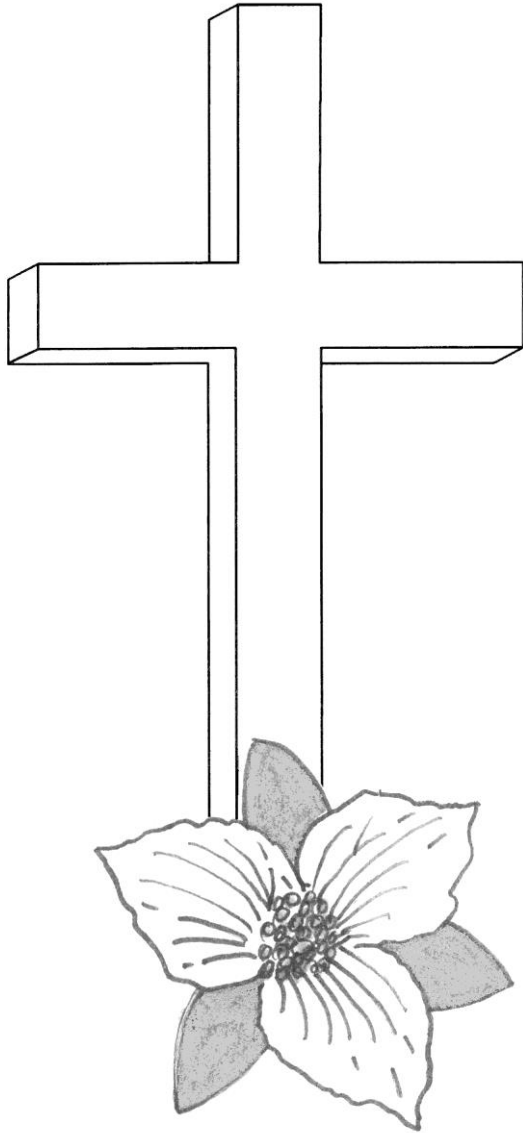


# **TRILLIUM**

## **NEWS AND VIEWS**



**Newsletter  
of the  
Ontario  
Provincial  
Council  
of The  
Catholic  
Women's  
League  
of Canada**



**[www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca)**

***For God and Canada***

**Fall 2013**



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## **Editor's Notes:**

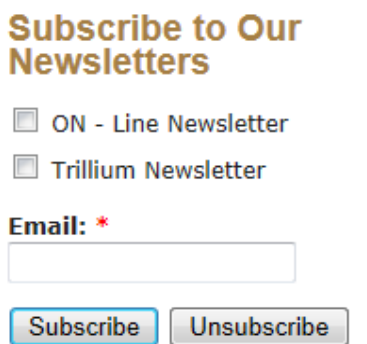
The *Trillium News and Views* is one of the public faces of the Ontario provincial council. The newsletter, the monthly *ON-Line* newsletter and the provincial website: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) will all provide you with information and recommended actions from the provincial officers, based on the theme and projects the council is pursuing for the coming two-year term. These resources are there to support you in your work for the League.

We have a new Provincial executive following the elections at the July provincial convention. Get to know our executive by reading the small profile of each officer and diocesan president. Remember, although contact information is no longer published, you may contact us through our website and your email will be forwarded to the person you want to reach.

Highlights in this issue are the report on the resolutions passed by the delegates at the July provincial convention containing the actions needed to bring about the desired results. You can also find reports on the provincial and national annual conventions.

There are two ways to subscribe to the Trillium newsletter:

To receive notice of the electronic copy of the Trillium, go to the homepage of the Ontario website and you will see:

A screenshot of a web form titled "Subscribe to Our Newsletters" in orange text. Below the title are two checkboxes: "ON - Line Newsletter" and "Trillium Newsletter". Below these is a label "Email: \*" in red, followed by a text input field. At the bottom are two buttons: "Subscribe" (highlighted with a blue border) and "Unsubscribe" (greyed out).

Check off the boxes and provide your email address in the box marked (Email). You may want to check off both as they are different publications. Once you click on the subscribe button, you will receive an email notification of the next new issue containing a link to where you may read it.

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The ON-Line is available solely online but the Trillium is also available by mail. To receive a mailed copy, complete the subscription form and send it with \$5.00 (for two issues) to the address on the form. Those who qualify for a complimentary subscription, just send the form. Remember to check the expiry date on your address label when you receive your copy so that you have plenty of time to renew.

The newsletter, both the current as well as past issues may also be read or downloaded from our website.

Margaret

## **Ontario Provincial President**

**We Have Seen the Lord!**

**Betty Colaneri**

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32*

My Dear Sisters in the League:

It is truly an honour and I am overjoyed to be sending this article as your provincial president. On behalf of the executive, I would like to welcome our new spiritual advisor, Bishop Bergie, from the diocese of St. Catharines. We look forward to working with him and know we will find his time with us inspirational and spiritually fulfilling. I extend my embrace of warm welcome and congratulate the new executive. These are exciting times and I look forward to working with you.

The provincial convention that was hosted by the Thunder Bay diocese was incredible! Our sisters in the Thunder Bay diocese worked very hard to make sure that those attending were very well looked after and everything ran smoothly.

Beginning my term in Thunder Bay seemed only fitting since that is where I grew up and a place I hold so dear. The closing mass was held in St. Agnes Church where I received my First Holy Communion. It began beautifully as Bishop Bergie and I walked into the church together. I felt a calm come over me, like an embrace of prayers of the many that offered their best wishes and the spirit of my sister. We are a wonderful team that is eager to work for God and Canada. As I lit the candle of each member of the executive, the above scripture passage came to mind. It has always been one of my favourites and as our flames joined it was a profound gesture to me that symbolized our connection of faith, sisterhood in the League and to be light for the world. It was also symbolic of *Catch the Fire!* and our commitment to fan the flames of the Holy Spirit. Remember "Good things GLOW in Ontario"!

After the installation ceremony I was surprised to see my family sitting in the pew. There are no words to describe how overcome I was with joy!

Conventions are magical because once you have experienced the sisterhood and bonding that happens you want to experience that feeling again and again. It revitalizes you and gives you the understanding that you are part of a bigger picture and that your voice joined with many voices can make a difference. What a wonderful recruiting tool!

The executive will be giving you highlights of the convention and will also be reporting on what took place. The following are just some highlights that I enjoyed.

There was a 'wow' moment during the opening ceremony when the chief was introduced to bring greetings and down the aisle walked a stunning woman, Chief Georjann Morriseau, Chief of Fort William First Nations! Her presence was predominant and she was very well spoken. I had the opportunity to speak to her at the opening reception and offered to help in any way possible and she offered the same.

Members were moved by the presentation of Betty Anne Brown Davidson gave on the theme "We Have Seen the Lord". As she guided us through, you could see members wiping away tears as they were made aware of how profound the statement is. After an inspiring presentation, our guest speaker, Anne Jamieson was not able to leave due to weather conditions in Toronto. Everyone extended their hospitality and went out of their way to make sure her unexpected stay was bearable. She wrote an article that you can read on our website called, "Stuck in Thunder Bay." The article can be found in the "Resource" section of the website. It is a perfect example of what The Catholic Women's League is all about.

I invite you to go to our website and the national website on a regular basis for information regarding the convention and updates that are posted regularly.

At the national convention, Fr. Bill Burke began his address to members by stating he gets very angry when people refer to the League as a group known for making sandwiches. "If I were a politician in this room right now," he said, "I would be very nervous." He recognized and validated the work that members accomplish on a daily basis. Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner praised members for their missionary work, announcing "the church needs you; you are dedicated, wonderful and enthusiastic missionaries. If I am not contributing to the life of the Church, I am no good to the Church and no good to myself". Bishop Wiesner also brought to our attention that every time an extraordinary intervention of the Lord has happened in human history a woman has been involved. He also said, "We give thanks for the God-given gift of womanhood. God needs you, humankind needs you and the Church needs you".

All the speakers at the national convention provided us with unique messages. Just when you think it couldn't get any better, members were moved by another profound moment. We were given an extraordinary opportunity of hearing Honourary Life Members Irene Lefort, Claire Heron, Agnes Bedard and Danielle McNeil-Hessian each share their personal stories of how they had seen the Lord.

As our meetings reconvene, let us be mindful that we are ambassadors of the League all the time. We are walking, talking billboards and the best form of advertising. God doesn't choose the qualified, He qualifies the chosen. He will give us what we need to do His work. Let your gifts shine!

Two hymns at the closing mass were very appropriate and we should keep them in mind. "I Say Yes My Lord" and "Go Make a Difference". We have said "YES" now is the time for us all to make a difference.....together.

*"Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire."* St. Catherine of Siena

### **Spiritual Advisor**

Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

In my first article for the *Trillium News and Views* I wish to begin by stating what a joy and privilege it is to be your spiritual advisor and to work with such a talented executive to help promote the good work of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. I know that I will be enriched by this experience as I come to "see the Lord" in each one of you.

The provincial and national conventions were a tremendous success and bore much fruit in all who attended. I especially appreciated the updates on *Catch the Fire!* which is all about leadership and promoting the League. We are being encouraged to "set the world on fire" through the various workshops being offered in dioceses throughout the country. Of course, before we can move outward we must turn inward, which means we must first be on fire before we can share the flame with others.

The prophet Jeremiah understood this very well in his own life experience. At a certain point in his life he became very frustrated because his preaching brought him ridicule and scorn from the people. He could not understand how proclaiming God's word brought him so much suffering, and yet, he could not give up because of the fire within: "O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed: you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long and everyone mocks me. If I say I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name, then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones: I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot." (Jeremiah 20:7, 9) Jeremiah cannot stop the fire within and he must proclaim the Lord, for the anguish from rejecting him is far greater than any grief that may come from proclaiming him. There is no question that the fire within Jeremiah's heart is his love for the Lord. It is that love that compels him to proclaim the Truth without giving up.

"Catch on fire and others will come to watch you burn" is a quote that is attributed to the Reverend John Wesley a popular Methodist preacher of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. John Wesley was on fire with love for the Lord Jesus Christ and others would come to listen and to "watch him burn". I believe that when we are burning with Christ's love we attract people to his Church. When the Catholic Women's League members are on fire with this same love more women are attracted to the League. The challenge for us all is to deepen our love for the Lord. As we see with Jeremiah this is not always easy because it will often cost us something in order to love; however, what we receive will be far greater than what we give. We will have that unquenchable fire burning within us that will give us the hope and strength to endure and to move forward in faith.

It is my hope and prayer that during my time serving as your Spiritual Advisor I may assist in some small way in helping you to deepen your love for our Lord Jesus Christ. It is my hope that in subsequent articles I will present practical ways to *Catch the Fire!* and in this way contribute to the growth of the League as more women come to “watch you burn”.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over us and lead us in ways of knowing, loving and serving her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and the Catholic Women’s League of Canada!

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

***PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS***

Lord Jesus Christ, You took to Yourself a body and soul like ours,  
to teach us the glory of self-sacrifice and service.  
Mercifully instill in our hearts the desire to dedicate our lives to You.  
Give us priests and deacons to stand at the altar  
and to speak the words of the gospel;  
brothers and sisters to teach the young, nurse the sick  
and minister charity to all;  
lay people to imitate You in their hearts, families,  
work and community.

*Amen*

Taken from *League Prayers*



## **Spiritual Development Committee**

Anne Madden, Chairperson

Sub-chairperson: Glenda Klein

*"I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness"*

John 12:46

### **Lumen Fidei**

Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, Lumen Fidei, the light of faith, was released on June 29, 2013. This document speaks of the Church's tradition of the great gift brought by Jesus, the risen Christ, the morning star that never sets. Those who believe, see; they see with a light that illumines their entire journey, for it comes from the risen Christ, the morning star which never sets.

(This article will cover the introduction and chapter one, look for chapter's two, three and four in subsequent articles)

#### ***An illusory light?***

Pope Francis refers to the 19<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, in speaking of the light of faith, and the objections of many of our contemporaries. Nietzsche's opinion was that this light may have been sufficient in the past, but not for a humanity come of age, proud of its rationality and anxious to explore the future in novel ways. Faith thus appeared to some as an illusory light, preventing mankind from boldly setting out in quest of knowledge. Nietzsche was to develop his critique of Christianity for diminishing the full meaning of human existence and stripping life of novelty and adventure. Faith would thus be the illusion of light, an illusion which blocks the path of a liberated humanity to its future.

