in action.” We also heard about *Be League* the monthly E newsletter that appears on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month on the national website. It is member driven so be sure to send your council’s news in so your good work can be featured and shared. Five resolutions were presented and debated and four were passed using a new process that resulted in fewer amendments taking up the discussion time and leaving more time to debate the issues. The Fall League magazine and the national website will have the full reports of provincial presidents and national officers as well as the resolutions passed and their action plans.

The convention was meaningful, uplifting, re-energizing, full of information and important issues to bring home to discuss with our members and to put into action. We are all invited to attend the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual national convention next year **12-15 August 2012 in Edmonton Alberta**; the city where in 1912 the Catholic Women’s League was born.



**400 Ontario Members attend National Convention in Toronto August 2011**

## **Ontario Provincial President's Oral Report To the National Convention, August 2011, Toronto**

Ontario Councils worked with the national theme *Centred on Faith & Justice* and the provincial sub-theme *Led by the Spirit* in very creative ways. The focus was on *Women Against Poverty*.

Presentations were delivered on human trafficking, refugee issues and the ongoing suffering still experienced in Haiti. Members volunteered at local food banks, school breakfast programs, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Some members volunteered in third world missions.

Alexandria-Cornwall council made sleeping mats from milk bags for Haiti. Toronto Diocesan council pledged to raise \$5000 for the project "Women Helping Women". They were extremely pleased to report the goal was surpassed as over \$8000 was raised for Catholic Family Charities. Thunder Bay diocesan council focused on aboriginal issues at their convention. A movie by First Nation Filmmaker Michelle DeRosier enlightened members on how difficult it is for many aboriginal youth coming from remote areas to the cities for schooling. An aboriginal leader and residential school survivor presented her story "Walk a Mile in my Shoes." St. Catharines council partnered with the chaplain at Brock University to assist students travelling to a South American mission by filling a suitcase for each student with school supplies, medical supplies and small sealed toiletry items. Kingston diocesan council twinned with a Catholic Women's League in Kingston, Jamaica. The president and vice president from Kingston, Jamaica attended the diocesan convention.

Bishop Douglas Crosby joined the provincial executive at the winter meeting in February and provided information on the new Roman Missal. A major review of the *Provincial Manual of Policy and Procedure* was completed and accepted. Life Member and Past Provincial President Joleene Kemp was appointed provincial screening officer. Life Member Mary Lou Watson was appointed privacy officer. Policies were developed for members of the executive holding "high risk" positions and executive issues surrounding privacy.

The provincial council worked successfully with national office to inform councils that membership needed to be processed in an efficient way so all could benefit from the per capita income. Provincial council will be signing up for automatic funds transfer and encourage diocesan councils to follow suit.

Over several years membership in the province had been declining. Councils at all levels worked diligently to ensure members renewed, to recruit new members and to encourage councils to register for online membership submission. The good news we share today is we see the trend of declining membership turning around.

Creative actions have been taken to increase membership. Hamilton diocese sent letters to Catholic school boards encouraging teachers to buy memberships in the League. St. Catharines diocesan council participated in a Catholic school student's council



convention where they set up a display promoting the League. Sault Ste Marie diocese has been dealing with church closures and members were encouraged to transfer to other parishes.

Leadership training was promoted and with the financial assistance from the national and provincial development funds much training was accomplished in the dioceses.

The provincial team met with government ministers on February 28 which included meetings with the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister of Revenue; the senior policy advisor for Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues; Minister of Education; Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry.

The provincial council hosted the very first *Meet and Greet* reception on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Queen's Park. This event was organized by Resolutions Chairperson, Pauline Krupa with the assistance of MPP Bill Mauro (Thunder Bay-Atikokan) and his staff. Nearly 100 ministers, MPPs and/or their staff attended. President Shari Guinta formally introduced the provincial team. Bishop Anthony Tonnos who retired last fall as Provincial Spiritual Advisor, spoke graciously and was supportive of the event. A power point presentation was presented continuously and a brochure highlighting the work of the provincial council and The Catholic Women's League in Ontario was distributed. The provincial council is very proud of this very worthwhile event.

