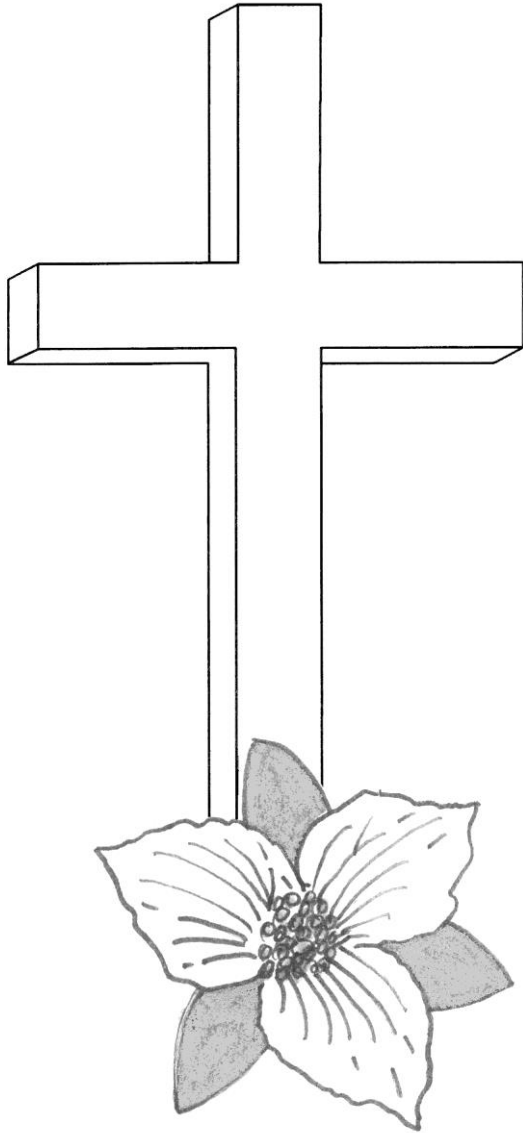


# **TRILLIUM**

## **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 2014**



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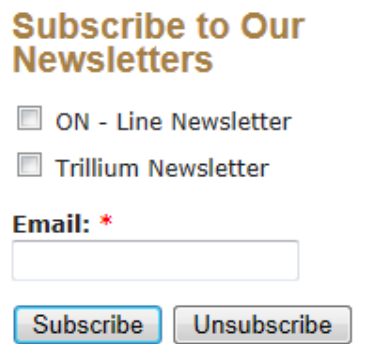
## **Editor's Notes:**

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 second year of this term. These resources are there to support you in your work for the League.

Highlights in this issue are the reports on the resolutions passed by the delegates at the July provincial convention and at the August national convention. Please take note of the actions needed to bring about the desired results. Take a look at the summary of the oral reports at the national convention. What great work from our League!

There are two ways to subscribe to the Trillium newsletter:

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

Margaret

## **Ontario Provincial President**

Betty Colaneri

*"Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit."* Pope Francis

My dear sisters in the League,

Looking back on our provincial and national conventions, I am filled with pride in all that Ontario has done and by all that is being done by our sisters across the country. The Peterborough Diocese did an amazing job of hosting us in beautiful Cobourg. It was wonderful to see that there were a large number of members that were attending for the first time and we sincerely hope that they will make it an annual event. The convention committee worked very hard making sure that everything ran smoothly. Our Spiritual Development Standing Committee chairperson, Anne Madden did an incredible job with the Liturgical program. The prayer services throughout the convention were both moving and beautiful. I extend my sincere thanks to Bishop Bergie and the entire executive for all your hard work and participation that made the provincial convention such a success. I am truly humbled and privileged to be in your midst.

Our sisters in New Brunswick did a wonderful job of hosting members across Canada in Fredericton. I experienced a deep sense of comradery among the provincial presidents that are all working so hard for their provinces. The anticipation of the new theme was well worth the wait as we watched the unveiling presentation of *"One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"*. It perfectly follows the profound theme of *"We Have Seen the Lord"* for now that we have renewed our faith in seeing Him, it is time to proclaim it with, *"One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"*. The new theme will begin January 2015, giving us all an opportunity to think of creative ways to promote the theme.

There was an overwhelming sense of pride for my sisters across Ontario as I carried in the Ontario flag at the opening mass for the national convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I felt all the prayers that had been sent my way as well as a feeling of bringing all my sisters who could not attend with me. At the closing mass, I must admit I became emotional carrying the Ontario flag on the way out knowing it would be for the last time. What an incredible honour! My sincere gratitude to my sisters across Ontario for this amazing opportunity.

As we begin the fall with meetings, let us reflect on our beloved Pope Francis' 10 Tips for Joy, for Happiness. This was taken from an interview between Pope Francis and one of his old friends, a writer for a magazine in their native Argentina.

**1. "Live and let live."** One author who commented on this first point says it mirrors his last year's comment on *"Who am I to judge?"* Moreover, it's what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: *"Judge not, unless you want to be judged yourself."* (Matthew 7:1)

**2. "Give yourselves to others."** The Pope is not just talking about giving in a theoretical way. He is talking about sharing our money, our time, our talent in a practical, daily way.

**3. "Move quietly in the world."** Here the Pope quotes from a favorite novel by Ricardo Güiraldes. When a person is young, he/she is like *"a rocky stream that runs over everything,"* but as one ages, one becomes *"a running river, quietly peaceful."* One commentator mentioned that this echoes the Native American idea that one should walk *"in balance and beauty"* on the ground.

**4. "Enjoy leisure."** The Pope encourages people to take time off, even from activities like planning children's every moment with sports, dance lessons, etc. Play more with the children.

**5. "Sunday is for families."** Although this is one of the Ten Commandments, it seems that in our culture it is a lost sacred day. Meditate, worship, family life, tending the needs of the spirit.

**6. "Find jobs for young people."** Creating opportunities for kids to do honest, simple work helps in their formation. He connected job creation with the degradation of the environment.

**7. "Respect nature."** *"Isn't humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?"* the Pope wonders.

**8. "Let go of negative things quickly."** The Pope tells us not to complain about people who annoy or frustrate us, to let go of things as rapidly as we can. Life throws rotten things our way each day. People say nasty things to us, often about others. This stuff makes them miserable, of course. It makes us miserable, too.

**9. "Don't preach your religion too forcefully."** Proselytism brings on paralysis, the Pope tells us. Each person sees the world before them in his or her own way. The Pope says this. As a teaching, it seems to run counter to the so-called Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). Jesus said to get out there and spread the word. But the Pope takes a relaxed view of this activity, preferring that we should teach by example. That is really what Jesus would do?

**10. "Work for peace."** This has become the Pope's mantra. His call for peace and for working toward peace is not just to world leaders, but also to families, friends, and neighbors — to live in peace with one another. He has listened closely to Jesus, who said, *"Blessed are the peacemakers."*

So simply said but so profoundly important from a man who leads by example. May we all do the same so we can continue to proclaim *"We Have Seen the Lord!"* with...

**ONE** HEART  
VOICE  
MISSION

## **Spiritual Advisor**

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

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

At the recent National Convention held in Fredericton, N.B., Barbara Dowding, newly instated National President, introduced "One Heart, One Voice, One Mission" as the National Theme for the next two years beginning in January 2015. I believe that this builds upon the current theme. For once "We Have Seen the Lord" our response should be to manifest His love with one heart, speak His words with one voice, and actively share in His one mission. This is all made possible through the one baptism we share in Christ.