Through all this faith became associated with darkness. Faith was thus understood either as a leap in the dark, to be taken in the absence of light, driven by blind emotion, or as a subjective light, capable perhaps of warming the heart and bringing personal consolation, but not something which could be proposed to others as an objective and shared light which points the way. In time, it became evident that this reasoning did not illuminate the future, and humanity renounced the search for a great light. In the absence of light, everything became confused, impossible to tell good from evil, taking people in endless circles, going nowhere.

#### ***A light to be recovered***

It has become essential to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating *every aspect* of human existence. A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God. Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love,

a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives. Transformed by this love, we gain fresh vision, new eyes to see; we realize that it contains a great promise of fulfillment, and that a vision of the future opens up before us. Faith, received from God as a supernatural gift, becomes a light for our way, guiding our journey through time. Pope Francis states, "It is this light of faith that needs to grow and enlighten the present, becoming a star to brighten the horizon of our journey at a time when mankind is particularly in need of light".

The Year of Faith was inaugurated on the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The Church never takes faith for granted, but knows that this gift of God needs to be nourished and reinforced so that it can continue to guide her pilgrim way. The Second Vatican Council enabled the light of faith to illumine our human experience from within, accompanying the men and women of our time on their journey. It clearly showed how faith enriches life in all its dimensions.

#### CHAPTER ONE

### **WE HAVE BELIEVED IN LOVE**

1 John 4:16

#### ***Abraham, our father in faith***

Faith opens the way before us and accompanies our steps through time. Hence, if we want to understand what faith is, we need to follow the route it has taken, the path trodden by believers, as witnessed first in the Old Testament. Here a unique place belongs to Abraham, our father in faith. Something disturbing takes place in his life: God speaks to him; he reveals himself as a God who speaks and calls his name. Faith is linked to hearing. Abraham does not see God, but hears his voice. Faith thus takes on a personal aspect. God is not the god of a particular place, or a deity linked to specific sacred time, but the God of a person, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, capable of interacting with man and establishing a covenant with him. Faith is our response to a word, which engages us personally, to a "Thou" who calls us by name.

The word spoken to Abraham contains both a call and a promise. He was called to leave his own land, to lead an exodus that would point him to an unknown future. God's word to him also contained a promise: Your descendants will be great in number; you will be the father of a great nation. Through this promise, faith is closely bound to hope.

God gave Abraham a son through his barren wife Sarah, and then tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice this son which would show the extent to which this primordial love is capable of ensuring life even beyond death. For Abraham, faith in God sheds light on the depths of his being; it enables him to acknowledge the wellspring of goodness at the origin of all things and to realize that his life is not the product of non-being or chance, but the fruit of a personal call and a personal love.

#### ***The faith of Israel***

The history of the people of Israel in the Book of Exodus follows in the wake of Abraham's faith. Faith once again is born of a primordial gift: Israel trusts in God, who promises to set his people free from their misery. Faith becomes a summons to a

lengthy journey leading to worship of the Lord on Sinai and the inheritance of a promised land. God's love is seen to be like that of a father who carries his child along the way. Israel's confession of faith takes shape as an account of God's deeds in setting his people free and acting as their guide, an account passed down from one generation to the next. God's light shines for Israel through the remembrance of the Lord's mighty deeds, recalled and celebrated in worship, and passed down from parents to children. Here we see how the light of faith is linked to concrete life-stories, to the grateful remembrance of God's mighty deeds and the progressive fulfillment of his promises. God's light comes to us through the account of his self-revelation, and thus becomes capable of illuminating our passage through time by recalling his gifts and demonstrating how he fulfills his promises.

The history of Israel also shows us the temptation of unbelief to which the people yielded more than once. Here the opposite of faith is shown to be idolatry. Faith consists in the willingness to let ourselves be constantly transformed and renewed by God's call. Herein lays the paradox: by constantly turning towards the Lord, we discover a sure path, which liberates us from the dissolution imposed upon us by idols.

In the faith of Israel we also encounter the figure of Moses, the mediator. The people may not see the face of God; it is Moses who speaks to YHWH\* on the mountain and then tells the others of the Lord's will. With this presence of a mediator in its midst, Israel learns to journey together in unity. Faith is God's free gift, which calls for humility and the courage to trust and to entrust; it enables us to see the luminous path leading to the encounter of God and humanity: the history of salvation.

### ***The fullness of Christian faith***

In the love of God revealed in Jesus, faith perceives the foundation on which all reality and its final destiny rest. The clearest proof of the reliability of Christ's love is to be found in his dying for our sake; faith grows stronger and receives a dazzling light; then it is revealed as faith in Christ's steadfast love for us, a love capable of embracing death to bring us salvation. This love, which did not recoil before death in order to show its depth; Christ's total self-gift overcomes every suspicion and enables trust in him completely.

Christ's death discloses the utter reliability of God's love above all in the light of his resurrection. As the risen one, Christ is the trustworthy witness, deserving of faith and a solid support for our faith. Christians profess their faith in God's tangible and powerful love; a love that can be encountered, a love fully revealed in Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

To enable us to know, accept and follow him, the Son of God took on our flesh. In this way he also saw the Father humanly, within the setting of a journey unfolding in time. Christian faith is faith in the incarnation of the Word and his bodily resurrection; it is faith in a God who is so close to us that he entered our human history. Far from divorcing us from reality, our faith in the Son of God made man in Jesus of Nazareth enables us to grasp reality's deepest meaning and to see how much God loves this world

and is constantly guiding it towards himself. This leads us, as Christians, to live our lives in this world with ever-greater commitment and intensity.

### ***Salvation by faith***

Faith's new way of seeing things is centred on Christ. Faith in Christ brings salvation because in him our lives become radically open to a love that precedes us, a love that transforms us from within, acting in us and through us. Christ came down to earth and rose from the dead; by his incarnation and resurrection, the Son of God embraced the whole of human life and history, and now dwells in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Faith knows that God has drawn close to us, that Christ has been given to us as a great gift, which inwardly transforms us, dwells within us and thus bestows on us the light that illumines the origin and the end of life.

We come to see the difference, then, which faith makes for us. Those who believe are transformed by the love to which they have opened their hearts in faith. By their openness to this offer of primordial love, their lives are enlarged and expanded.

### ***The ecclesial form of faith***

In this way, the life of the believer becomes an ecclesial existence; a life lived in the Church. Faith is professed from within the body of Christ as a concrete communion of believers. It is against this ecclesial backdrop that faith opens the individual Christian towards all others. Christ's word, once heard, by virtue of its inner power at work in the heart of the Christian, becomes a response, a spoken word, a profession of faith. Faith is not a private matter, a completely individualistic notion or a personal opinion: it comes from hearing, and it is meant to find expression in words and to be proclaimed. For "how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?" (*Rom 10:14*). Faith becomes operative in the Christian on the basis of the gift received, the love which attracts our hearts to Christ, and enables us to become part of the Church's great pilgrimage through history until the end of the world. For those who have been transformed in this way, a new way of seeing opens up, faith becomes light for their eyes.

Reference:

Pope Francis. (2013). *Lumen Fidei*. Encyclical letter of the Supreme Pontiff.

\* The name YHVH or YHWH is written with four consonants only; it is the holy Tetragrammaton, or in Hebrew, *Shem Hameforash*. Hebrew has no vowels. In ancient times, it didn't even have vowel points. The vowel points make it sound like Yehova, and later it was anglicised to Jehovah. The name occurs about seven thousand times in the Bible

## Organization Committee

Pauline Krupa, Chairperson

***"In the Church, and in the journey of faith, women have had and still have a special role in opening doors to the Lord..." (Pope Francis I)***

As we move beyond lazy hazy days of summer, and await the brilliance that only autumn can bring, our minds re-acquaint ourselves to all that is the League. Councils are gearing up for the new year of meetings.

As *Catch the Fire!* celebrates its first birthday a question seems only fitting. Are you among the 4% of members across Canada who have experienced the excitement of this program or are you among those who are still anticipating? Now is the time to light the flame and get a day planned for *Catch the Fire!* National council is still accepting applications for funds until December 31, 2013 and the Ontario sparks, are ready and willing to support councils across the province.

### **Membership Drive**

This very important activity takes planning so councils can be ready to begin in November. Many use posters, announcements in the parish bulletin, a talk from the pulpit at week-end masses, ministry fairs, and personal contact.

National Organization Chairperson, Barb Dowding, has expressed her concern for all the women who do not renew their membership. She wonders what could have happened: is it a health reason? Could it be a residence change? Is it something we've done or said? A while back I received an email which read *50 Ways to Lose Your Members*. It originated in St. Catharines a long time ago. I have combined some, edited a bit and now provide what I think are the top ten:

1. Make the spiritual program as short as possible – just get it over with!
2. Forget to be welcoming.
3. Ignore all newcomers and guests.
4. Don't have an agenda.
5. Don't follow the agenda you have set.
6. Rehash old controversies at every opportunity.
7. Squash new ideas – we've never done that before, we're too small, our members are too old, we don't have time.....
8. The priest / parish pastoral council won't like it.
9. We won't make any money doing that.
10. Criticize all decisions after the meeting is over.

True story: A CWL member in Saskatchewan, after attending a *Catch the Fire!* presentation challenged herself to bring 30 new members into her council. She did it by personal contact and found 45. **My challenge is for each of you to bring in one.**

## **Parish Manual of Policy and Procedure**

Councils across Canada have the *Constitution and Bylaws 2006* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and a number of guidelines from which one can learn about and understand the workings of the League. Also available are provincial and diocesan policy and procedures and guidelines. While these provide a good general overview they do not provide for the essence of what makes each council unique and special. A parish manual of policy and procedure is a simple tool that can do just that!

Your policy and procedure manual will:

- Keep consistent your long-standing traditions
- Provide a basis for budget planning
- Reduce the possibility of hurt feelings
- Help with your history
- Be a useful recruitment tool

## **Getting Started**

The president sets up an ad hoc committee comprising of long-time members who know the traditions of your council (at least two people should be past presidents), your recording secretary (to make minutes available), and the treasurer (who can review financial statements)

Decide on a time-line (one to three months)

Task: to prepare a draft manual for presentation to the general assembly

**Reminder: KISS (keep it simple sister!) – use language that is easily understood.**

## **What to Include**

- Policies established by motion for things like:
  - Mass intentions
  - Paid expenses for voting / accredited delegates to conventions
  - Allowable expenses for other meetings, workshops, League development,
  - Honoraria for guest speakers
  - Remembrances for members who have died, ill, hospitalized, celebrating a special event
  - Presentation of Maple Leaf Service pins (criteria, ceremony, etc)
  - Responsibilities on parish site (altar, kitchen supplies, other)
  - Funeral luncheons
  - Gifts to Spiritual Advisor
  - Criteria for scholarships / bursaries / charitable donations
  - On-going commitment (e.g. Seminary Funds, gifts for reception of sacraments, adopt a family plan, parish project, etc)
  - Any other activity / interest of the council

## **Presentation and Adoption of the Manual of Policy and Procedure**

Once the draft is completed, the president will provide time on the agenda to present the document. Members should be given time to take the draft home and come back to the next meeting with comments / amendments. Once a consensus is reached the document is presented for approval by motion.

## **Communications Committee**

Colleen Randall, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Margaret McAllister, Heather Sisk

*"We cannot keep ourselves shut in our parishes, our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel!"*

*Pope Francis*

Our gardens are full of ripening vegetables and, for those of us who preserve; we are well on the way to restocking the shelves for winter. As the warmth of our summer days comes slowly to an end my mind wanders to the wonders of the fall and the beauty that God offers all those in Ontario.

Our faith is like that garden; it needs to be nurtured and fertilized. As members of the Catholic Women's League in Ontario we have had many opportunities over the last few months to nurture and fertilize our faith through attendance at our diocesan and provincial convention. Someone told me not long ago... conventions are contagious. You go to your first one and you never want to miss another.

For those members who could not attend, sharing stories and photographs is a great way to share the fun and fellowship experienced. Social media is so advanced these days that we often can get up-to-the-minute news. During the provincial convention a daily newsletter was issued both in print at the convention and online at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca). The Ontario Provincial Council is on Facebook as well. Look us up. Daily postings are coming soon.

### **Pornography:**

Many members have asked for an update on the WRAP Campaign. In her oral report at National Convention in Regina Cecile Miller, National Communications Chair introduced a new national initiative called *Pornography Hurts*. The campaign will be a "many-pronged attack", as Cecile put it.