The provincial government will be holding an election this October. There continues to be a movement against Catholic education. Catholic educator Lou Rocha provided the provincial council with an update on potential issues that may come to the forefront before the fall election.

Six new deserving women received life memberships and now serve national council in this new capacity:

Georgina Bourke, Hamilton diocese	Anne Madden, Kingston diocese
Suzanne Mullins, Pembroke diocese	Carole Pitcher, Toronto diocese
Bev Weiler, London diocese,	Wilhelmina Wicha, Peterborough diocese.

Seven seminarians are receiving the Bishop Bernard F. Pappin Memorial Bursary. This year each received \$750.00.

Sadly, we lost two past provincial presidents in July: Peggy Nastasiuk and Verna Morgan.

We acknowledge the passing of Most Reverend Paul Marchand, Bishop of Timmins and Most Reverend Francis John Spence from the Archdiocese of Kingston.

A new provincial slate of officers was installed at the provincial convention in Hamilton. The new provincial executive, including Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Fred Colli from Thunder Bay diocese, is looking forward to continuing the good work of the League during their upcoming term.



## Remembrance and Prayers

**Archbishop Spence** passed away on Wednesday, July 27, 2011. He was born on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1926 in Perth, Ontario and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Kingston on April 16, 1950. He was ordained a Bishop at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kingston on June 15, 1967, and served as Auxiliary Bishop to the Military Vicar from 1967 to 1982. He was installed as Archbishop of Kingston on June 30, 1982. Archbishop Spence sat on various commissions and committees of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and served as its President from 1995 to 1997.



**+ May he rest in peace +**

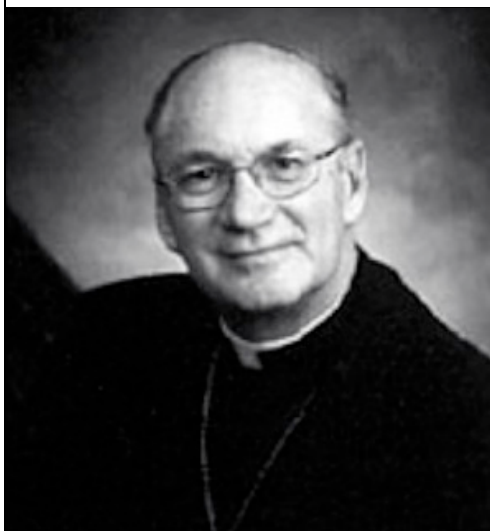
**Cardinal Ambrozic** died 26 August 2011 at the age of 81.



Aloysius Ambrozic was born in Gaberje, Slovenia, the second of seven children. In May 1945, the entire family fled to Austria, where they lived in Refugee camps.

While in these camps, he completed his high school education. His family emigrated to Canada in 1948 and settled near Toronto. Shortly afterward, he entered the seminary and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto on June 4, 1955. In 1976, he was named auxiliary bishop of Toronto, becoming the coadjutor of the archdiocese a decade later. In 1990, he became the archbishop and in 1998, was made a cardinal. He was the founder of CCBI where they continue to hold annual lectures in his name.

**+ May he rest in peace +**



**Bishop Marchand** passed away on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the age of 74. He was born in Lafontaine, Ontario on April 17, 1937. Ordained a priest on March 17, 1962, Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa where he was ordained on August 20, 1993 in Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica. On March 8, 1999, Bishop Marchand was appointed Bishop of Timmins. He was a member of the ACBO and a member of numerous commissions and committees.

**+ May he rest in peace +**

## Remembrance and Prayers



**Past Ontario Provincial President Peggy Nastasiuk** became a C.W.L. member at the age of 16 when her mom gave her a membership for her birthday. A

wife (survived by husband Alex) and mother of five, Peggy began teaching at the age of 16 in a one-room school in Deep River, Ontario and retired from teaching in Barrie many years later. After moving to Barrie in 1967, Peggy became a member of St. John Vianney Council where she began her CWL journey in earnest, serving as parish president and then diocesan president. After completing her term as provincial president she went on to serve at the national level as Spiritual Development Chair. In her bio for the Life Member book Peggy said, "I have learned so much in my years in the League. I will always be most thankful for the wonderful opportunities the League has given me; for the beautiful friends I have made from coast to coast and for the inspiration and spiritual support that has always been there for me." Peggy died July 11, 2011 and will be missed by all who knew her.