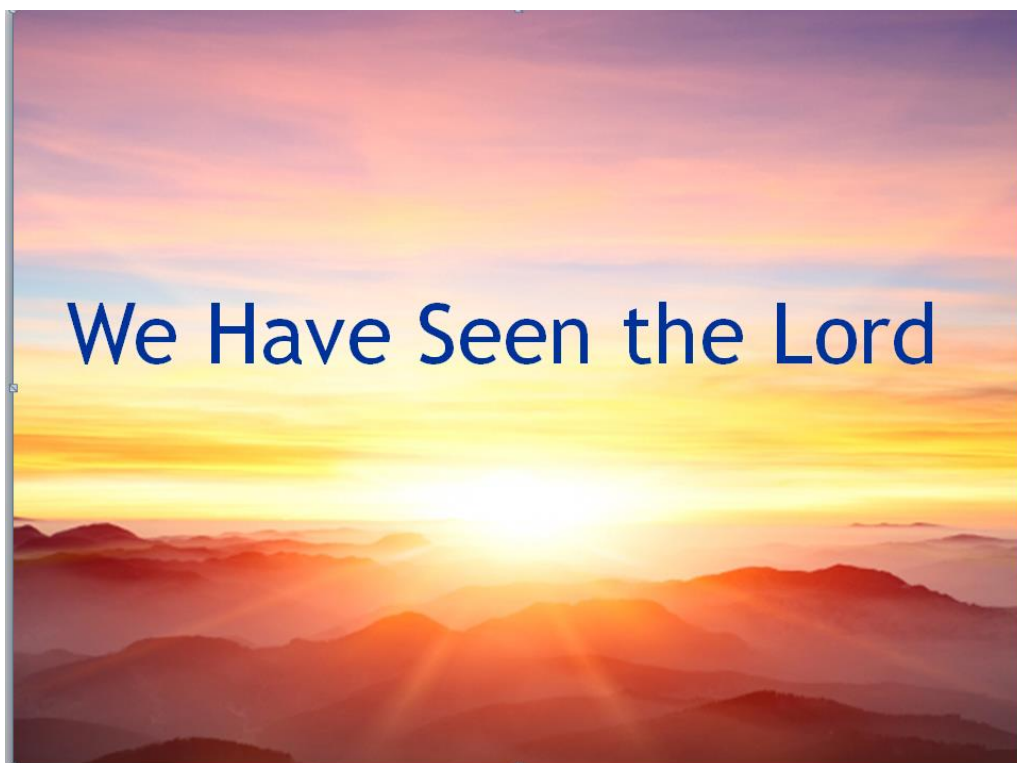
The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life...we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission... (1213). In the saving waters of Baptism we are washed clean of original sin and reborn as sons and daughters of the Lord. Filled with the Holy Spirit we are given a new voice...a voice to sing God's praises and proclaim the Good News. Our hearts are strengthened as they are filled with divine love that moves us to love God and neighbour. At baptism we are also given the great commission to go forth and make disciples of all nations sharing in the threefold mission of Jesus as Priest, Prophet and King.

As Priest, Jesus is the supreme mediator between God and humanity. He lovingly offered his life in sacrifice for our salvation. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice and the perfect priest. We participate in the common priesthood of Jesus Christ each time we unite our sacrifices to His acknowledging the ongoing work of redemption in the world. We also exercise our priestly office in the life of the Church. This is especially seen in the Eucharist as we unite ourselves to the priest who offers the Holy Sacrifice on the altar. At Mass we hear the priest state, *"Pray my brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father"*. This prayer reminds us that only the priest can offer this sacrifice; however, through the common priesthood all the baptized faithful are asked to unite with him.

As a prophet Jesus proclaims the Good News and calls people to conversion. This is often referred to as having a change of heart where a heart of stone becomes a heart of flesh. All the baptized share in the prophetic role of Christ by proclaiming Him to others by word and action. Their prophetic voice challenges the world to turn away from sin and to be faithful to the Gospel. This is a voice that the world so desperately needs to hear today.

Jesus is also a King. He has dominion over a kingdom *"eternal and universal, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace."* (Preface from The Mass of Christ the King) We share in His role as King by building up the kingdom of God in our various vocations and faith life. This is primarily seen in a life of service to others.

The Catholic Women's League provides a significant means of living out one's baptism. There are many opportunities to share in the mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King. The League helps to provide that prophetic voice that calls people to holiness and to act justly and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). In a life of service to God and Canada, the members of the League embrace the Priestly Heart of Jesus in a spirit of love and sacrifice. In a most significant way, The Catholic Women's League helps to build up the Kingdom of God by actively sharing in the mission of Christ and His Church. Indeed you have seen the Lord and inspired by this vision, you move forward in faith with "*One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*". May God bless you and The Catholic Women's League of Canada.





## **Spiritual Development Committee**

Anne Madden, Chairperson  
Sub-chairperson: Glenda Klein

*All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!*  
(Psalm 145:10)

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31. The word Halloween is a shortening of All Hallows' Evening also known as Hallowe'en or All Hallows' Eve. Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain (pronounced "sah-win"). The festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of the harvest season in Gaelic culture. Samhain was a time used by the ancient pagans to take stock of supplies and prepare for winter. The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31, the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped and the deceased would come back to life and cause havoc such as sickness or damaged crops. The festival would frequently involve bonfires. It is believed that the fires attracted insects to the area, which would attract bats. Masks and costumes were worn in an attempt to mimic the evil spirits or appease them. (<http://www.halloweenhistory.org/>)

The Solemnity of All Saints is celebrated on November 1. It is the day that the Church honors all of God's saints, even those who have not been canonized by the Church. It is a family day of celebration; we celebrate the memory of our family members (members of the Mystical Body, the communion of saints) now sharing eternal happiness in the presence of God. We rejoice that they have reached their eternal goal and ask their prayers on our behalf so that we, too, may join them in heaven and praise God through all eternity. The honoring of all Christian martyrs of the Faith was originally celebrated on May 13, the date established by the fourth century. Pope Boniface IV in 615 established it as the "Feast of All Martyrs" commemorating the dedication of the Pantheon, an ancient Roman temple, into a Christian church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the martyrs. In 844, Pope Gregory IV transferred the feast to November 1st. Some scholars believe this was to substitute a feast for the pagan celebrations during that time of year. By 741, the feast included not only martyrs, but also all the saints in heaven, with the title changing to "Feast of All Saints" by 840. Pope Sixtus IV in 1484 established November 1 as a holyday of obligation and gave it both a vigil (known today as "All Hallows' Eve" or "Hallowe'en") and an eight-day period or octave to celebrate the feast. By 1955, the octave of All Saints was removed.

Throughout the centuries man has struggled to keep his focus on the one true Faith and its practices. Pagan superstitions creep into practice, but instead of just suppressing the whole celebration of Halloween and leaving a gaping hole, the Church gives a replacement focus. Since All Saints and All Souls feasts are together, we can shift the focus of Halloween to a focus on the Communion of Saints in action. We combine honoring the saints in heaven, remembering our loved ones and then directing the destiny of our own souls by prayer and actions. Through this we see the Mystical Body all in action.

([http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/10\\_2.cfm](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/10_2.cfm))  
Happy Halloween!

## ***Dies Irae, Dies Illa***

### *The Hymn of the Church, in Meditation of the Day of Judgment*

That day of wrath,  
that dreadful day,  
shall heaven and earth in ashes lay,  
as David and the Sybil say.

What horror must invade the mind  
when the approaching Judge shall find  
and sift the deeds of all mankind!

The mighty trumpet's wondrous tone  
shall rend each tomb's sepulchral stone  
and summon all before the Throne.

Now death and nature with surprise  
behold the trembling sinners rise  
to meet the Judge's searching eyes.

Then shall with universal dread  
the Book of Consciences be read  
to judge the lives of all the dead.

For now before the Judge severe  
all hidden things must plain appear;  
no crime can pass unpunished here.

O what shall I, so guilty plead?  
and who for me will intercede?  
when even Saints shall comfort need?

O King of dreadful majesty!  
grace and mercy You grant free;  
as Fount of Kindness, save me!