1. It is recommended that members wear white ribbons in October each year.
2. Two different postcards will be available through National office to be sent to the House of Commons. Diocesan presidents will receive copies of these at the Fall Executive meeting.
3. In October, The Canadian League will feature an article on pornography and a page of facts. Stitched in the centre of the magazine will be two postcards. Members are asked to fill out the postcards and send them to the Minister of Justice and their local MP, or any other member of parliament.
4. Using the fact sheet and information in the article, members are asked to write letters and email MPs.
5. Besides sending the two postcards during the month of October, members are also being asked to send cards, emails and letters during designated months, so that for twelve months, MP's will be receiving information about pornography.

The designated months for each province will be listed in the fall issue of the League magazine.

Postcards and emails will go a long way in continuing the fight against pornography. Together we can bring about change.

As your new Communications chair it will be my goal to encourage all members to participate in sharing the Good News of the Catholic Women's League through use of the Ontario Provincial website, Facebook, the *Trillium News and Views* and the monthly *ON-Line* Newsletter.

## Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.



O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen





## **Resolutions Committee**

Rosanne Sogan, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Donna Provost & Wilma Vanderzwaag

***"Cast all our anxieties on God, for he cares about us" (1 Peter 5:7).***

### **PRAYER FOR RESOLUTIONS CHAIRPERSONS**

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love, for the gifts You have given us and especially the precious gift of togetherness in The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Help me to appreciate my journey as chairperson of resolutions, and the various responsibilities during my term of office. Lord, be with us as our Counsellor and our support as we encounter obstacles and setbacks. Help us to work with enthusiasm, patience and understanding, sharing the joy and strength we, as CWL members, can offer each other. May the tasks we share in the resolutions standing committee be a reflection of the love You alone can give. Let Your love touch others through our lives, deeds and actions. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Your Son, through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Amen *(Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook 2012)*

Resolutions are ideas that often stem from the parish level. A resolution, like a motion, is a suggestion that introduces new business to the members. They follow the same rules as motions, i.e. seconded, debated and passed by a majority vote and all secondary motions can be applied to them.

There are different focusses a resolution may be directed: a) *internally* or *within* - to the League itself; b) *externally* or *outside* - to businesses, institutions, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), etc.

When directed *within the League*, its purpose is to propose a plan, establish a policy, and recommend action or censure. When directed to a group *outside the League*, its 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 or to express concern. *(National Manual of Policy and Procedure)*

### **Basic steps in preparing a resolution**

- ✓ become aware of an issue
- ✓ discuss with the council
- ✓ form a committee
- ✓ research and gather support material
- ✓ draft the resolved clause(s)
- ✓ draft the whereas clause(s)
- ✓ draft the bridging clause(s)
- ✓ draft the accompanying brief
- ✓ draft an action plan

- ✓ present for adoption
- ✓ pray at every stage (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook 2012*)

The prayer found at the top of the page is a beautiful way to start your resolution meeting or workshop.

Offering *resolution workshops* exposes the resolution process to members who are eager to learn more about the details behind a resolution and to those that may be *afraid* of them. Make this a regular event in your parish and diocese.

There are two excellent workshops found on the national website [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) under the Resolutions heading:

- ✓ Legislation and Resolutions Workshop
- ✓ “Let’s Change the World”, prepared by B.C. and Yukon Provincial Council

I also have a third workshop prepared by the Toronto Diocese who has graciously agreed to share this. If you wish to obtain a copy of this please contact me.

Resource materials to aid you in the successful production of a resolution are:

- ✓ *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*
- ✓ *Personal Letter Writing Guide*
- ✓ *Constitution & Bylaws*
- ✓ *Robert’s Rules of Order*
- ✓ *Executive Handbook*
- ✓ National standing committee communiqués
- ✓ *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook (2012)*
- ✓ *The Canadian League* Previous resolutions (available at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca))

Subsequent to the provincial and national conventions review the resolutions which were passed at each level and follow-up on the *action plan* (i.e. become educated on the topic, letter writing, etc.) See: **ON.13.01 – Reduce the Stigma attached to Mental Illness** found in this magazine and on the provincial website: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) and view those passed at the national convention at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) **2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples & 2013.02 Employment Insurance Benefits for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers**

The League has a strong and successful history with resolutions. Resolutions have been a major part of League work since its inception. A list of previous resolutions passed at national conventions since 1920 can be found by year and committee at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca). They are displayed as 2012:01 (i.e. year: first resolution). Those resolutions that are still active are in blue while those that are in grey have been archived. Active provincial resolutions date back to 1982 and are listed under *Resolutions* at [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) while the *Archived Resolutions* are under this precise heading and date back to 1948.

## **Resolutions Passed at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Provincial Convention**

Thunder Bay, Ontario, July 2013

Rosanne Sogan, Resolutions Chair

Resolution submitted by Toronto Diocesan Council

### **ON.13.01      Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness**

- Whereas:** In 2007 the Canadian federal government formed the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), which launched the *Opening Minds* program (2009) in an effort to reduce the stigma attached to mental illness; and
- Whereas,;** Combating the stigma of mental illness and preventing discrimination against people with mental illnesses must be a priority; and
- Whereas,** One in five people in Canada experiences a mental illness or mental health problem, with a cost to the economy in excess of \$50 billion annually; therefore be it
- Resolved,** That the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 66th annual convention assembled request the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to urge the federal government to maintain funding for the Mental Health Commission of Canada's *Opening Minds* program, Canada's largest ever anti-stigma initiative; and be it further
- Resolved,** That the Ontario provincial council urge its members to become educated about the reality of mental illness in an effort to reduce the stigma that exists in society by looking into programs such as the federal government's *Opening Minds* program and others that exist; and be it further
- Resolved,** That this resolution be forwarded to the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at its 93rd annual convention in August 2013.

**Disposition of this resolution at the national level:** The national executive, at their pre - convention meeting, accepted the national resolution committee's recommendation that this resolution be forwarded to the other provincial councils encouraging them to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

### **Action Plan**

1. Become educated about the reality of mental illness and reduce the stigma that exists in society by:

- Emailing the CMHA *Be Well* inspirational postcard to a friend, colleague or family member who is experiencing a mental health problem or is in some way affected by mental illness.
  - Exploring information provided by the Canadian Mental Health Association on stigma attached to mental illness on the CMHA website.
  - Promoting the *Annual National Mental Awareness Week* program (October each year) in your council, parish and community. For information visit the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health website.
  - Providing support and assistance to someone you know who has a mental health issue.
  - Reading information available on the *Opening Minds Project* on the Mental Health Commission website.
  - Speaking up when you hear degrading comments and phrases in reference to persons with mental illness.
2. Write to the Prime Minister and Minister of Health to ask that funding be maintained for the Mental Health Commission of Canada's Opening Minds Project - Canada's largest ever anti-stigma initiative.



## **Recording Secretary**

Patricia M. Rivest

Our most important job, as Recording Secretary, is to record the minutes. Our goal is to record them correctly, concisely and completely.....the 3-C's. It is important that the minutes are completed in a timely fashion.

I encourage all Recording Secretaries to download the *Handbook for Secretaries* from the national website. Another resource is *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. *Robert's Rules of Order* can be purchased at your local bookstore.

In this article, let us discuss the content of the minutes. What should we record? Do we try to record all conversations of the meeting? **NO** Do we summarize the debates of the motions? **NO** We record only what was done not what was said. The minutes should record the motion made – motioned by, seconded by and then whether the motion was adopted.

Avoid putting more than necessary in the minutes. For example, in dealing with a guest speaker, include the name of the speaker and subject. Do not summarize the presentation.

In future directives and in an article in the next edition of the *Trillium*, we will pursue various aspects of this position.

May you find joy, faith and fulfillment in this position during your term – ENJOY!

Happy Recording!

## **Corresponding Secretary**

Jeannie Coleman

Every corresponding secretary should have a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries*. You may download a copy from the national website at [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) or call the toll free phone number at 1-888-656-4040 and request a copy.

The following is from the *Secretaries Handbook*, page 14, pertaining to corresponding secretaries.

### ***Role of the Corresponding Secretary***

1. Attend all executive and general meetings of the council.
2. Submit all correspondence received to the president for her information and action.

3. Compose and send out all correspondence as directed in some councils this includes all occasion cards to members.
4. List all correspondence to be brought to the meeting.
5. Read highlights of all correspondence at the meeting as directed by the president. All correspondence received or sent in the name of the council should be reported to the members. This may include thank you letters, invitations, replies to inquiries, information received, etc. It may be summarized, giving pertinent details. Reporting of each letter should start with from whom it was received or to whom it was sent and the date. Reading of correspondence dealing with a matter appearing later on the agenda may be deferred until the matter comes to the floor of the meeting.
6. Arrange meeting accommodation and notify members of the time and place of the meeting.
7. Be responsible for notices of meetings and conventions.

**Treasurer**

Lucy Hendrikx

*"We have seen the Lord"*

This is my first article in the newsletter, as I am newly elected to the Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. In today's busy lifestyle we are truly blessed to be able to state that "We have seen the Lord". For me it has helped guide me through my youth and on into my adulthood. Many a time in life I have had to stop and take stock, only to utter "Lord, what am I to do now?". I am truly blessed that He has always been there in time of need and in times of great joy. He is there when I call on Him daily.

A brief introduction of myself: My name is Lucy Hendrikx. In 1973 I married a truly wonderful, understanding and patient guy named Louis. We have 5 children, 14 grandchildren and the 15<sup>th</sup> on the way. I started my "career" in the Catholic Women's League 40 years ago, when my mother-in-law took me to my first CWL meeting. The first time I became president of our Sacred Heart Parish CWL Council. I had a 20 month old daughter, a 9 month old daughter and was expecting a child in 3 months. Apparently I was the least busy person in the town of Parkhill that year. Wow what a blessing those 2 years were. I got to know those ladies who came to be my mentors at the diocesan level of CWL and really got to know the ladies from my own parish. The

women whom I have met through the CWL have loved, supported and encouraged me in all that I have done over the past 40 years.

In these 40 years I have had a seat on the Separate School Board in our area for 3 years and have been on our Municipal government for 12 years. I am heavily involved in our Sacred Heart Parish life and have spent many hours at the local school over the years. I have organized a sports League which allowed our children and those in our local community to play baseball and soccer during the summer months. I have spent 25 years working as a volunteer with the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart & Stroke Foundation. I am treasurer for a farmer's buying group and the local fair board. In 2012 I received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which was a great honour. I have been able to do all of these things with the love and support of my Lord, my family and fellow CWL members, who are my family.

As of July 10<sup>th</sup>, I have committed myself to serve you, the Catholic Women's League members of Ontario, to the best of my ability. I encourage all of the treasurers to fill out an annual treasurer's report form before the end of November and forward it to your Diocesan Treasurer, so that next July our *Provincial Annual Treasurer's Report* will reflect the generosity of all of our members in Ontario. Upon occasion as a treasurer we need a little guidance as to how we can best do the books to please the powers that be. If you ever need a little love and support, you can contact me at any time through the provincial CWL website.



## **Past President – Historian**

Marlene Pavletic

*“...And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Matt.28.20*

As we begin a new term in the history of the provincial council, it is particularly exciting to have the theme *We Have Seen the Lord* to focus upon for the next year. The theme was evident at the provincial convention in Thunder Bay where delegates were warmly welcomed by the Thunder Bay host council. There were many opportunities to reflect on the theme and to share our faith. Over 100 women were first time convention attendees and many of them shared how interesting and exciting it was for them. We need this “tune up” annually. We returned home re-newed, re-energized and re-focused. We caught the fire!

What is the role of a past president? How do you prepare? An excellent way is to re-read the *Constitution & Bylaws* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* so you will be better prepared to help when consulted. Encourage councils to do the same.

The *Constitution & Bylaws 2006* in Section 7 states the past president shall:

- serve in a consultative capacity
- be responsible for archives and history
- facilitate the study and implementation of the *Constitution & Bylaws*
- perform other duties as assigned by the president

Visit the national website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) and find a wonderful prayer service *The Objects of the League as We Love One Another*. This would be an excellent prayer service at a meeting since it reflects on the Objects of the League and how we strive to attain them.

Past presidents have a very special role in the League. We record the history of our council and all the wonderful work completed by those who served before us. It is important to keep history alive by keeping records up to date. Find a safe permanent place to store these records.

It is not only important to preserve the past for members but it is equally important that we take responsibility for the future. We need leaders to build on the past and lead into the future. So elections are an important responsibility for past presidents. A past president needs to be a role model to encourage and promote women to use their gifts. She should examine ways to assist members in discerning their call to service. Many of you will be preparing for elections. As past president you will most likely be chairing the nominations and elections committee. Don't wait until the eve of the election. Start preparing now. Know the process.