+ May she rest in peace +



**Past Ontario Provincial President Verna Morgan** (predeceased by husband Ray) graduated from the School of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto and worked in pharmacies in

Sudbury after her marriage. Though they had no children of their own they were foster parents to many over the years. Verna lived out her Christian baptism through her exemplary service to her church and community. She was dedicated to her parish communities where many groups benefitted from her leadership skills. She assisted in developing a Catholic Social Justice Committee for the Sudbury area and received the Silver Medal of the Diocesan Order of Merit, the Queen's Silver Anniversary Medal and the Governor General's Persons Award in recognition of her commendable and continuous efforts for her community. Verna was especially devoted to the Catholic Women's League and once said, "Words cannot describe what the League has meant to me over the years. It is an experience that I wish everyone could have. The friendships shared and cherished shall remain with me always."

Verna passed away at the age of 89 on July 6, 2011.

+ May she rest in peace +

## Provincial Executive Profiles

### **Pauline Krupa 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and chair of Communications**

Pauline was born, raised and educated in Fort William, now Thunder Bay. Following high school graduation and a short stint



working in a bank she entered Lakehead Teacher's College. She began her career in a number of communities around

North Western Ontario settling back home in 1974. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education. She is a recently retired Special Education teacher. For fun she putters around her home and perennial gardens and has just completed some major home renovations. Her son Daniel, wife Shan and granddaughter Joelle are the joys of her life. Basket weaving is her all time favourite way to relax. Over the years Pauline has volunteered her time in many community, diocesan and parish groups. Of special note is the time spent as Soccer Northwest's representative to the Ontario Soccer Association and Chairperson of the Thunder Bay Diocesan Youth Advisory Board. Pauline is a charter member of St Peter's Parish Council. Over the past 20 years she held a number of executive positions at parish and diocesan levels. Pauline has served on the provincial executive as chair of spiritual development and resolutions. In March 2011 she organized a successful Meet & Greet at Queen's Park for the provincial council members to meet with MPPs and their staff.

### **Anne Madden 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and chair of Resolutions**

Anne is currently working as the Regional Lead for the Ontario Cancer Symptom Management Collaborative, responsible for



symptom management assessment in the Oncology Department at Kingston General Hospital. Anne is enrolled in the Distance

Education Program at the University of Victoria, pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She lives on a farm in Burridge with her husband, Jim, who owns and operates a tree service and the farm. Anne is the mother of eleven children, six girls and five boys and is a grandmother of six. Anne has been active in the Parent Council at Edwards Elementary School in Westport for twenty-six years. She has always been an active member of her parish and previously served as the Parish Council Representative on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and as a religious education teacher after Mass; she is currently a lector. Anne joined the Catholic Women's League in 1981 after moving to Canada from New York. Anne served on the Kingston diocesan council executive in a variety of positions, and has just completed her term as legislation chair for the provincial council.

**Congratulations Anne on becoming a Canadian citizen on September 23<sup>rd</sup>!**



## Provincial Executive Profiles

### **Betty Colaneri: President-elect and chair of Organization**



Betty has been married for 27 years, has two sons, Nicholas 24, Christopher 20 and her mother Cristina lives with her. Her nephew Rico is a priest serving as associate pastor in the St. Catharines

diocese. The Colaneri family recently opened their own winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Betty is the marketing manager and creative consultant. Betty was diocesan president for St Catharines 2001 to 2003. She has served on the provincial executive since 2003 as newsletter editor, chairperson for communications, Christian family life and spiritual development. She has also served as a sub-committee member for the national council under Christian family life, education and health and presently community life.

Over the years Betty has volunteered for many organizations including her latest of Hospice Niagara.