Recall, dear Jesus, for my sake  
you did our suffering nature take  
then do not now my soul forsake!

In weariness You sought for me,  
and suffering upon the tree!  
let not in vain such labor be.

O Judge of justice, hear, I pray,  
for pity take my sins away  
before the dreadful reckoning day.

You gracious face, O Lord, I seek;  
deep shame and grief are on my cheek;  
in sighs and tears my sorrows speak.

You Who did Mary's guilt unbind,  
and mercy for the robber find,  
have filled with hope my anxious mind.

How worthless are my prayers I know,  
yet, Lord forbid that I should go  
into the fires of endless woe.

Divorced from the accursed band,  
o make me with Your sheep to stand,  
as child of grace, at Your right Hand.

When the doomed can no more flee  
from the fires of misery  
with the chosen call me.

Before You, humbled, Lord, I lie,  
my heart like ashes, crushed and dry,  
assist me when I die.

Full of tears and full of dread  
is that day that wakes the dead,  
calling all, with solemn blast  
to be judged for all their past. Amen.

Lord, have mercy, Jesus blest,  
grant them all Your Light and Rest.  
Amen.

Taken from:  
<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=12>

## **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 reconvene for meetings, plans for the coming year are taking shape. So many promising things lie ahead for councils. One necessary tool that has been revised to support the *Constitution and By Laws 2013* is the *National Manual of Policy and Procedures 2014*. There are significant changes in this document, so take the time to review it cover to cover. It can be downloaded in digital format from the national website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) under resources. Changes may also affect diocesan and parish policy and procedures. A review committee should be named to compare your manuals.

Newly elected president Barb Dowding has announced the theme for 2015 – 2017... *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*. Begin brainstorming ways that you can embrace the theme.

The newly elected national president – elect and organization chairperson is our very own Margaret Ann Jacobs. Also hailing from Ontario is Shari Guinta, Secretary – Treasurer and Betty Ann Brown Davidson, Past National President and chairperson of laws. We congratulate all newly elected officers. A full report of the National convention is contained in this newsletter.

### **Membership Statistics**

In Ontario membership teeters at 50,000. The trend for decreased numbers of members continues even though we welcomed 2,250 new members and 1,267 reinstated members in 2013. How will you recruit, retain and re-member in 2015?

### ***Catch the Fire!***

Nearly 1500 members across Ontario have participated in *Catch the Fire!* since July 2013. How awesome is that! We are encouraged to continue presenting the workshop and then to add to it, modules from the *S'Mores* document prepared by national office as the "sweet treat" that follows this program. Congratulations to all winners of the per capita fee exemption in 2015. In Ontario the two councils who will not have to pay the national per capita fees are Our Lady Queen of Peace, Bobcaygeon and St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Parry Sound, both from the Peterborough diocese.

Hilarion Mitchell and Andrea Tjioe our Ontario Sparks prepared an amazing presentation to highlight *Catch the Fire!* and to launch the *S'Mores* workshop at our provincial convention in Cobourg. Along with their amazing Toronto team headed by Alice Warford and Tracy MacInnish, the entire room "roared" as we sang the *Catch the Fire! / S'Mores* song. A grand celebration indeed!

## **S'Mores**

This workshop contains eleven modules developed as a result of members seeking opportunities to learn more about the League following *Catch the Fire!* As written, it is designed to be a full day program. However, each module can be its own mini workshop. Some lend themselves to a short parish presentation, others take a bit longer so might be best presented at League development. Available in the binder are the following:

## **Discerning a Call to Service**

To foster the discernment of gifts and charisms to better serve the League.

## **Evangelii Gaudium**

To explore Pope Francis' call to evangelization in light of Objects of the League and the responsibilities of Standing Committees.

## **Objects of the League – A Spiritual Perspective**

To reflect on the Objects of the League from a spiritual perspective with a view to expanding personal understanding and inspiring action.

## **Effective Meetings**

To clarify the roles and responsibilities of council members and executive in planning and presenting meetings.

## **Mentoring**

To identify, celebrate and encourage mentorship in the League.

## **Dealing with Conflict in Order to Reach a Win-Win Solution**

To promote successful conflict resolution practices within the League.

## **How to Develop a Parish Council Policy and Procedure Manual**

To explain the process of establishing and maintaining an effective council policy and procedure manual.

## **Resolutions**

To introduce the resolutions process as practiced in the League.

## **Parliamentary Procedure**

To instruct how to conduct efficient business meetings.

## **Hospitality Protocol**

To offer information on hosting a League meeting or event and welcoming a guest speaker.

## **Ethical Guidelines**

To explore the importance of ethics in all aspects of League and lay service.

## **Communications Committee**

Colleen Randall, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Margaret McAllister, Heather Sisk

Cecile Miller, National Communications chairperson (outgoing), in her oral report at National Convention in Fredericton, spoke about the need for communication and leadership. "We can strive to be leaders in promoting joy in all our encounters which will make us happier and the world a better place."

In researching the same topic I came across an article in Forbes Magazine (April 2012) that I would like to share with you. The article is entitled "**10 Communication Secrets of Great Leaders**". The premise is that we are taught from a very young age to be talkers, not communicators. Talkers focus on themselves – communicators focus on others. The concept is very intriguing. The great historical leaders all had the ability to talk about their ideas in a way that spoke to our emotions. Who will ever forget the powerful statement of John Fitzgerald Kennedy in his inaugural address 1961 ... "*ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country*"? He moved a nation.

Great leaders/communicators know their audience and can move the focus of their talk to meet the needs of that audience. As members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada we are called to serve God and country. The following tips for better communication can assist us in achieving that focus.

1. **Truth is important:** The audience must trust that you are sincere.
2. **Get personal:** People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
3. **Get specific:** People lead busy lives. Their time must never be taken for granted. Be specific and concise.
4. **Focus on the leave-behinds not the take-aways:** Focus on the wants and needs of your audience rather than on your own agenda.
5. **Have an open mind:** Open discussions more often than not bring out the best ideas.
6. **Shut-up and listen:** Listening is the safest path to learning. Allow those open discussions to open opportunities to learn.
7. **Replace ego with empathy:** Do not allow your ego to get in the way of authenticity and transparency.
8. **Read between the lines:** Use the ideas being shared to gain awareness and understanding.
9. **When you speak, know what you are talking about:** Audiences appreciate your knowledge and honesty – don't lead them on. Be prepared!

10. **Speak to groups as individuals:** Great communicators can make all participants feel like they are talking to them individually.

The full article can be read at:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/mikemyatt/2012/04/04/10-communication-secrets-of-great-leaders/>.

Putting these tips into practice can enable all of us to be effective communicators and therefore open many opportunities to share our gifts for God and Canada in our parishes, communities, dioceses, province and country.



## **Resolutions Committee**

Rosanne Sogan, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Donna Provost & Wilma Vanderzwaag

*"I know God won't give me anything I can't handle.  
I just wish he didn't trust me so much."  
Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

Subsequent to the provincial and national conventions a review of all resolutions passed at each level should be done to inform members of these very important documents. Remember to follow-up on the **action plan** (i.e. become educated on the topic, letter writing, etc.) of each of the resolutions.

At the Provincial convention 2 resolutions were presented and adopted:

**ON.14.01 Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Modified Food Products;**  
**ON.14.02 Feathers of Hope - Empowering First Nations Youth**

At the National convention 5 resolutions were presented and adopted:

**2014.01 Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants**

**2014.02 Electronic Cigarettes**

**2014.03 Flavoured Tobacco Products Ban**

**2014.04 National Standard for Newborn Screening Including Screening  
for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency**

**2014.05 Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years  
Regardless of Marital Status**

These resolutions can be found in the Trillium Magazine, The League Magazine and at both websites: [www.cwl.on.ca](http://www.cwl.on.ca) and [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)

The League continues to have a strong and successful history with resolutions across the country. Resolutions have been a major part of League work since its inception in 1920. Hundreds of resolutions have been developed, studied and moved on by League members but they are also very viable information which are presented to the Bishops of Canada and to both Provincial and Federal government.