Occasionally there are various challenges in councils. Past presidents may be consulted. It is so very important that we respond kindly and informatively. Issues often develop as a result of not knowing League structure and process. *Catch the Fire!* presentations strengthen our knowledge and commitment to the League. Be a supportive promoter of this project.

The national past president, in assuming her role, encouraged every past president to be a mentor, a supporter, a gentle advisor, a sister and a friend. Enjoy this very special role.



## Community Life

Mary Jane Yaeger, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Suzanne Mullins, Linda Marie O'Hagan

There are many issues in the world that make us stop and wonder “why?” . Syria is one of them. I hope you were able to support Development and Peace in their efforts to assist with emergency aid for Syrian refugees. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace launched this humanitarian campaign in June 2013.

*The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) at the end of July reported almost 2 million Syrian refugees have sought shelter in neighbouring Middle East countries. The report notes that so far the refugees generally have access to basic public services, and that malnutrition and mortality rates to date are relatively low. However, the UNHCR also warns the number and needs of the Syrian refugees are growing, as well as placing serious pressures on host communities in the surrounding countries. In addition to the refugees outside Syria, an additional 6,800,000 people still living in that country are seriously affected by their country's ongoing violence, of whom almost half are children. The total estimated population of Syria in 2012 was about 22.5 million. (Quoted from the CCCB website)*

This is only one issue that has been in the news in the past few months and we need to pray for the Syrians and all those affected by this unrest.

Community Life Committee has several sub-topics and I hope to present to you some information and ideas on how you can encourage the women in your diocese to get involved in this committee. Remember, there is always some little topic that will ‘peak’ some interest and they will want to get involved. Kingston Diocese shared a check list for completing annual reports. I am including parts of this checklist for you to help with some ideas on how you can encourage your members to get involved.

### Support of **dignity and rights of persons**

- Support and assist charitable causes... children's drop in centres, blood donor clinics, meals on wheels, bereavement clinics, women's support groups, clothing drives
- addiction centres, mental health centres, school lunch and breakfast programs, etc.
- Support programs addressing families in crisis, women's shelters, etc.
- serve on boards of charitable organizations
- Focus on trafficking in women and children through workshops, education programs, distribution of brochures, videos, speakers
- Educate members and sponsor programs dealing with the effects of bullying
- Volunteer in personal care homes, provide assistance with daily routines for seniors
- Conduct programs focussing on the rights of seniors and elder abuse
- Study Legislation and Resolutions relating to dignity and rights of persons, and follow action plans with letter writing, etc.
- Actions related to **social and economic justice**
  - Support food banks, soup kitchens, community and school breakfast programs.

- Volunteer with organizations that support the blind, patients with Alzheimer's.
- Speakers on home safety for seniors.
- Support Fair Trade programs, coffee, etc.
- Letter writing to all levels of government in support of Resolutions.
- Lobby government, through personal contact and letter writing, to improve living conditions for the poor, to ensure access to clean water, etc.

#### Efforts to **support refugees, immigration and citizenship**

- Wear red on Fridays, in support of our military.
- Assist members with immigration, refugee or citizenship issues such as completing forms, contacting various government agencies, etc.
- Welcome new immigrants into the community with receptions and helping to celebrate citizenship ceremonies .
- Participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies, parades, laying of wreaths
- Billet foreign students.
- Arrange transportation for immigrant workers to attend Mass; invite them to participate in parish activities.

#### **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace**

- Serve on boards and committees of CCODP.
- Participate in the CWL *1% program* – donating 1% of all personal spending (perfume, manicures, etc.) and as a council donating 1% of all CWL fundraising proceeds to aid women's projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.
- Support *Share Lent* programs.
- Send letters to members of parliament regarding issues such as water privatization, mining.
- Assist those in developing countries ...support agencies such as *Canadian Food for Children, Save the Children Fund, Foster Parents, Habitat for Humanity, Child Care International, Save a Family Plan, Operation Eyesight, Operation Christmas Child, Doctors Without Borders*.
- Provide assistance to victims of storms, earthquakes, etc.
- Invite speakers to speak on issues such as water shortage in West Africa, deaths caused by water borne illness and disease, etc.
- Support the *Buy-a-Net* program to eradicate malaria in African countries.

Please share this with your councils and encourage them to get involved in some of these organizations and issues. Pray for those affected and someday we hope and pray that this world will be a peaceful place to live.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us in our work for the League.

## Education and Health

CAROL RICHER, CHAIRPERSON

Sub-committee persons: Elizabeth Bortolussi, Shirley Christo, Suzanne Mullins, Donna Provost, Mary-Ellen Villeneuve

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.  
(Hebrews 10:24)*

In my recent directive to diocesan Education & Health Standing Committee Chairpersons, I introduced the provincial sub-committee members, and briefly outlined our goals for the coming year.

Since achieving these goals depends on the input of all League members, I am quoting from that directive, in hopes of reaching more of our members. "We understand that it is impossible to deal with every area of this standing committee, or to address every issue that arises in our various communities. However, it is the feeling of this committee that we should disseminate as much information as possible, not necessarily going into a lot of detail on each issue, but providing direction on where details can be found. We recognize that our members are very diversified by age, geography, lifestyle, race, etc. Because of this it is natural that their interests too will be varied. Our experience at both the diocesan and parish levels of the League has shown us that many parish councils feel isolated from the provincial and national levels, that they are not listened to, and that too often information is not passed on to them. Our goal, through communication and dialogue with members at the diocesan and parish levels, is to change this way of thinking, and to encourage input from the grassroots level of the League -- the lifeblood of this organization."

We can highlight issues, provide some information, direct you to resources, but it is you, the members at the grassroots, who nurture the seeds sown, and it is your work that results in a bountiful harvest. So let us know how we can help you. For those wanting to contact me, check with your diocesan Education and Health Chair.

While Catholic education in Ontario still faces many challenges, we are truly blessed to be one of the few provinces who still have fully funded Catholic education system. We must continue to be vigilant, to be both vocal and visible in support of our Catholic schools, and to monitor all legislation that could ultimately infringe on our constitutional right to such education. To understand how our Ontario Catholic School Trustees are working to safeguard Catholic education, visit their website ([www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)) and consider subscribing to their Newsletter.

There has been much media attention of late to the issues of Postpartum Depression and Teen Suicide, emphasizing the importance **of Resolution ON.13.01 Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness**. The *Canadian Mental Health Association* website

offers valuable information on these topics.  
([www.canadianmentalhealthassociation.com](http://www.canadianmentalhealthassociation.com))

With respect to **Postpartum Depression**, I share with you the following information, with excerpts from Dr. B. Calhoun, vice chair OBGYN Dept., West Virginia University. Although American statistics are quoted, Canadian figures are much the same. (This information was forwarded to me by sub-committee member Suzanne Mullins)

Up to 80% of new moms experience a temporary emotional slump of "postpartum blues". Ten to 40% fall victim to clinical postpartum depression. Postpartum psychosis, which sometimes involves behaviours such as hallucinations and delusions, occurs only after about 1 in 1,000 deliveries, but it has extremely serious consequences, as we have seen from recent events reported by the media.

### **Recognize the Signs**

- Feelings of sadness, unhappiness or overwhelming despair.
- Difficulty sleeping even when baby is asleep.
- Loss of appetite or wanting to eat too much.
- Fits of crying.
- Trouble concentrating, very short attention span.
- Turning from being even tempered and easy going to being irritable, chronically angry and obnoxious daily.

When the more severe postpartum depression is present, thoughts of suicide or the impulse to harm the baby are not uncommon. These feelings should be taken very seriously and reported to a healthcare worker immediately by the mother or by other family members. After recognizing the symptoms, it is time to take immediate and aggressive steps to find professional help, but many moms do not.

### **Why not?**

There may be a sense of shame that she does not feel the happiness she is expected to feel. There could be a fear of being exposed as not being strong enough to 'tough it out' if she reveals her true feelings.

### **Be proactive: Before postpartum strikes... suggestions for expectant moms**

- Plan ahead.
- Discuss your possible medical risks with your doctor - previous postpartum episodes no matter how minor, suffering from bipolar disease or depression or anything you feel could be a trigger.
- Don't hide your feelings.
- Seek a doctor who can prescribe the medication(s) you need to address the biochemical imbalances that are the cause.
- If necessary, consider counselling and/or group support.

- Take time for yourself.
- Take time to spend alone with your spouse.
- Don't hesitate to ask family and friends to give you a respite from baby care.

#### **How can we help a new mom who is showing signs of depression?**

- Be available - to listen with compassion and caring, without being judgemental.
- Provide the occasional meal for the new mom and her family, to give her a break
- Talk with other family members if you notice worrisome behaviour.
- Offer to babysit so that mom and dad can have a day or evening to themselves - don't wait to be asked - speak with the husband to discuss plans for this outing.
- Arrange for the new mom to go out on her own, to have her hair done, to have a spa' day, or simply to just 'do nothing' if she chooses.
- Let her know that there is help available, and there is no need to suffer.
- Remind her that she is not alone, and that there is nothing to be ashamed of .

The stigma attached to mental illness often prevents people from seeking help, or from acknowledging that they have a problem. We all need encouragement, but we all must learn to give encouragement as well. In this day and age we have a myriad of tools for encouragement at our fingertips. A cheerful note left on the table, an unexpected hug, a random e-mail, an unanticipated phone call. The options are limitless, be creative. But encourage, encourage, encourage! Your love, support and encouragement could well be the key to someone's peace of mind. And in some cases, it might lead to a new member -- reach out and touch someone!

#### **Prayer for Catholic Education**

O, Holy Spirit, source of truth and grace for those entrusted  
 with the Christian development of children,  
 enlighten our minds, strengthen our will,  
 fill our hearts with generosity  
 so that our homes, our parishes and our schools may co-operate effectively with You,  
 and with one another in the mission of Catholic Education.  
 We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
 Amen

## **Legislation**

Linda Squarzolo, Chairperson  
Sub-chairperson: Theresa McGuire

## **Symbols of Canada**

### **Flag**

The official ceremony inaugurating the Canadian flag was held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on February 15, 1965. The flag is red and white, the official colours of Canada, as appointed by King George V in 1921. The design for the new flag was chosen in 1964 in preparation for Canada's centennial celebrations to be held in 1967.

### **Anthem**

"O Canada" was proclaimed Canada's national anthem on July 1, 1980, 100 years after it was first sung. The music was composed by Calixa Lavallee and French lyrics were written by Sir Adolphe-Basile Rothier. The English lyrics were written in 1908 but revised several times. The official English version was based on recommendations of a Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons. The French lyrics are the same as the original version.

### **Tree**

The maple tree was officially proclaimed as the national arboreal emblem of Canada on April 25, 1996. Maples contribute valuable wood products, sustain the maple sugar industry and help beautify the landscape. Maple leaf pins and badges are worn by Canadians and are recognized around the world.

### **Animal**

The beaver reached official status as an emblem of Canada on March 24, 1975. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, fashion demanded the fur hat which boosted the need for beaver pelts. The fur trade became a lucrative industry and created the need for settlement in North America.

### **Sport**

Hockey was recognized as Canada's official sport with Bill C-212. However, supporters for lacrosse opposed the bill because they wanted to recognize the traditional and cultural significance of their sport. The bill was amended to recognize hockey as Canada's national winter sport and lacrosse as Canada's national summer sport on May 12, 1994.

**Christian Family Life**  
Marlin Taylor, Chairperson

*Do not be dismayed by toil or suffering, nor by the meager fruit of your labors.  
Remember that God rewards not according to results, but effort. - Blessed Zefirino  
Agostini (1813-1896)*

I would like to focus on the Ministry of Youth in this my first Trillium news as Christian Family Life Chair. I found the message from His Holiness Benedict XVI very interesting.

**Ministry of Youth:**

His Holiness Benedict XVI for the XXVIII World Youth Day, stated – the Servant of God Paul VI consigned a message to the youth of the world. It began: “It is to you, young men and women of the world that the Council wishes to address its final message. For it is you who are to receive the torch from the hands of your elders and to live in the world at the period of the most massive transformations ever realized in its history. It is you who, taking up the best of the example and the teaching of your parents and your teachers, will shape the society of tomorrow. You will either be saved or perish with it”. It concluded with the words: “Build with enthusiasm a better world than what we have today!” (*Message to Young People*, 8 December 1965). (The message of the II Vatican council to Youth)

**Catholic Girls League (CGL):**

I know we have not placed a lot of emphasis on the Catholic Girls League in the last few years. I would like to ask the CFL Chairs from the Dioceses to encourage their parish counterparts to start a CGL if possible. The *CGL Administrative Manual* is available from National through an email request. We have to start recruiting and training our young girls so that they can be our leaders of tomorrow. Please contact me.