Betty received her Life Membership in 2005 and recently received her 25 Years of service pin. It has been truly a spiritually enriching and rewarding experience for the past 25 years. She feels that the best part of being in the League is having sisters all across Canada that walk with you on your spiritual journey, pray with you, guide you and are there for you in times of struggle or heartache to help you carry your cross. The League has been a blessing in her life.

### **Shari Guinta Past President and Historian**



Shari was born in Nova Scotia and transplanted to Toronto in 1971 to attend college. She now lives in Waterloo, with her husband of 34 years and

they have two children. Shari has been a member of The Catholic Women's League since 1986, serving as recording secretary and president in 1990/1991 for Sacred Heart parish, Kitchener. She went on to the diocesan executive where she served for 14 years and as diocesan president for Hamilton 2001-2003 when she initiated the first diocesan Vocations Mass in 2002. In July 2003 Shari began her service on the provincial council as treasurer; 2nd vice president and chair of spiritual development; president elect and chair of organization; president and now in 2011 is beginning her term as past president and historian. She was awarded her Life Membership in the League in May 2005. In her parish, St. Michael's Waterloo, Shari is a Minister of the Word and is a group facilitator, preparing grade 8 students for confirmation. Shari is a member of the Kitchener Waterloo Serra Club, an organization that prays for and fosters vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Professionally, Shari owns a property management business, managing residential and commercial properties, specializing in non-profit housing. She is Chair of the Region of Waterloo Community Housing Inc., and in 2002 was named to the Mayor's Task Force on Housing for the City of Waterloo.

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**Subscription deadline date is February 6 2012 to receive the spring issue**





## **Awards**

## **Celebrations**

## **Special Events**



### **Toronto Diocesan Council**

**ST. Monica's (Toronto)** celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2011.

Maple Leaf Service Pin recipients will be:

Claire Warner, Jovita Muller and Kathy Sharkey.

Years of Service pin recipients will be:

60 Years- Mary Ware

25 Years- Marie Howe, Shelagh Rolph , Mary Frances Tracey

10 Years- Laima Wilson, Sheila Low

#### **St Joseph's Highland Creek (Scarborough)**

Years of service pins to be presented at the Council's December 2011 potluck dinner

40 Years- Agnes Fowler, Ethel McGilley, Roma O'Meara

25 Years- Lina Civello, Virginia Madeiros, Maria Zapfe

10 Years- Mary Cunningham, Rose Joseph

### **Pembroke Diocesan Council**

#### **Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Renfrew)**

At the June 2011 Award dinner the following was presented:

Years of Service Pins

50 Years- Merle Ritz

40 Years- Cecelia L'Abbe, Margaret Carthy, Betty Cruise, Anne Laumen, Doris Prince and Nell Smith

25 Years- Phyllis Shields, Bernadette Taylor

10 Years- Cathy Thompson

Certificates of Merit

Fay O'Reilly for her good work in promoting council news and events in the media

Cathy Thompson for outstanding work as council treasurer over the last 4 years

Ella Box for being the 'rock' of the council and able to answer all questions



# OPC Communications Bulletin

## **Provincial Election Day is Thursday October 6, 2011**

**Catholic Education** has been under attack in past elections. From reports shared it appears that this issue should not be in the forefront in the upcoming election. However, this does not mean that Catholic Education will not become an issue. Major issues for this election will be economy based so everything is fair game.

### **A few things to note:**

- The British North America Act preserved a Catholic School System in 1867 and that law holds true today.
- Our students support and want to preserve Catholic Education.
- The Ontario Assembly of Catholic Bishops (ACBO) is working on documents to support the most current issues in education today (equity and inclusion with the Catholic perspective).
- A high percentage of students (40%) will be disrupted should there be only one system.
- A single system is not cheaper.
- The media is the greatest threat to Catholic Education.

### **What should members do?**

- Keep your eyes / ears open for media hot topics
- Know the issues
- Speak to candidates in your riding
- Visit the ACBO website for updates

The Catholic Women's League of Canada does have the ear of politicians.

**Be the voice!**

Submitted by Pauline Krupa, Communications Chair  
Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) of The Catholic Women's League of Canada