Once a resolution has met all its requests found in the resolved clauses then the resolution should be archived. This process can be done in a ceremony at your convention.



## **Resolutions Passed at the Provincial Convention**

Cobourg, Ontario

### **ON.14.01 Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Modified Food Products**

- Whereas** the majority of Canadian consumers are unaware that there are no regulations in Canada pertaining to the mandatory labelling of foods and animal feed products that are genetically modified (GM); and
- Whereas** since the 1990s, GM food products and ingredients have become increasingly prevalent in commodity crops and animal feed products; and
- Whereas** there is an emerging body of research relating GM foods with health and environmental effects; therefore be it
- Resolved** that the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 67<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled request the national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada to urge the federal government to amend the Food and Drugs Act to include the mandatory labelling for all Canadian and imported food and animal feed products that have been genetically modified and or contain genetically modified ingredients; 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 94th annual convention in August 2014.



## **ON.14.02 Feathers of Hope - Empowering First Nations Youth**

- Whereas** the Feathers of Hope forum report titled *Together We Are...Feathers of Hope: A First Nations Youth Action Plan (Feathers of Hope)* released February 2014, helped young people realize they could “add their voices and energies to work with their communities, leadership and government to create real change”; and
- Whereas** there are issues related to poverty of youth in First Nations communities raised in numerous reports over several decades without any meaningful response from the appropriate Provincial/Territorial and Federal Ministries, creating a feeling of hopelessness that contributes to First Nations youth suicide rates 5 to 7 times higher than the national average; and
- Whereas** Indigenous children trail the rest of Canada’s children on practically every measure of well-being; therefore, be it
- Resolved** that the members of the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, in the 67<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled, urge the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth to initiate a meeting of the appropriate Provincial/Territorial and Federal Ministries, First Nations leaders, and First Nations youth to discuss and create a five-year strategy to implement the recommendations set out in the *Feathers of Hope* action plan; and be it further
- Resolved** that the Ontario provincial council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada in 67<sup>th</sup> annual convention assembled request the national council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada to urge the Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates to initiate a meeting with all appropriate Provincial and Territorial Ministries, First Nations leaders, First Nations youth and other interested organizations to undertake a similar process to the *Feathers of Hope* in the remaining provinces and territories of Canada; 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 the 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention in August 2014.

## **Resolutions Passed at the National Convention**

Fredericton, New Brunswick

### **2014.01      Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants**

**Whereas** In 2012, the federal government made cuts to the Interim Federal Health Program that has provided basic health care for refugee claimants since 1957; and

**Whereas** These cuts deny refugee claimants coverage for health care, vision care, dental care and prescription medications comparable to coverage for Canadians receiving social assistance; and

**Whereas** Health care is a basic human right, according to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*; therefore, be it

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, urge the federal government to reinstate health care for all refugee claimants comparable to coverage for Canadians on social assistance.

### **2014.03      Flavoured Tobacco Products Ban**

**Whereas** Tobacco, and therefore flavoured tobacco products, are addictive and dangerous to health; and

**Whereas** New forms of flavoured tobacco products that mimic fruit and candy are attractive to younger consumers; therefore, be it

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, urge the federal government to ban the production and import of flavoured tobacco products.

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, encourage provincial councils to become aware of the issue of flavoured tobacco products as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent.

## **2014.02      Electronic Cigarettes**

**Whereas** Health Canada currently does not fully regulate the contents, marketing, sale and use of all types of electronic cigarettes available in Canada; and

**Whereas** Electronic cigarettes without nicotine contain volatile organic substances, some of which are emitted and may be inhaled by non-users; and

**Whereas** Electronic smoking products containing nicotine, which can include electronic cigarettes, cannot legally be imported, marketed or sold in Canada; therefore, be it

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, urge the federal government to:

- fully regulate the contents of electronic cigarettes sold in Canada
- fully regulate the marketing, sale and use of electronic cigarettes
- enforce consumer safety standards for electronic cigarettes, and
- implement a national educational campaign warning Canadians of the risks of smoking electronic cigarettes; and, be it further

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, encourage provincial councils to become aware of the issue of electronic cigarettes as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary.

**2014.04      National Standard for Newborn Screening Including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency**

**Whereas** Canada does not have a national standard for newborn screening; and

**Whereas** Whereas, the implementation of a national standard for newborn screening would ensure the identification of rare disorders in all newborns; and

**Whereas** Ontario is currently the only province that screens newborns for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), a genetic disorder that is detectable only with screening; therefore, be it

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, urge the federal government to implement a national standard for newborn screening including screening for SCID, and, be it further

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, urge provincial councils to become aware of newborn screening including screening for SCID as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it as deemed necessary/prudent.

**2014.05      Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years of Age Regardless of Marital Status**

**Whereas** Single, separated or divorced individuals 60 to 64 years of age are not eligible for Old Age Security Allowance; and

**Whereas** Spouses or common-law partners 60 to 64 years of age of individuals receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement are eligible for the Old Age Security Allowance; and

**Whereas** Widows and widowers 60 to 64 years of age are eligible for Allowance for the Survivor benefit; and

**Whereas** The *Canadian Human Rights Act* provides that all individuals should have equal opportunity without discriminatory practices based in part on marital and family status; therefore, be it

**Resolved** That national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, in 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention assembled, urge the federal government to include all individuals 60 to 64 years of age, regardless of marital status, to be eligible for Old Age Security Allowance.

## **Recording Secretary**

Patricia M. Rivest

Keys play an important part in our lives and at various times in our lives. Keys factor into events in our lives as we grow and become responsible for our actions.

We begin as small children with keys to start our little play car. As a teen, we have keys to our diaries that which protect our thoughts and feelings. There are keys to our lockers at school to protect our possessions.

Then there are Mom and Dad's keys that are given to their children when the child turns 16 (that adds a whole new dimension to family life!!)

There are keys to our first car.....how exciting is that! Do we sometimes hold the key to someone's heart? And for those who have a mysterious mind, keys to a buried treasure chest.

The keys to our first home – does that mean we are growing up? There are keys to unlock doors and there are keys to unlock doors to success.

Keys on the piano – tinkle the keys and it brings music to the ears and music to the soul.

Keys on a computer, typewriter- electric or manual - Who remembers a manual typewriter? I do, sorry to say!

Keys on a computer are one of the tools of a Recording Secretary. When the fingers are correctly placed on the keys, the words seem to fly across the screen and produce concise and correct minutes. Another key for Recording Secretaries is the art of listening.

At times, keys represent or symbolize the authority we have to make good and sound decisions for the good of others.

As Simon Peter received the Keys to the Heavenly Kingdom, we too share these keys. With these heavenly keys may we open doors and invite others in that they may come in to see, know and love.

Recording Secretaries, you too can unlock doors with the keys available to you and invite others in to the wonders of this great organization. Enjoy your position of Recording Secretary.

Happy Recording!