This is exciting news for the youths. The Office of Catholic Youth (OCY), Archdiocese of Toronto is happy to offer one of the most dynamic faith encounters for young people in North America at one of the most historic locations in the city of Toronto. The Steubenville Youth Conference will take place July 4-6, 2014 in the heart of the city. This gathering will draw thousands of young people together to discover the richness of the Catholic Church through prayer, praise and reflection.

More information will be made available in **fall 2013** for many details including:

- \* **Registration Information**
- \* **Costs**
- \* **Accommodations**
- \* **Volunteering Opportunities**

If you are interested in volunteering for Steubenville Toronto 2014, please send an email ([youth@ocytoronto.org](mailto:youth@ocytoronto.org)).

This is also a great event for the youth. During the Lift Jesus Higher Rally, there is a youth rally. A separate youth event runs concurrently. Does your youth:

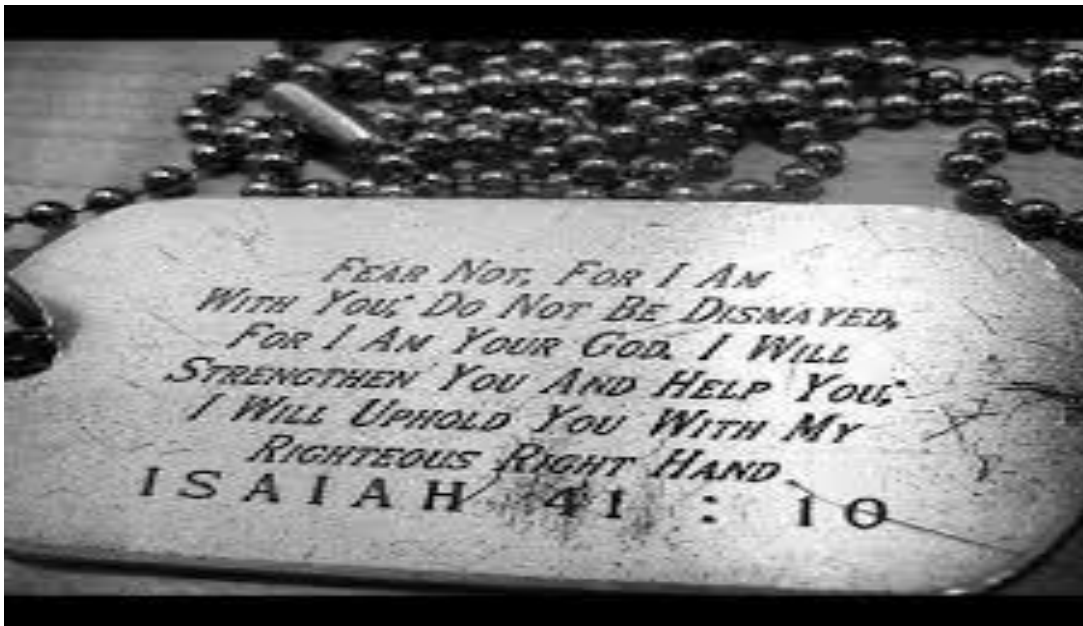
Want to listen to great music?

Want to be with other youth?

Want to hear more life changing talks?

Want to learn how they can make a difference in the world?

If the answer is YES then mark March 1, 2014 on your calendar and join one of the largest annual gatherings of Christian youth in Canada at Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Check (OCY) website for more details.





## **66<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention**

Thunder Bay, ON July 6 – 10, 2013

**We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith**

Prepared by Pauline Krupa, outgoing provincial Communications Standing Committee chairperson

Delegates including members, spiritual advisors and guests from across the province representing thirteen dioceses descended on Thunder Bay for the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention held at the Valhalla Inn. On Friday, July 5 an historic event, the official flag raising ceremony at City Hall, launched the five day event.

The Opening Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Fred Colli, D.D., Bishop of Thunder Bay and Provincial Spiritual Advisor along with a number of diocesan and parish spiritual advisors. Official greetings were brought to the delegates from a variety of dignitaries. Most memorable was the entrance of Chief Georjann Morrisseau, Chief of Fort William First Nations and her message of sisterhood among all women.

Business sessions began on Monday morning and continued over three days. Over that time reports were heard from the 13 diocesan presidents, followed by Standing Committee Reports. Each spoke about ways the theme *We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith* is being embraced. *Catch the Fire!* presentations were highlighted by an energy-filled video presentation and a “dance of flames” which set the meeting room “ablaze” resulting in a huge “bonfire” in the centre of the ballroom. Three standing committee chairpersons presented a workshop featuring *How to Plan a Prayer Service* (Spiritual Development) *Call to Service – From the Head to the Heart* (Community Life) and *Ministries in Christian Family Life* (Christian Family Life).

Tuesday morning included the presentation and acceptance of the Resolution ON.13.01 Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness. It was forwarded to the National Resolutions Committee for consideration at the National Convention in Regina, Sask. (This resolution is found on page 14 of this newsletter and on the provincial website)

Keynote Speaker, Reverend Msgr. P. Stilla, V.G., inspired delegates with his presentation entitled *Celebrations and Challenges as Women of Faith*. He stated that life challenges are not necessarily problems but rather times when we can get excited to solve those challenges. He used Station of the Cross VI as an example of how we as women can bring joy to outcomes that are out of our control.

Speaker Anne Jamieson, Director of Catechesis, Diocese of Hamilton, spoke on the *Spiritual Resiliency of Women*. She stated that being resilient means being able to bounce back. It is important to remember that we never walk alone. We are always in

relationship with Jesus. Her two most noteworthy statements were: “Children are not care-less, rather they are care-free” and “we have seen the Lord, because he is”.

Delegates were truly blessed with the presence of Grand Chief Harvey Yesno during the lunch hour. He spoke of the hardships of treaty rights, the impact of residential schools, the unemployment rate and the cost of groceries in our Northern communities, which in turn affects the health and well-being of these people. National President Betty Ann Brown Davidson and Provincial President Marlene Pavletic were gifted with beautiful hand sewn and beaded moccasins. Grand Chief Yesno stated he was honoured to have the opportunity to open doors for discussion with League members.

On Wednesday delegates heard National President, Betty Ann Brown Davidson’s moving account on how she came to bring us the theme, *We Have Seen the Lord*. Through her powerful stories she related times when she had seen the Lord and encouraged participants to share their stories with one another in a series of activities.

Voting delegates elected a new slate of provincial officers for the 2013 – 2015 term: President, Betty Colaneri, (St. Catharines); President – Elect, Pauline Krupa (Thunder Bay); First Vice – President, Anne Madden (Kingston); Second Vice – President, Colleen Randall (Ottawa); Recording Secretary, Patricia Rivest (London); Treasurer, Lucy Hendriks (London) and Past President, Marlene Pavletic (Thunder Bay). Standing Committee Chairs elected are: Carol Richer (Kingston), Rosanne Sogan (Hamilton), Linda Squarzolo (Sault Ste. Marie), Marlin Taylor (Toronto) and Mary Jane Yaeger (Hamilton). Named as Corresponding Secretary: Jeannie Coleman (Alexandria – Cornwall). Appointees are: Life Member Liaison, Bernadette Burgess (Kingston); Newsletter Editor, Margaret McAllister (Alexandria – Cornwall) and Screening Officer, Joleene Kemp (Thunder Bay)

Mixed into the necessary business and learning there was time for fun. On Saturday evening everyone enjoyed the amazing pasta dinner hosted by St. Anthony’s CWL and the Trivia Night. Sunday’s tour adventures included sights in and around the city. Nearly 100 delegates gathered at the Spirit Garden on the shores of Lake Superior for the Sunrise Ceremony led by elder Cindy Crowe. Following the diocesan dinners delegates danced the night away with *Quest*, a local band. According to the band leader, it’s the most fun he’s had in years! Tuesday evening during the gala banquet, *Signature 4*, an acapella quartet entertained.

Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines Diocese and newly installed provincial spiritual advisor, celebrated the closing liturgy at St. Agnes Church to end the convention. Thunder Bay Diocesan President, Gail Beda passed the provincial banner to Margaret Van Meeuwen, Peterborough Diocesan President. Peterborough delegates extended an invitation to everyone to meet for the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Convention in Cobourg, July 2014.

## **Report of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Convention**

Regina Saskatchewan, August 10 – 15, 2013

Prepared by Anne Madden and Pauline Krupa

Seven hundred and eighty four delegates from across Canada (from sea, to sea to sea) gathered together at the Delta Hotel, Regina for the 93<sup>rd</sup> annual national convention. Delegates and guests gathered at Holy Rosary Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Regina to celebrate the Opening Mass and official Opening Ceremonies. Most Reverend Daniel Bohan, Archbishop of Regina celebrated the liturgy and a number of spiritual advisors at all levels concelebrated. His homily was a message of hope. A number of dignitaries brought greetings and president Betty Anne Brown Davidson welcomed those in attendance stating that coming to convention is like coming home. A reception followed at the hotel hosted by the convention committee.

Monday started with the celebration of the Eucharist celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Albert Thevenot, Bishop of Prince Albert. In his homily Bishop Thevenot encouraged us to share the Lord through our work in the League. Attendees were treated to a number of motivating speakers. To start the day, key note speaker, Sister Fay Trombley, S.C.I.C. working in Tuktoyaktuk, spoke about *People of the Western Arctic Today*. She shared the work she does among the Inuvialuit peoples where she opens her home to provide religious services, play and learning for children, adult learning and help wherever there is need. Louise Tessier, artist, shared her story in her talk entitled *Witnessing to Faith Through Art*. Her journey in Christian – based art was inspired in part by the works of Father Thomas A. Stanley. Her works were displayed in the Prayer Room.

Following lunch, Most Reverend Bishop Emeritus Gerald Wiesner, praised League members for their dedication and enthusiasm in his talk *Women as Missionaries in the Church and the World Today*. Bishop Wiesner stated that whenever an extraordinary revelation came from God, women were always involved. He added that women bring a depth of understanding that is unique and needed. We are a better educated church because of the role women have played. To end the day, Honourary Life Members Irene Lefort, Claire Heron, Agnes Bedard and Danielle McNeil-Hessian shared experiences in their presentation *We Have Seen the Lord*. Each had us laughing and crying at the same time while they told their stories of witnessing Jesus in their everyday lives with family, friends and sisters in the League.

Most Reverend Bishop Donald Bohen, Diocese of Saskatoon celebrated the liturgy Tuesday morning. His message was one of affirmation and encouragement. Speaker, Father Bill Burke in his talk *The Year of Faith* celebrated the work of the League in his affirming statements of how members give hope to those in need. He continued to say that the door to faith is always open to us. He challenged members to reclaim Sundays, to make it a day spent in the Kingdom. Provincial presidents in turn spoke to the theme *We Have Seen the Lord*. Each shared times when Jesus was alive and present among the members. Delegates heard about many good works from across the country

including: endowment funds established for vocations, a project to provide dental care for the homeless, assistance for First Nations Communities and assisting Habitat for Humanity. We heard about a variety of retreats and gathering days, how members shared their common concerns for the sanctity of life with the Anglican community, and about those who marched on government to oppose pending Euthanasia laws. Conventions centred on the Year of Faith and the Role of Women in the Church. Reports included highlights of *Catch the Fire!* presentations. Of particular note is the story of one member who after her experience with *Catch the Fire!* challenged herself to bring 30 new members into CWL. She did not meet the challenge, but rather exceeded it by 15....that's right she brought 45 new members to her council.

In her report our national president spoke about her journey through the year meeting with government, the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops, attending workshops and conventions. A highlight was the trip to Rome as a guest of the Governor General for the inauguration of Pope Francis I. National Spiritual Advisor, Archbishop Martin Currie, Archbishop of St. John's in his report, encouraged members to spend time exploring documents on the role of women in the church. He reminded delegates to be sure that spiritual advisors understand the importance of them attending meetings and conventions.

Three resolutions were brought to the floor for consideration:

2013.01 Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada's Indigenous Peoples

2013.02 Limiting Disclosure of the Sex of a Fetus

2013.03 Employment Insurance Benefits for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers

Resolutions 2013.01 and 2013.03 were passed. 2013.02 was withdrawn from the floor.