## **Corresponding Secretary**

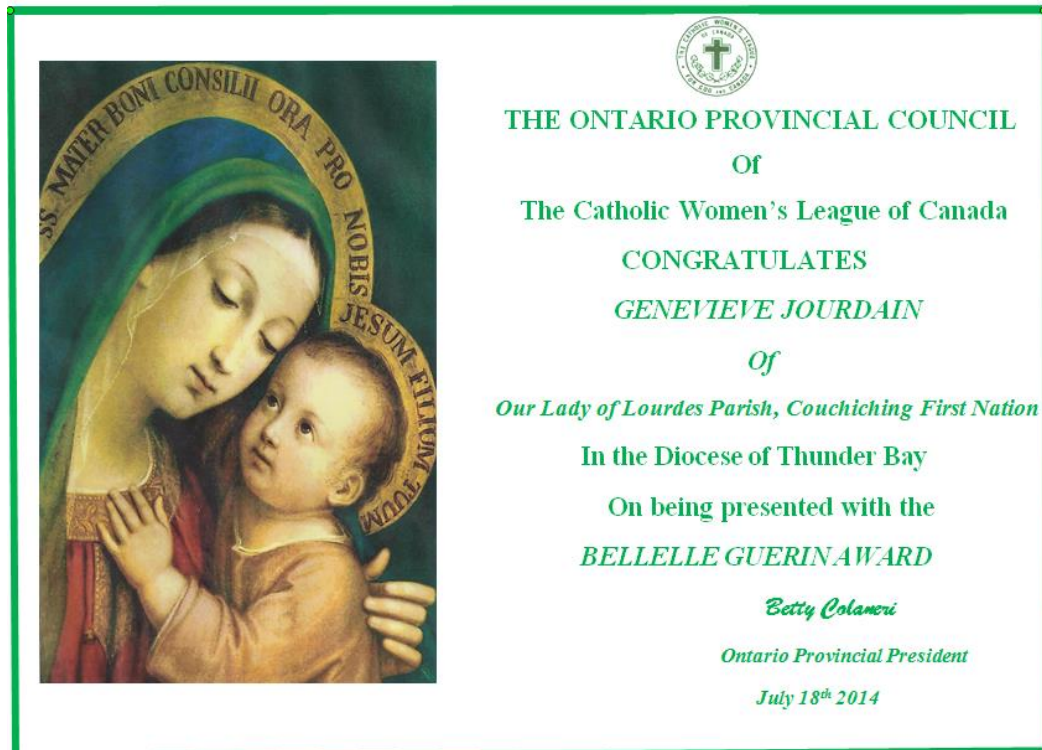
Jeannie Coleman

The Provincial Council has certificates available for a Diocesan Council that will be celebrating a special anniversary and for a member that will be awarded the Bellelle Guerin award.

This request must be sent to the Provincial President as well as the Corresponding Secretary. The certificate will be prepared and forwarded to the Diocesan President for presentation.

When forwarding a request please be sure to include all the pertinent information; name of the parish, diocese, number of years celebrating, and the date of the anniversary or the date the certificate will be presented.

A letter of congratulations will accompany the certificate from the Provincial President.



**Treasurer**  
Lucy Hendrikx

*"We have seen the Lord"*

The summer seems to have flown by. What a time we had at convention? The Peterborough Diocese were excellent hosts and our time together flew by. It was great to meet so many of you in person, after corresponding via e-mail and telephone; it is wonderful to be able to put a face to the name. The one thing I have grown to enjoy most about the Catholic Women's League of Canada is the camaraderie. You can walk into a room of CWL ladies and feel right at home from the get go. You have got to love it. What did I most enjoy about the convention? Definitely the S'Mores. What a window of opportunity to grow together? I am certainly looking forward to getting started in our diocese.

At the convention I briefly outlined the importance of the annual meeting in every parish, diocesan and provincial CWL council. Of the changes to the Constitution and By-laws voted on at the 2013 Diocesan, Provincial and National Conventions, the most relevant to every member across Canada, are the new and renewed statements in regards to each council's annual meeting.

To simplify section XIV: Meetings, Conventions and Quorums, I want to highlight the following items that you may or may not have in place at your council at this point in time.

- 1) **Section 2 c: The Parish council annual meeting shall be held in January or February for the purpose of receiving reports and for the election of officers when applicable.** This meeting should include reports from all elected executive and committee heads.
- 2) **Section 9 a: Notice of the time and place of a meeting of members shall be given to each member entitled to vote at the meeting at least 21 days before the day on which the meeting is to be held.** While this is not new, it is not always adhered to. Notice in the bulletin the Sunday before is not really good enough. The bylaws state 3 weeks prior. What are you doing in your parish and/or diocese?
- 3) **The annual financial statements will be sent to members entitled to vote at a parish council annual meeting or annual diocesan, provincial or national convention at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the annual meeting or convention.** My recommendation is that a financial statement be part of a CWL newsletter which will go out to your entire membership by mail out or parish bulletin insert. I have had a little guidance from our accounting firm and will be forwarding a directive with more ideas for parish financial statements on it.

If you have any questions which require clarification please contact me through our website thank you!

Please keep sending your donations to the Bishop Pappin Bursary, as well as your Trillium subscriptions to me, Lucy Hendrikx Treasurer,

1584 Elginfield Road,  
Parkhill, ON  
N0M 2K0

I hope to hear from all of you soon! May God bless you always!

## **Past President – Historian**

Marlene Pavletic

*You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you:  
Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

Women attending the national convention in Fredericton gathered at the Closing Mass celebrated by National Spiritual Advisor Most Rev. Bishop William McGrattan. In his homily, he referenced the above scriptural passage and reminded us to act justly, love tenderly and to walk humbly with God throughout life.

We are so blessed to have the gift of the League in our lives to keep us focused! We acted justly as we supported the initiative *Velma's Dream*. Retiring National Past President Velma Harasen conveyed to the delegates "*dreams do come true...if you believe.*" Our donations have made a difference in the lives of Christians in the Holy Land and our ongoing support is encouraged.

As past presidents, our responsibility is to ensure the future of the League. National policy indicates that parish councils should hold elections at an annual meeting in January/February. Very often, councils neglect to use the nomination process and an election is not held. Often, several members determine who will take on the various positions. This could result in the loss of capable members losing interest in serving if decisions are made and they are not given consideration.

Councils should review *Section 7: Eligibility, Nominations and Elections (C&B Part XVI)* in the *National Manual of Policy & Procedure 2014* and create a council policy that will supplement the national policy. This is an opportunity to become more familiar with the policy and could encourage members to become more involved. It is worth mentioning that the new *Constitution & Bylaws 2013* and the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure 2014* are available on the national website. Take the time to become familiar with the new revisions.

In a daily reflection booklet, *A Year with Pope Francis*, the Holy Father writes: "*We need to bless the present, speak well of others as we look for what builds up and unites; we need to talk about the beautiful things we share and go beyond different perspectives for the common good.*" If we are true to his words, we will be better able to walk humbly with God on our League journey.

Dear daughter of God,  
you are beautiful and  
special and your heart  
shows it.



## **Community Life**

Mary Jane Yaeger, Chairperson

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

### **Development and Peace 2014 Education campaign materials:**

(<http://www.devp.org>)

The Development & Peace website states: *"This fall, we are very excited to continue with the Caritas Internationalis campaign against global hunger, One Human Family, Food for All, that was launched by Pope Francis on December 10, 2013. We joined this international campaign for our 2014 Lent campaign and have chosen to continue to take action on this issue since global hunger is a grave injustice and urgently needs to be addressed. Under the slogan Sow Much Love, we are inviting you to join our fall action campaign to educate Canadians about the role of family farmers as stewards of the world's seeds, and take action to support the right of farmers to use, conserve, exchange, and save these seeds, which feed the world.*

*At Development and Peace, we believe that there is room at the table for all. However, 1 billion people are still suffering from hunger – that's 1 in 8 people of the entire human family! This fall, Development and Peace continues to answer the call of Pope Francis to fight the global scandal of hunger, by launching an education campaign about the role of women and men family farmers in fighting hunger. Under the slogan "Sow Much Love", the goal of the campaign is to educate Canadians about the role of family farmers as stewards of the world's seeds, and to call on Canadians to take action to support the rights of farmers in the face of the growing threat of corporate control of seeds. **Order these materials or print copies for wide distribution in your school, parish or community.**"*

### **Another Resource available on-line:**

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), violence has become a way of life. Violence against women is particularly rampant and rape has become a weapon of war in the country. In many instances, armed men will overrun a village, attack the inhabitants, rape the women, destroy crops and leave in their wake a path of terror and destruction. For those who manage to escape, they must return to their villages in the aftermath and try to heal the wounds left behind and re-build their communities with a culture of peace. There is a story in comic book format that can be downloaded from the Development and Peace website entitled **"Rosa or the Courage to Choose Life"**

(<http://www.devp.org/en/resources/roza>). There is also a reflection on the graphic novel. The object of this reflection is *"to identify the causes of instability and, conversely, of peace present in the comic. To relate to the realities of life in Roza's village, and many others worldwide."* (taken from D&P website)

Below is a prayer for use in your parish, during your activities or on your own. It is written by Development and Peace members Alana Forrester and Barbara Bishop (from Hamilton Diocese in Ontario) who are the grand prize winners of Development and Peace Prayer Card contest. *Order enough for everyone in your parish.*

### **Campaign Prayer**

Loving Creator, source of all life and light, we thank you for the work of many weathered hands that labour to grow our food.

It is the right of all of God's children to enjoy the fruits of the Earth. May we become more aware of the challenges that farmers face to feed the hungry.

Lord Jesus, may we be open to learning of the many factors, including our complicity, which contribute to world hunger. Help us learn how to walk lightly on the Earth, using only what we need.

When we prepare and delight in the bounty with which we are blessed, may we remember with gratitude those who have sown and harvested. Spirit of God, keep us ever mindful of your beautiful Earth and all our sisters and brothers.

Amen.



(Development and Peace Campaign logo)

## **Education and Health**

CAROL RICHER, CHAIRPERSON

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

*"The best of intentions don't change lives. Actions that lead to results do."*  
Partners for Mental Health

You may recall that my article for the last edition of Trillium News & Views dealt with the **Partners for Life** project organized by Canadian Blood Services, and the involvement of the Catholic Women's League. I am happy to report that at the recent national convention we learned that the CWL is well on its way to reaching the goal of 250 units set for 2014. Once this goal is reached, our commitment will be re-evaluated, and the goal adjusted -- hopefully upwards! You can still register to be part of this most important initiative by going to [www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife](http://www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife) and complete the registration form using **the CWL's unique Partner ID Number CATH011269** -- the life you help to save may be that of a loved one!

The combined efforts of many -- Bell Canada's *"Let's Talk"* campaign, Olympians Clara Hughes and Elizabeth Manley, a multitude of other groups, and of course our own response to Resolution ON.13.01 'Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness' -- have been instrumental in changing attitudes and in helping to educate the public to the fact that mental illness is an illness, not a choice. Hopefully, many who have suffered secretly have been encouraged to seek help as the result of the understanding, love and compassion of someone close to them.

All of the speakers at the national convention provided inspiration and much food for thought, but I was most affected and encouraged by the words and the work of Michael Kirby, a former Canadian senator and tireless advocate for better health care. Mr. Kirby served in the Senate from 1984 to 2006. In 2007 he was invited by Prime Minister Harper to become the first Chair of the newly created Mental Health Commission for Canada, a not-for-profit organization that was created in response to his 2003 Senate report on mental health.

After stepping down from the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Kirby turned his attention to creating **Partners for Mental Health**, which he envisaged as a social movement that will one day do for mental health what the Canadian Cancer Society has done for cancer and the Heart and Stroke Foundation has done for cardiovascular disease. **Partners for Mental Health** was founded on the core belief that significant change around mental health and mental illness can happen when people from all walks of life and all parts of Canada care, join and take action.

In his address to convention delegates, Mr. Kirby spoke on *Mental Health and Young People*. He stated *"What we have today in Canada is a two-tier mental-health system in which kids are the victim. This is a situation that offends my values as a Canadian."* What troubles him even more is the breadth of the problem. An estimated 1.2 million Canadian children are affected by mental illness, yet only one in four gets appropriate treatment. He noted that *"the well-to-do pay, the middle-class scrape together the money the best they can, and those without the means wait, or do without care"*.

Canada is failing to meet the mental health needs of our children and youth with devastating consequences; suicide is a leading cause of death for young Canadians and as many as 8% of young people try to take their own lives. Despite this, only 25% of Canadian children who require mental services receive them. Kirby's principal argument in promoting the expansion of treatment of mental illness in young people is that the investment will pay off in spades. *"Almost all mental-health problems begin in the young, before the age of 24"* he notes. *"If you get them early, you avoid a lifetime of problems and costs"*. Mr. Kirby also emphasized that the kind of services that most children need doesn't require a psychiatrist. They need a psychotherapist, but the Medicare rules say it only covers doctors. Access to treatment by a clinical psychologist would be much faster and much cheaper.

Two initiatives of Partners for Mental Health launched in 2013/2014 have met with success that exceeded expectations. **Right By You** aims to get children and youth experiencing mental health challenges the help they need, calling on parents and governments to do the right thing for Canada's young people. **Not Myself Today** helps to build mentally healthy workplaces, engaging employees, companies and organizations to address mental health issues and transform places of employment.

In addition to tackling the problem of two-tier access to mental-health services, Partners for Mental Health is advocating for a national youth suicide-prevention fund. Last year Parliament passed Bill C-300, the Federal Framework for Suicide Prevention Act, which calls on Ottawa to come up with a plan to combat suicide, but does not include a commitment of money. About 3500 Canadians die by suicide each year, including close to 800 young people. Partners for Mental Health is calling on governments to invest \$100 million over 4 years in suicide prevention, most of it for education programs and crisis intervention.

In both cases Kirby is calling for provinces and territories to take the lead and for Ottawa to offer dollar for dollar matching funds.

Canadians are stepping up and speaking out against stigma, discrimination and lack of funding and support for mental health. With many elections scheduled and

budgets to be set over the next 12 months, this is the time to get involved, to make our voices heard and to demand more funding and support for child and youth mental health, especially at the federal level.

While much progress is being made in reducing the stigma, the job is not yet done. Encouraging victims to seek help is but one step in the process. As we continue our focus on Resolution ON.13.01 'Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness' it is important to remember that we must also work at ensuring that adequate services are available for all who ultimately seek help for their illness.

Almost every person in every community across Canada is touched in some way by mental health problems and illnesses. We need change. Working together, we can make a difference!

Information for this article was obtained from *Partners for Mental Health, Right By You*, and *Not Myself Today* websites; various media articles; and from the address by Michael Kirby to the delegates of the 94th Annual National Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. You are encouraged to visit these websites to learn more about all of these initiatives.



## **Legislation**

Linda Squarzolo, Chairperson  
Sub-chairperson: Theresa McGuire

The national convention was held this year in Fredericton, N.B. It was a wonderful gathering of 585 members from across the country. There were several interesting guest speakers and the officers' reports were informative. Information about them can be found on the national website. National Legislation Chair Anne Marie Gorman provided some interesting information for those in attendance. Elections were held at this convention and Anne Marie has been replaced by Janet McLean as the new legislation chair.

Through the League's letter writing campaigns, we can make a difference in the legislation enacted in our country. These laws can provide assistance for the disenfranchised. Members are encouraged to let their government representatives know their views relating to approved resolutions and social justice issues. Although letters are written expressing your own personal views, not on behalf of the CWL, you can let government know that you are a League member and that the CWL has approved a resolution concerning issue being addressed.