By motion, a letter will be written by the national executive and signed by the national president to be sent to all members of parliament regarding our stand on this issue.

(Complete resolutions and a copy of the letter will be posted on the National website)

Wednesday morning delegates heard about the story of the founder of the Sisters of Service, Catherine Donnelly, in a talk by Kathryn Perry where she shared parts of her book *Courage to Dare*. Sister Donnelly was named as one of the ten people who shaped the Catholic Church in Canada. An awareness talk on Ovarian Cancer was presented by Anne Chase and Wendy McDermid. Standing Committee Chairpersons spoke to the theme in their reports. Delegates were encouraged to get uncomfortable, to reach out, to share our stories and bring the Word to the world. *Catch the Fire!* presentations will continue for one more year. National development funds can be applied for until December 2013. The Christian Family Life chairperson challenged us to change what is real into what we can only imagine. The Pornography Hurts campaign was launched and members were asked to use the postcards during the October WRAP week. We can look forward to a new website design in the near future. Mental health issues were at the forefront as well as human trafficking, people living in poverty and resettlement concerns. Development and Peace support is imperative. Members were reminded that letter writing continues to be a very effective way to bring our concerns to all levels of government. The chairperson of laws stated that a review of the archiving process is on-going. The instructed vote for changes to constitution and bylaws resulted in all being carried unanimously. WUCWO Vice President, North

American, Maribeth Stewart gave the group an overview of what is happening in North America and across the world. The closing mass was celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop Currie, Archbishop St. John's and out-going national spiritual advisor. The national officers were re-affirmed. Most Reverend Bishop William McGrattan, Toronto Archdiocese, was installed as the new national spiritual advisor.

No convention is complete without time for fellowship and fun. Regina host councils provided us with all of that and more. We kicked our heels up at the Hoedown and Western Buffet and we shared in a grand fireworks display at the Conexus Centre on Saturday. Sunday many participated in a grand tour of the Queen City of the Plains as Regina is affectionately called, stopping at the Queen Elizabeth II Gardens, and the RCMP Academy and Depot Division. Monday night we rocked on at the Rock'n on the Prairie Banquet and Show featuring an Elvis Presley tribute artist. We be-bopped and hip-hopped the night away! Tuesday evening the Ontario group gathered at a local restaurant for dinner and socializing. At the Gala Banquet on Wednesday delegates were treated to an evening with Queen Elizabeth the Two-th! What fun that was! Her majesty entertained in ways we never thought possible!



## **Life Member Liaison**

Bernadette Burgess

On the form for nominating life members it states, *“Privilege entails responsibility. National council requires support and active service from its life members. There is also the expectation that every life member will remain active in her own parish council and will be available to serve, as facilitators/mentors when requested, at all League levels.”* It is important to look back when we were awarded our life membership and ponder our journey. It is indeed a blessing to be asked to facilitate and mentor fellow sisters in the League. We have a great opportunity at this time with the promotion of the ‘*Catch the Fire*’ program launched by National. As life members we can offer our prayerful support and life experience to our individual parish and diocese.

I have discovered over the years, from receiving life member messages from my diocesan, provincial and national liaisons, that I am part of an intricate web of very gifted women who provide for one another a support that cannot be put into words. The prayers and cards that are sent on our behalf from liaisons, provide an unbroken chain of love for one another. We can never underestimate how much our contact with one another, either through personal visits, calls, email or mail has made on fellow life members and their families.

Since beginning my journey as provincial Life Member Liaison I have been able to send four communiques filled with life member messages. They have shared their lives – both the joys, sorrows and challenges of daily life. When I pass on the messages, whether through email or mail, I am comforted knowing that this will result in prayers being said immediately for one another. Indeed we are blessed!

As life members we were required at the time of our nomination to complete a questionnaire. Perhaps from time to time we need to look back and renew our promise we made that day. Let us pray that each of us can continue to fulfil this gift given to us.

*“For the glory of God and good of God’s people, I am willing to place myself and my talents at the service of the national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. I promise as a Catholic woman to honour, invoke, and imitate our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. I promise to be a loyal member of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada and to promote its interest and growth in every way. I promise to co-operate with officers in all programs under their direction and to conform to the best of my ability to the bylaws of the organization in all League activities.”*

## **Ontario Provincial President's Oral Report**

### **For National Convention August 2013**

We are on a journey. The road may not be Emmaus but it is on our way home to the kingdom of God. All around there are sisters in the League talking about things that are happening in the world. Sisters that work together, share the same mission, values, vision and goals.

Our eyes are restrained at first so we don't know Him. He wants us to know what He is saying. He wants us to see His people that are the marginalized, elderly, poor, hungry, bullied and defenceless. He wants us to listen and learn from those we encounter on the journey so we can hear their needs and be the voice of those who have none.

As we journey, we are to ask questions to gather information to get to know His people better. In doing so they will feel valued because they are being heard.

In our present society it is easy to get caught up in the fast pace and walk too quickly. Across the province, members paused along the journey for days of development to provide the opportunity to learn practical skills, grow in faith, foster League friendships, share stories, ideas and ways to promote the League. In doing so members acquired new confidence to take on executive positions and leadership roles. Ontario welcomed four new life members in 2013.

Members have been attentive in this Year of Faith with spiritual retreats, bible studies and taking a closer look at the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We continued to support our seminarians with the Bishop F. Pappin Bursary by assisting 10 seminarians this year. This bursary is funded solely through the donations of our members.

Members have put their faith in action by going into the schools with youth programs such as the Rosary Apostolate to teach children how to pray and make rosaries so they understand the true deep meaning of this beautiful gift from our Blessed Mother.

Our theme, "We Have Seen the Lord", has given us an opportunity to look at our personal relationship with Jesus; to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a world desperately needing His help.

We grew on our journey as we embraced technology with on-line memberships. Our *ON-Line* Newsletter grew from 44 subscriptions in 2012 to 243 this year. The monthly postings show the good works of members at the grass roots as well as featuring a diocese and one standing committee. This year Ontario introduced our Facebook page to be able to reach younger members, new members and keep in touch with existing members. We revised our Manual of Policy and Procedure, Guidelines and Convention Guide.

An Organization workshop was held in the fall that brought a time of learning and fellowship that developed the catch phrase "Good Things 'Glow' in Ontario!"

“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” Burn they did as we participated in the Catch the Fire! workshops. Flames have ignited on the national map and members will be fanning the flames for the fall. A video presentation was given at the provincial convention showing the work that has been done so far and members becoming sparks of innovative ideas to showcase the theme making it visually pleasing. Two parishes from the London diocese were winners of the *Catch the Fire!* contest. The slow of heart have new life and energy filled with heavenly heartburn.

My story of JOY came from my sister that was an important influence on my journey. She always said she lived her life with JOY, Jesus Others You and if you put things in that order everything falls into place. When the Lord took her home, the butterfly became very symbolic of her journey. Her struggle on earth prepared her to emerge into new life with wings that have unfurled with the breath of God. We used to walk through our vineyard together and the words from John’s Gospel always came to mind. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” This is a beautiful invitation of friendship and a reminder of the profound relationship with our God that will last for all of eternity.

I was privileged to witness a random act of kindness at a diocesan convention when members heard of the plight of the speaker that was building schools in a third world country and spontaneously took up a collection to help with costs. Recently, at our provincial convention, the same was done to help our sisters in High River for the Calgary Flood Relief fund.

You can never get enough hugs. Holding Unending Grace and Spirit. Research shows that hugging is extremely effective at healing sickness, loneliness, anger and stress. Hugs lift ones serotonin levels creating happiness. A family therapist stated, “We need four hugs a day for survival, eight hugs a day for maintenance, and twelve hugs a day for growth.” They teach us to let go and be present in the moment and encourage empathy and understanding. A hug can create a connection that one cannot express in words.

In Ontario, we open our arms to the right stretching across in prayer with our sisters in the provinces to the west. Stretching to the left we pray with our sisters to the east and we bring in our arms with a big hug as we embrace our sisters across Canada with joy. Together we seek the embrace of God to one day hear, “Well done my good and faithful servant.”

Our eyes have been opened and we know Him in the faces of His people so together with one voice we glorify Our Lord Jesus Christ and with excitement we can proclaim, “We Have Seen the Lord”!

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Colaneri



## Provincial Executive Profiles



Betty Colaneri  
President  
Directive: President

Betty has been married for 29 years, has two sons, Nicholas 26, Christopher 22. Her nephew Rico is a priest serving as associate pastor in the St. Catharines diocese. Betty was Diocesan President for St. Catharines from 2001 to 2003. She has served on the provincial executive since 2003 as newsletter editor, chairperson for communications, Christian family life and spiritual development and presently organization. She has also served as a sub-committee member for the National Council under Christian family life, education and health and community life. Betty received her Life Membership in 2005, her 25 Year and Maple Leaf Service pins. Over the years Betty has volunteered for many organizations. She is a cantor and Minister of the Word at her parish. The Colaneri family owns their own winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Betty is the marketing manager and creative consultant. Being a CWL member has been truly a spiritually enriching and rewarding experience for the past 27 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 truly been a blessing in her life.



Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Spiritual Advisor

**BORN** The Most Reverend Gerard Paul Bergie was born January 4, 1959 in Hamilton, Ontario. **ACADEMIC DEGREES:** B.A. in Philosophy from St. Jerome's College, University of Waterloo, Masters of Divinity from St. Peter's Seminary, J.C.L. from Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. **PRIESTLY ORDINATION:** May 12, 1984 at Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton Ontario by the Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton Diocese. **CLERGY APPOINTMENTS:** Served in various parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton as an associate and pastor Chancellor, Diocese of Hamilton; Vicar General, Diocese of Hamilton; Judge, Hamilton Branch, Toronto Marriage Tribunal Dean of Hamilton. **EPISCOPAL ORDINATION:** August 24, 2005, ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton by the Most Reverend Anthony F. Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton November 9, 2010, installed Bishop of St. Catharines by Most Reverend Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. **DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS & COMMITTEES:** Diocesan Council of Priests, Diocesan Consulter, Past president of the Priests' Pension Plan Committee, Founding member, Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Hamilton, Vicar of Deacons, Past Member of St. Joseph's Hospital Board, Member of St. Joseph's Health System, Member of the Board of Directors for Hotel Dieu Shaver Health & Rehabilitation Member of the Board of Directors for Christ the King Seminary. **OCCB/CCCB APPOINTMENTS & COMMITTEES:** Member of the Board of Directors for the Institute for Catholic Education, Member of the Education Commission of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops, Liaison Bishop for the Ontario Catholic Supervisory – Officers' Association, Member of the Education Commission, English Sector, for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, State Chaplain for Knights of Columbus 2012-2013, Spiritual Advisor/Liaison Bishop to the Ontario Provincial Council of CWL of Canada, Roman Catholic – United Church Dialogue, Roman Catholic – Lutheran (Missouri Synod) Dialogue.



Pauline Krupa  
President-Elect

Directive: Organization

Pauline was born in Fort William, ON, now Thunder Bay. Following her high school education and a short stint at working in a bank, she entered Lakehead Teacher's College. She began her career in a number of communities around Northwestern Ontario including years teaching in Northern First Nations Communities. Settling back home in 1974 she began her teaching career with the Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board. She retired three years ago ending her career as a special education teacher. For fun she putters around the house working in her garden and loves basket weaving. This year she has joined an RCIA team and will help with instruction. Her son Daniel, daughter in law Shan and grandchildren Joelle and Wyatt are the joys of her life. Over the years Pauline has volunteered her time in many community, diocesan and parish groups. Presently she is the secretary of the discipline committee for Soccer Northwest Ontario. Pauline is a charter member of St. Peter's CWL council. Over the 24 years as a member she has held a number of executive positions at parish and diocesan levels. She has served on the provincial executive as spiritual development, resolutions and communications chairperson. Over these years, she organized a successful meet and greet reception in Queen's Park (March 2011) and facilitated the update of the provincial website. In 2012 she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work in the community, parish and most specifically with the Catholic Women's League. She is presently provincial president elect and organization chair.



Anne Madden  
1st Vice-President

Directive: Spiritual Development

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 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 is also currently the parent representative for Leeds County on the Parent Involvement Committee. 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 Resolutions Chair for the Provincial Council. She is the newly elected Ontario Provincial First Vice President, as Spiritual Development Chair.