In 2013 a resolution to reduce the stigma of mental illness was approved at the Ontario provincial convention. At the national convention this past August, retired Canadian Senator Honourable Michael Kirby was a guest speaker on the topic "Mental Health and Young People." He was part of a senate committee in 2001 studying health care and got involved in mental health. Often, the stigma of mental health prevents kids and youth from getting the help and support they need. Often mental illness begins with a mood disorder before the age of 20. If diagnosed quickly, the chances of getting better, or managing the symptoms, are high. To get free help, one must be referred to a psychiatrist and the wait is 12 to 18 months. However the services of clinical psychologists, counsellors or social workers can also be valuable in helping the children and their families deal with the mental illnesses, but these services are not free. Senator Kirby noted that only 25% of youth with a mental illness get the help they need and suicide is the second leading cause of death in those between the ages of 15 and 24. CWL members were asked to write letters to their provincial governments asking them to cover the cost of eight sessions with a professional per child, so those suffering from mental illnesses can receive the help they need more readily. More information on this topic can be found at [www.rightbyyou.ca](http://www.rightbyyou.ca)



## **Christian Family Life**

Marlin Taylor, Chairperson

*"Happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven, whose sins are pardoned! Happy is the person whose sins the Lord will not keep account of" Romans 4:7-8*

Family:

I was reviewing the Catholic Organization for Life and Family and there were 11 questions pertaining to family. I will list six. I am listing them randomly.

These are questions we as Families should be discussing:

1. What impact do the laws and policies adopted by government have on my family?
2. What can I do to influence my elected representatives on the federal and provincial levels?
3. Am I disturbed by any events or positions reported by the media these days? How can I react to make my opinion known?
4. Which family-related issues do I particularly have at heart? How are they considered by society? How can I defend and /or promote them?
5. How can we, as parents, educate our children to become free and responsible citizens, aware of the importance of their ideas and life principles in the construction of civil society? What examples are we giving them?
6. What means could I take to achieve better ethical and political formation for myself? How could I learn more about the Catholic Church's teachings on life and family issues? Do I know about the resources offered by my diocese?

I challenge everyone to review and discuss these questions with family members, friends or colleagues at home or at CWL meetings.

To add to the flavor of these questions, John Paul II talks of the importance of marriage. I will quote a few paragraphs from "The Address of John Paul II to the Prelate Auditors Officials and Advocates of the Tribunal of the Roman Rota"

It talks of the essential properties of marriage, unity and indissolubility. It states:

*"A positive presentation of the indissoluble union is important, in order to rediscover its goodness and beauty. First of all, one must overcome the view of indissolubility as a restriction of the freedom of the contracting parties, and so as a burden that at times can become unbearable. Indissolubility, in this conception, is seen as a law that is extrinsic to marriage, as an "imposition" of a norm against the "legitimate" expectations of the further fulfilment of the person. Add to this*

*the widespread notion that indissoluble marriage is only for believers, who cannot try to "impose" it on the rest of civil society.*

*To give a valid and complete response to this problem one must begin with the word of God. I am thinking concretely of the passage of the Gospel of Matthew that recounts Jesus' conversation about divorce with some Pharisees and then with his disciples (cf. Mt 19,3-12). Jesus goes radically beyond the debates of his day concerning the factors that could justify divorce asserting: "For your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so" (Mt 19,8).*

*According to the teaching of Jesus, it is God who has joined man and woman together in the marital bond. Certainly this union takes place with the free consent of both parties, but this human consent concerns a plan that is divine. In other words, it is the natural dimension of the union and, more concretely, the nature of man created by God himself that provides the indispensable key for interpreting the essential properties of marriage. The further reinforcement that the properties obtain in Christian marriage by virtue of the sacrament (cf. can. 1056) is based on a foundation of natural law that, if removed, would make incomprehensible the very work of salvation and elevation of the conjugal reality that Christ effected once and for all."*

I have provided part of his writing. I recommend you take some time the review it fully.

**FAMILY**  
love friendship  
share listen I ♥  
FORGIVE LOVE  
& FORGET YOU  
please thank you  
FAMILIES ARE  
**FOREVER**  
HUG SMILES

WAS NAPPING WHILE HE WAS  
GIGGLE  
LE

kindly  
speak



## **67<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Provincial Convention**

Cobourg, ON July 6 – 9, 2014

We Have Seen the Lord

Prepared by Colleen Randall, Provincial Communications Standing Committee  
Chairperson

Approximately four hundred Catholic Women's League members from all thirteen dioceses in Ontario joyfully descended on the Cobourg Inn and Convention Centre (Best Western) in Cobourg for three days of faith, fun and fulfillment.

Each day of the convention opened with a warm welcome from our president Betty Colaneri. Her joy of being with her sisters in the League was contagious and it showed.

Opening Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop William McGrattan, Bishop of Peterborough and National Spiritual Advisor. It was a Eucharistic celebration filled with melodious voices, child bell ringers and rich organ music. Representatives from various levels of government and the Knights of Columbus brought greetings and best wishes for a successful convention. The intentions for this Mass were for all living and deceased members of The Catholic Women's League of Ontario.

Monday morning's Eucharistic Celebration in the hotel ballroom was celebrated by the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines and Provincial Spiritual Advisor. The intentions were for all who are struggling with mental health issues. The keynote speaker was Ellis Katsof, CEO of Pathstone Foundation. Pathstone is a non-profit charitable agency in the Niagara region whose mission is to strengthen the quality of life for children, youth and families dealing with mental health challenges. Questions and Answers by Ellis Katsof made everyone in the room aware of how many people in our lives are affected by mental illness – the most extreme being suicide.

National President-Elect Barbara Dowding shared her joy with being in attendance at her first Ontario Provincial Convention. Barb brought greetings from National President Betty-Ann Brown-Davidson who was in the Holy Land. She challenged everyone to meet people where they are at! She said *"Take a chance – let the Holy Spirit take you where you need to go... Put your gifts at the service of others."*

Members enjoyed an interactive workshop facilitated by Anne Bougie (Parish Spiritual Advisor, Holy Trinity, Englehart, ON) and Fr. Wayne Mills (Timmins Diocesan Spiritual Advisor). "On the Way with Jesus" Workshop is based on Bishop Serge Poitras' Pastoral Letter.

The day ended with the spiritually moving "Crowning of Mary".

Diocesan dinners started the evening's social time and culminated in a gathering of all in attendance as each diocese presented their "Fire" songs. Laughter brought tears of joy and friendship!!! Members are so eager to share fellowship and fun.

Tuesday morning Eucharistic Celebration was celebrated by the Most Reverend Gerard Bergie and the intentions were for the Spiritual Advisors and Clergy in Ontario.

After Mass and opening prayer Ontario Life Member Glenda Klein gave the report from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC). The women of the Bahamas prepared the service for the World Day of Prayer 2015 to the theme of "Do You Know What You Have Done to Me?"

The day's keynote speaker Father Frank Freitas, Pastor at St. Mary of the Visitation Parish in Cambridge Ontario and author of *"Are We There Yet?"* encouraged us to pray – to come and see Him – before we go out and serve Him. It is easy to get caught up in seeing and serving the Lord that we forget that the Lord is all around us.

Provincial Officers and Diocesan Presidents were asked to speak on how the work of committees and dioceses has helped them to **See the Lord**. Reports were personal, moving and extremely well presented.

Two resolutions were brought to the floor of convention and were passed.  
ON.14.01 Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Modified Food Products –carried  
ON.14.02 *Feathers of Hope* – Empowering First Nations Youth –carried as amended

The banquet was a beautiful celebration with a Mardi Gras feeling as we "Unmasked the Diocese of Peterborough".

The closing day began as all others with prayer. The St. Catharines group presented their invitation to the 2015 convention in Niagara Falls. It will be awesome!

The closing Mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Bergie for the intention to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bishop Bergie invited all in attendance to bring prayer and joy to our responsibilities as Catholic Women's League members. Executive Officers were reaffirmed in their commitment for the next year. The provincial banner was passed from Peterborough Diocesan President Joanne Hough to St. Catharines Diocesan President Sharon Dickson.

And so it begins.....