Colleen Randall  
2nd Vice President  
Directive: Communications

Colleen was born and raised in the Ottawa area and still lives there with her husband Doug and their family. They have 4 children and 5 beautiful grandchildren. Colleen has worked for Bell Canada in the Engineering Department for 37 years and has enjoyed every day. She is an active member of her parish, a lector, Eucharistic minister and member of the Pastoral Council. Colleen joined the Catholic Women's League in 2003 when her pastor asked her to help re-establish the CWL in the parish. That first night she was elected president. She was first elected to provincial council in 2011 as Legislation Chair. Each day is a new learning experience. Colleen has facilitated many workshops including Called to Serve and is member of the Ottawa Diocesan Council Facilitation Team for *Catch the Fire!* The Catholic Women's League has provided her with the opportunity to meet many wonderful women and men of faith and love. It has influenced her life both personally and spiritually. It is her passion!



Marlene Pavletic  
Past President  
Directive: Historian

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 hospital 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 chair 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.



Patricia Rivest  
Recording Secretary

Pat was born, raised and educated in the Leamington area (the Tomato Capital). Following graduation from high school, she was employed by the local school board in the finance department. She has been employed in various areas of the workforce – a catholic elementary school secretary, customs/finance department of a manufacturing company, several lawyer offices and the finance department of municipal government. She is now retired. Pat and her husband, Vic, have been married for 41 years. She enjoys working in her flower garden, watching old movies, reading and visiting her 2 sons – one in Sudbury and one in Winnipeg. She also enjoys whatever time she can with her granddaughter, Sophie and grandson, Nathan, who live in Winnipeg. Pat has volunteered in many community projects, parish activities as well as diocesan. She has been a member of St. Michael Council since 1975. Over the past years, Pat has held numerous executive positions at the Parish level, Regional level, and the Diocesan level. Pat has prepared and presented many workshops – Organization, Leadership, Spiritual, Manual of Policy and Procedures for parishes. She was a facilitator of the Field Worker's Program, Grow Program, Elder Abuse and Mentoring workshop. She initiated the London Diocesan Annual Lenten Retreat and initiated the Advent Tea for the members of the diocese. She was a member of the National Leadership Committee for Catch the Fire!. Pat received her Life Membership at the national convention in Regina in 2013. Pat is also a Board Member of the Holy Family Retreat House in Oxley in London Diocese. The League, which is a gift, is a way of life for Pat and she is grateful every day for the many blessings that she receives from this beautiful gift.



Lucy Hendrikx  
Treasurer  
Directive: Treasurer

Lucy Hendrikx has been married 40 years to the man of her dreams, Louis. Together they have 5 children, Marcia, Sherri, Cindy, Dave and Amy. Through them they have welcomed Craig, Kevin, Larry, Melissa & Justin to the fold. They in turn have been rewarded with 14 grandchildren, Ashley, Zack, Brandon, Mickayla, Ryan, Tommy, Kaiden, Dylan, Jayda, Landan, Tye, Logan, Macy and Ava. This crew come first and foremost to Lucy in all she does. Lucy and Louis raised their family on a dairy, pork & cash crop farm in the Parkhill area. When her son took over in 2005, she became semi-retired and is enjoying that life style. In their spare time she and Louis like to golf, curl and travel. Their favourite place to travel is to Holland to visit family and friends. She joined Sacred Heart CWL in Parkhill in 1973, as her mother in law's invited guest. She has held many positions at the parish CWL council level. She has been on the London Diocesan CWL Council for 13 years and is presently the Past President at that level. Through the CWL she has helped numerous groups fundraise with her catering skills. Lucy is actively involved in her community through the Fair Board, a local Farmer's Buying Group and on the Canada Day Committee. She is a Lector at church and actively involved in the life of the Sacred Heart Parish family. She has spent 13 years in Municipal politics, 3 years on the Separate School Board, chaired a committee to produce a History Book on the area, 9 years as a Girl Guide Leader, 10 years running a local summer recreational sports League and many years on the Catholic Parent Teachers Association of Ontario. She is looking forward to the challenge of her new position as Treasurer of the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.



Jeannie Coleman  
Corresponding Secretary

Jeannie was born in Parry Sound, Ontario on the beautiful Georgian Bay and although she now resides in Maxville she has lived in many cities and towns in Ontario, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. Jeannie is married to Ivan, and they are celebrating 40 years of marriage this year. They have three sons, two wonderful daughter-in-laws and two precious grandsons. Jeannie worked in the Ministry of Health for many years before deciding to stay at home with their three sons. For almost 20 years she and her family were the primary caregivers for her mom who suffered with Alzheimer's Disease. Today, Jeannie and Ivan are enjoying retirement. When Jeannie is not busy with her work with the Catholic Women's League at the Parish and Provincial level, she is very involved with her Parish of St. James in Maxville. She is President of the Parish Council which encompasses two other parishes, Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan and she is on the Parish Leadership team as Community and Solidarity Chair. Jeannie first joined the League in 1983 while living in Manitoba but only held a chair in 1992 after joining the parish of St. James in Maxville of the Alexandria/Cornwall Diocese. Throughout the years Jeannie has served at the Parish, Diocesan and sat at the Provincial table as Diocesan President and now as Corresponding Secretary. Being involved with the Catholic Women's League at every level has been so rewarding and enriching both spiritually and personally. Working for "God and Canada" allows her more time to make more friends, laugh more and enables her to live her life as a Catholic woman should.



Marlin Taylor  
Christian Family Life Chair  
Directive: Christian Family Life

Marlin joined St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Alliston CWL September 1979

She served as a convener on all the standing committees except Treasurer and Legislation Chair for a period of 8 Years.

From 1987 to 1990, served as President of St. Paul the Apostle Alliston CWL

Served on the Northern Region as Spiritual Standing Committee Chair, Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chair and Resolution Standing Committee Chair.

From 1996 to 1998 she served as Northern Regional Chair.

From 1992-1993, was co-convener to Anne Rode, Community Life Chair

From 2001-2003 Recording Secretary on the Toronto Archdiocesan Council

From 2003-2005 Christian Family Life Chair on the Toronto Archdiocesan Council

From 2005-2007 Spiritual Development Chair on the Toronto Archdiocesan Council

From 2007-2009 Organization Chair on the Toronto Archdiocesan Council

From 2009 -2011 Toronto Archdiocesan President

Marlin is married with one son who is now married and has three children. She is a proud grandmother. She is retired and currently works for God and Canada.



Mary Jane Yaeger  
Community Life Chair  
Directive: Community Life

Mary Jane was born and raised in Elmira, Ontario and married Robert, in 1973. She has been a member of the League since 1994. As a member of St. Teresa of Avila parish council in Elmira she served as President, Organization and Social Convenor and as Regional Chairwoman and Secretary for the Kitchener Region. Mary Jane served on the Diocesan Level as chair of Resolutions, Education & Health, Spiritual Development, Organization, and President and is currently serving as Past President. She has presented the Leadership Workshop and assisted with the Healing Waters Workshop in the Hamilton Diocese and assisted with an Organization Workshop at the Provincial Convention in 2008. Mary Jane serves her parish as Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality Minister and has served on Parish Council and taught Sunday school. In her "other life" she is the Office Supervisor at Elmira District Secondary School where she has been working since 1971.



Carol Richer  
Education Health Chair  
Directive: Education and Health

A member of the CWL for over 45 years, Carol has held an Executive position at either the Parish Council, Diocesan or Provincial level in all but six of those years. She has held all positions at the Parish level at least once and served as President of the St. Mary's, St. Cecilia's Parish Council. She served as Recording Secretary, 1st Vice President and Chairperson of the Organization Standing Committee, President and Past President/Historian for the Kingston Diocesan Council. For the 2011-13 term she served as Recording Secretary for the Ontario Provincial Council, and is currently the Chairperson of the Education and Health Standing Committee for the Ontario Provincial Council. During her term as Kingston Diocesan Organization chairperson, Carol developed "A checklist for completing Annual Reports", which she has gladly shared with many dioceses and several provincial councils. During her term as Past President, she also prepared a workshop on the duties and responsibilities of Past Presidents, "Past Presidents 101", for presentation at development days and training sessions. She is currently a facilitator in Kingston Diocese for Catch the Fire!. Carol was honoured to be awarded Life Membership in the League in 2013, and looks forward to continuing to serve the League to the best of her ability. Born and raised in the Windsor, Ontario area, she married Murray in 1960. They have two children and three grandchildren. She serves as a Reader and Communion Minister, and was active on Parish Council for many years. For the past fifteen years, the last six as Chairperson, she has been active in the South Dundas Christmas Exchange, which provides Christmas Hampers to over 200 needy families each year. As a member of the CWL Carol has been blessed with many opportunities to meet a wonderful group of women across the country, to share ideas and to help make a difference. The League is truly a gift she treasures!





Rosanne Sogan  
Resolutions Standing Committee Chair  
Directive: Resolutions

Rosanne was born and raised in Hamilton with all of her sacraments celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church. She married her high school sweetheart Bruce 37 years ago and has two children Nicole, who is married to Ryan, and Tim. She is the blessed and proud grandmother of two year old Kinley Rose. Rosanne has been a medical secretary for 37 years and is a loyal and dedicated member of St. Luke's Parish for 33 years, 29 of them as a member of the League holding positions at the parish level of: communications & resolutions chair, secretary, first vice president, president (twice) and historian. As well has been Eucharistic minister, founding member of the parish council serving as education liaison and chairperson, is on the decorating committee, alternate money counter and works on many other projects. While on the diocesan council held standing committee chair positions in: communications, Christian family life, spiritual development, resolutions, organization, recording secretary, and has just completed her presidency. In addition she has worked on numerous projects and workshops and currently is a subcommittee chair for communications concentrating on the *Pornography Hurts Campaign* with the national council and at the provincial convention was elected and assigned as the standing committee chair for resolutions.



Linda Squarzolo  
Legislation Chair  
Directive: Legislation

Linda was born and raised in the Timmins area. She became an elementary school teacher and moved to Sudbury. She taught Grades 1 to 8 in several Catholic schools in the Sudbury area and retired after a career of 28 years. She has been married to Tullio for over 43 years. They have two sons (an educator and a fireman), a daughter (a doctor) and nine grandchildren. Linda joined the League in 1975 at St. Paul the Apostle Council. She served the council as president, president-elect, and recording secretary and chaired the standing committees of resolutions, legislation and education. She was awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin in 2007. She became a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Council in 2002. While on the diocesan council, she held the positions of regional chair, recording secretary, and chaired the standing committees of organization, spiritual development, resolutions and legislation. While serving on the diocesan council, she worked on four resolutions. One was approved at a national convention. She has developed and presented several leadership workshops across her diocese. Her mother, daughter, two sisters and mother-in-law are all current League members. At her present parish of Holy Redeemer, she is a lector and co-chairs the parish social justice committee. Linda is a fifteen-year survivor of breast cancer. Her favourite pastimes are knitting, embroidery, travelling, enjoying her grandchildren and doing the work of the League.



Bernadine Greffe

Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan President

Bernadine was born in Cornwall ON, on the shore of the beautiful St. Lawrence river. She taught in both French and English schools at the elementary level for the Catholic Separate School Board. She retired after 26 years of teaching and decided to use her spare time to give back to the community. Bernadine was married for 56 years to her wonderful husband Charles who returned to The Father after a lengthy illness. She has 3 married children, 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She joined the CWL council of St. John Bosco Parish in 1983. There she served in many positions; education, health, treasurer, spiritual and president for 6 years until the church closed in 2004. It was a very difficult time as the council was disbanded and members had to relocate. After transferring to St. Peter's parish, Bernadine was approached to serve at the Diocesan Level where she held the position of Education and Health, Communication, Organization and now President of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. She is presently active in her parish as sacristan and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. While at St. John Bosco, she served for many years on the Pastoral Council, School Council and Finance Committee. Bernadine is a life member of HAAO (Hospital Auxiliary Association of Ontario) and has volunteered at the Community Hospital for 30 years, working in many capacities. She also served two terms as president and two terms on the Board of the Hotel Dieu Hospital. She is involved with a senior's organization called ENCORE based at the Community College. Courses are offered to promote adult education. She is involved in a computer class called "Computer for Chickens" and has been on the Board of Directors for several years. In her spare time she enjoys reading, knitting, oil painting, puzzles and dancing at least once a week. Bernadine discovered the League after moving to an English parish, became involved and has been ever since. The League and her sisters in the League have been a great support in her journey of love and faith for God and Canada.



Anna Brady

Hamilton Diocesan President

Anna was born in Brantford and has lived in Brantford all her life. She was baptized, made her First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation and was married at St. Mary's Church. She went to St. Mary's Elementary School and then Brantford Catholic High School, now St. John's College. Her four children, two girls and 2 boys, also received their sacraments at St. Mary's as did six of her eight grandchildren. Her youngest son, his wife and two daughters live in Cold Lake, Alberta. In high school, Anna was presented with the Diocese of Hamilton Catholic Youth Organization medal. Several years ago, she was presented with the Diocese of Hamilton Bishop's Medal of Honour. She was president of the Junior Legion of Mary and to this day she is an auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary. Anna is on the executive of both Brant's Retired Teachers of Ontario and Brant's Retired Women Teachers. She delivers Meals on Wheels once a month as part of her CWL council's work. She is very involved in her parish as Eucharistic minister, lector and is on the Bereavement team. Anna has been a member of her parish Catholic Women's League for forty + years. She has been a regional secretary, regional chair and on the diocesan council for ten years. Anna retired after nearly thirty-seven years in the classroom. Her first trip after retirement was to the Holy Land, Syria, Cyprus and Egypt where her oldest son was a peace-keeper in the Golan Heights.





Lynn Olenik  
Hearst Diocesan President

Lynn was raised in a small community in northern Ontario called Geraldton. After studying at Lakehead University she taught elementary school for 36 years, retiring in 2006. She has been married to husband Michael for 30 years and they have 3 grown daughters and 2 grandchildren. In May, 1989, the first CWL council was formed at St. Theresa's Parish in Geraldton. Lynn was one of the founding members, serving as the first secretary/ treasurer. Since then she has held the position of various convenors as well as president at the parish level. After serving as health/education convenor as well as resolution/legislation convenor on the diocesan council, she became diocesan president in April 2012. Lynn has been an active member of her parish, school and community all her adult life-church organist, Sunday school teacher, girl guide leader, member of the Music Festival committee and various school related organizations. Lynn enjoys travelling, teaching piano, and doing a variety of crafts. Since 2001 her passion has been travelling to several under-developed countries doing humanitarian work with the Bucket of Hope Missionary group. For the last 6 years this has taken her and the group from Northern Ontario to small villages in the Opalaca Mountains of Honduras. She recognizes the value of the League and encourages others to participate in what it has to offer in faith, fun and fulfillment.



Stephanie Spinelli  
Kingston Diocesan President

Stephanie joined The Catholic Women's League in her home parish, St. Francis de Sales, Smiths Falls in 1992. She soon became an executive member of her council and served 15 years as such. Positions held include two terms each as secretary, president and past- president. She is presently a subcommittee member of the community life standing committee. She has twice had the opportunity to belong to the diocesan convention hosting committee serving as co-treasurer and as co-convenor. She was treasurer of the 2012 provincial convention committee. At the diocesan level Stephanie has served two terms as Treasurer and one as Recording Secretary and as chairperson of Organization/President-elect. She has participated as a sub-committee member of the provincial legislation committee and served as a member of the 2011 provincial convention minutes review committee. Stephanie has been actively involved in parish life for over 30 years. She has volunteered at parish schools assisting with various events and programs including the Speech and Language and School Nutrition Programs. She has served on the Parish Pastoral Council and continues to be actively involved in numerous parish projects. She is presently an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, co-chair of the parish hall committee and a member of the Finance and Property Committee. Charlie is Stephanie's husband of 42 years. They are members of the small business community of Smiths Falls located on the Rideau Canal, UNESCO World Heritage Site. They are proud parents of two grown children and grandparents to four beautiful grandchildren.



Mary Jean Horne  
London Diocesan President

Mary Jean is the mother of four; 3 girls and 1 boy, grandmother of eight; 3 granddaughters and 5 grandsons, and great-grandmother of Anna. She joined the Catholic Women's League in 1961. She has served on the London Diocesan Council in various positions. She sits on the parish pastoral council as an ex-official. She is a Lector and extra ordinary minister of the Eucharist. She continues to work part time as a Pastoral Care worker for her clustered parish where she visits the hospitals, nursing home, senior residence and people that are home bound. As part of her work, Mary Jean also meets with families that have had a family member pass away to help them pick out the readings and music for the celebration of life. She gladly extends a helping hand in any other area they need support. She also leads the prayer services at the funeral homes. Mary Jean volunteers twice a month at the Chatham Kent Health Alliance Hospital.



Sharon St. Jean  
Ottawa Diocesan President

Sharon has been married to her husband Luc for 44 years, both are now retired. They have 4 adult children, 2 daughters and two sons, and are the proud grandparents of 6 grandsons and 3 granddaughters. They have lived on a small hobby farm, in Munster, ON, since 1995. Sharon grew up in a rural community in northern New York. She attended elementary school, high school, went to university, met and married her husband, all within 30 miles of her childhood home. Sharon met Luc in Potsdam, New York, while they were attending university. They moved back to Canada in October of 1971. Married life before retirement consisted of lots of packing and unpacking. Her husband's career with the Canadian Armed Forces, led her and their family to various postings in Canada and one four year posting to Lahr, Germany. Sharon worked as a dental assistant, when postings and babies allowed it to happen. Staying at home with her children was a priority which meant doing without a lot, but that is where God led her and where she found her joy. She joined the CWL, while posted in Lahr, in 1983, but as was the pattern, a posting soon followed. The moves, and there were a quite few, never found her belonging to a parish with a CWL until the move to Munster. She rejoined the CWL, in 1995 and was acclaimed President in January of 1996. Her involvement in her current parish, as well as their CWL council and with the Diocesan Council of Ottawa has been her passion. She has held many positions in her parish, such as Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council and Liturgy Coordinator. Currently she serves as a reader, Eucharistic minister, minister of the Word, is a member of the 200th Anniversary Committee, and is part of the Coffee Sunday Team. As a member of the Ottawa Diocesan Council she has served as Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson, Pres. Elect/Organization Standing Committee Chairperson and is now proudly representing them as Diocesan President.



June West  
Pembroke Diocesan President

**June West** was born and raised in Pembroke, Ontario but spent her adult life in Deep River, Ontario where she raised her family. She has two married daughters and two step-sons, four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren. She was employed by Canada Post for 31 years. June enjoys singing in several choirs and continues to be actively involved in many church activities. For a number of years, she served on Parish Council.

Influenced by her mother and a good friend, June joined Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Catholic Women's League in 1971. She has been, and continues to be actively involved on the Executive and she spent three terms as President. Since joining the Diocesan Council, June has held positions in Legislation, Education & Health, Communications, and Organization. She became Diocesan president in 2013. In 2012, June was honoured to receive the Maple Leaf Service pin. This pin, introduced in 1971, is awarded to members whose Council's deem them worthy of having served the League in an exceptional or meritorious manner.



Margaret Van Meeuwen  
Peterborough Diocesan President

Margaret is the oldest of 6 children and still lives in the small community of Brighton where she grew up. Margaret and husband Frank were married in 1968. They have been blessed with two sons, one daughter and 4 grandsons ranging in age from 2- 18 years and first granddaughter in December 2013. In their early years they were involved in Frank's family apple growing/ packing business. In 1974, they started their own family import /export, mail-order business of agricultural related products. Happily their sons joined the business after completing their college education. Margaret joined St. Alphonsus Liguori, Wooler Catholic Women's League in 1979. She became very active in her parish council and has held most positions numerous times over the years, currently secretary. On the Diocesan level, she held positions of Treasurer, Education & Health, Community Life, Organization and currently in her second year as Diocesan President. Her sisters in the League have been her inspiration and support system. Margaret belongs to the Trenton Hospital auxiliary and worked in the gift shop for many years. Presently, she is on the parish finance committee and is a lector. She was the registration committee chairperson when the parish council hosted a Diocesan convention and Treasurer for the Diocese when we were the hosting Diocese for a Provincial convention. She is presently on the planning committee for Provincial 2014.



Anna Tremblay

Sault Ste Marie Diocesan President

Anna and her husband, John, were married in 1971 and have raised three adopted children, now in their mid to late thirties. She was a medical secretary before leaving the work force to raise her family. After the children were in school, she became Parish Secretary, a position she held for 20 years until her retirement in 2006. Both Anna and John are now retired and their best days are spent visiting their 2 ½ year old granddaughter Hayleigh in London ON. They are both true northerners and look forward to spending summers at their log cabin on Lake Talon, just outside North Bay ON, where they have lived since 1980. Her love of scripture led her to become a Lector in 1983 and since then she has developed and facilitated Lector Workshops and annual *Days of Reflection* for the CWL. Last fall Anna received a *Diploma in Theological Studies* from Newman Theological College. Anna joined the League in 1967 but didn't become active until 1981 when she was invited to become Communications chairperson in her home parish of St. Peter the Apostle, from whom she received her Maple Leaf Service Pin. She served in several executive positions before becoming a parish president. On the diocesan level she has served as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Regional Chairperson, Education & Health chairperson, Spiritual Development chair, and Organization chair before assuming the position of Diocesan President. She absolutely loved being responsible for delivering *Catch the Fire!* in her diocese and believes it is an honour and a privilege to serve God and Canada through the League.



Sharon Dickson

St Catharines Diocesan President

Profile pending

Lynn Rowlandson

Timmins Diocesan President

Profile and picture pending



Gail Beda

Thunder Bay Diocesan President

Gail was born in Port Arthur, Ontario, raised in the East End of Fort William and now resides in the South Ward of Thunder Bay. Gail is the eldest of 7 children born to Ann and Frank Beda. She received her primary and high school education in Thunder Bay. She was a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie for 18 years. She received her B.A. in 1980 and her B.Ed. in 1983. She is a retired teacher having taught for 31 years. She has a diploma in Secretarial Science from Algoma College. She is the proud aunt of 15 nieces and nephews and 7 grandnieces and 1 grandnephew. Gail is a member of St. Peter's Catholic Women's League Council. She also is a Eucharist Minister and Lector in the Parish. Gail's leisure time is spent traveling, reading, bowling, walking, and having coffee with friends and parishioners. No dust under her feet. Gail is looking forward to the joys and challenges of being the Thunder Bay Diocesan Council President.



Mary Capobianco

Toronto Archdiocesan President

After joining the C.W.L. in 1993 at her home parish of Nativity of Our Lord, Mary has served as various Standing Committee Chairs at the parish level before serving as parish council President from 1998- 2001. At the Regional level, Mary served as Humber Valley Regional Chair from 2002 – 2004. Over the years Mary has led the Leadership Public Speaking Course and Parish Executive Training Course; co-chaired the Toronto Diocesan Conventions for 2005, 2006 and 2007; was part of the organizing committees for the 2005 and 2009 Provincial Conventions and was also part of the organizing committee as Special Events Chair for the 2011 National Convention held in Toronto. At the Diocesan level Mary has served as Corresponding Secretary, Community Life Standing Committee Chair, 2nd Vice President /Resolutions Chair and as President Elect & Organization. Mary is very active in her home parish - Nativity of Our Lord as a lector, member of the Parish Finance Committee and was the Financial Secretary for a very successful Capital Campaign. She has also served for 6 years as the CWL liaison and Board Member for the Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society. Mary was born and raised in Toronto. Has been happily married to her husband Vincent for over 35 years; is blessed with a son, daughter-in-law, daughter and grandson. She is recently retired after working with Bell Canada for 36 years.



**Pins & Awards from St. Simon & St. Jude Council, Belle River, ON**

Our celebration took place on Monday, May 6, 2013.

**Welcome to our new members:**

Kathy Blyth   Geralyn Cote   Alicia Davey   Georgette Killaire

**Congratulations to our 10 year members:**

Annette Bellemore   Cathy Beneteau   Denise Jobin   Marcella Jobin   Dianne Mc Vitty

Jo Anne Tellier

**Congratulations to our 25 year members:**

Lorette Barrette   Jeannette Brady   Sharon Gagnier   Rita Meloche

Jeanne Rosati   Mariette St. Pierre   Sally Sauve

**Congratulations to our 40 year member:**

Jacqueline Denis-Benard

### **Thank you from Edith Mockler**

To the members of the Ontario Provincial Catholic Women's League:

A most sincere thank you for the Spiritual Bouquet and Prayer Shawl that were presented to me at the 2013 Ontario Provincial Convention in Thunder Bay. What an overwhelming, but beautiful, surprise it was to know that so many prayers would be offered for my intentions. And the lovely Prayer Shawl will be deeply appreciated for years to come.

I enjoy serving as parliamentarian to the Provincial Council and find it comforting to know it is appreciated.

My love and prayers for all of you,

Edith Mockler, Life Member, Registered Parliamentarian



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