## **94<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention**

Fredericton, New Brunswick, August 19 – 13, 2014

Compiled by Anne Madden, Rosanne Sogan and Pauline Krupa

Five hundred and eighty five delegates gathered at the Fredericton Convention Centre for the 94<sup>th</sup> annual national convention. St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church was the site for the Opening Ceremonies and opening mass. A number of dignitaries brought greetings. Eucharist was celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Robert Harris, Diocese of St. John. In his homily, Bishop Harris reminded us that as baptized people we are the stake-holders of the Church. We are beloved daughters and sons of God who accompanies us as we live out his dream for a world of selfless service. A reception followed prepared by hosting councils.

Most Reverend Bishop Gerard Bergie, St. Catharines Diocese and Ontario provincial spiritual advisor started Monday with a beautiful celebration of the mass. In his homily Bishop Bergie reminded us of the greatness of celebrating Eucharist together. He stated that as children of God, the Lord is always present; he is with us as we gather to do his work. In his talk "*To Live with the Spirit*" keynote speaker, Most Reverend Robert Moreau, Bishop Emeritus of Green Bay, Wisconsin, spoke about our most important responsibility – to listen and to love. He explained the five calls in baptism and spoke about the seven things to remember as written in John Wooden's book *A Game Plan for Life*. He implored us to remember and use the five T's of friendship: time, talk, thoughtfulness, tenderness, and trust.

The Honourable Senator Michael Kirby's address *Mental Health and Young People* profoundly affected the group gathered. He presented an overview of his work over the years in support of those who are affected by mental illness and the magnitude of the problems to provide help. He stated that more young people die from suicide than they do from cancer. He stated that a national strategy for youth suicide will not work. It needs to be at the grassroots, in every town, community and city. What works in Toronto will not work in a northern Ontario First Nations community. He declared that if we could over-come the stigma of this illness sought help at its onset and were provided with child psychologists' care in our medical system, a high percentage of young people would not become adults with mental illness. A presentation by Catholic Missions in Canada animators Kathleen Ancker and Patricia Gyulay ended the day. They gave an overview of the work completed by CMIC and presented the new theme *Great Need, Great Hope* by viewing their latest video.

Tuesday morning delegates gathered for the Eucharist, celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop Valery Vienneau, Archdiocese of Moncton. In his homily, he spoke about St. Jane Frances de Chantal on this her feast day. As members we are so like her, giving to the poor, serving others, accepting those who have been rejected. He reminded us that we encounter Jesus in everyone we meet. The business sessions of the convention commenced with opening remarks from National President, Betty Ann Brown Davidson, and words of welcome from Most Reverend Bishop William McGrattan, Peterborough Diocese and National Spiritual Advisor. A number of guests from other women's organizations brought greetings. Imelda Perly, a linguist from Tobique First Nation, began her talk *Building Relationship with Aboriginal Women*, by welcoming delegates to the Wolastoq community. She explained that Wolastoq is the traditional name for the St. John River. In her work she has been translating English into Maliseet, her Aboriginal language and now is working on translating Maliseet stories into English for everyone to enjoy. Imelda explained the significance of sweet grass and other natural medicines (cedar, sage

and tobacco). She explained how her community melds Church and traditional teachings into wonderful celebrations. She stated that First Nations people want a side by side relationship, not one that sees one above the other. To address the divide between cultures we must know the real identity of our First Nations people she said. Imelda closed her address with a traditional song honouring water, the symbol of life. Following her talk, thirteen new Life members were commissioned, blessed and welcomed.

The afternoon session began with Sheila Isaac, a Mi'gmaq Lawyer from Listuguj First Nations, presentation called *Issues Facing Aboriginal Women*. Her talk highlighted significant historical dates in First Nations' relationship with governments and current issues facing them today. Sheila stated that one of the most concerning issues facing people today is lateral violence that is bullying within their own culture. To conclude her presentation she shared highlights of the *Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program* provided by Coady Institute. The program allows for participants to plan, prepare and produce a project which benefits their own communities. The business of the day ended with reports from provincial presidents, the national president and spiritual advisor's report (see highlight below).

Wednesday morning was filled with reports from standing committee chairs (highlights below) and the presentation of 5 resolutions for consideration:

- 2014.01 Restoration of Health Care for Refugee Claimants
- 2014.02 Electronic Cigarettes
- 2014.03 Flavoured Tobacco Products Ban
- 2014.04 National Standard for Newborn Screening Including Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency
- 2014.05 Old Age Security Allowance for Individuals 60 to 64 Years of Age Regardless of Marital Status

Each of the resolutions was passed and is now posted online.

Delegates from Vancouver invited delegates to the 95<sup>th</sup> annual convention to be held in August 2015. President Elect Barb Dowding unveiled her theme for 2015 – 2017 – *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*. The rite of election concluded the day. We were blessed to have Margaret Ann Jacobs (president – elect), Shari Guinta (secretary – treasurer) and Betty Ann Brown Davidson (past president) from Ontario elected to the national executive.

The closing mass and installation of officers was celebrated by Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, Peterborough Diocese and National Spiritual Advisor. In his homily, Bishop McGrattan reminded us that as Church, we must adopt a Marian style. Mary is the model of evangelization. Like Mary, we must humbly serve in our call to be an evangelizing people.

Every convention is a time for spiritual and League growth along with time for reacquainting with friends and meeting new friends. These times call for fun. What fun indeed! On Saturday delegates were treated to a tour of Fredericton followed by a yummy lobster and steak dinner at the Msgr Boyd Family Centre. Entertainment that night was provided by local artists Bob McCallum (vocals and guitar), Katherine Moller (Celtic fiddle music), St. Patrick's choir (*Sister Act*) and Father Stanislas Paulin (traditional Acadian music). On Sunday delegates toured Kings Landing, a historic park that shows cases early Acadia life. Everyone enjoyed a hearty home-cooked lunch typical of the early 1800's. Monday evening's entertainment night provided delegates the time to let loose and dance the night away with music from Vinyl2Bits Show Band. The Gala Banquet on Wednesday evening provided time for good food and good company. Words of appreciation were shared by now past president, Betty Ann Brown Davidson thanking members of the past executive and the hosting committee. An Acadian Women's Choir sang a number of traditional songs. On Thursday a day of touring and shopping was planned for delegates who decided to extend their stay.

## **Highlights from National Oral Reports**

Note: Each of the oral reports will be featured in the fall *Canadian League* magazine, and is posted online.

### **Standing Committee:**

#### **Spiritual Development**

- We should have an awareness of our evangelization, to be willing to change and try new approaches; to make use of CWL resources.

#### **Organization, President-Elect**

- As members we are like fire: we share our gifts (fuel & care) and revive the internal sparks, to Enlighten, Enkindle and Enthral others.

#### **Christian Family Life**

- Challenged us to share our faith. We must educate ourselves on teachings of Church, inform members what the Church teaches, provide a well-balanced foundation, empathize with members; those who are suffering, separated / divorced members;

#### **Community Life**

- The voice of God challenges us while providing love. We must do our part at home and abroad to fight poverty; review **Resolution 1978.06 Know your Candidate for Office**; to check their human life values; Peter McKay is proposing a new law for respect for life.

#### **Education and Health**

- Education and Health provides a way to deal with things head-on, has seen the Lord in people with mental illness especially those with bipolar disorders; suggested members research climate change as being one of the biggest challenges to society.

#### **Communications**

- Encouraged us to think about the number of times we communicate during a day; take time to reflect how we have encountered Jesus and think about how others would respond if they knew we saw Jesus in them.

#### **Resolutions**

- Highlighted the visits to Government; noted that the MPs and their policy advisors were surprised that the CWL was in tune with cyber bullying 10 years ago and that most of our resolutions pertain to social justice issues.

#### **Legislation**

- Legislation represents the fulfillment of all action on resolutions; suggested having a legislation sub-committee chairperson under each of the standing committees to keep up to date on issues.

#### **Laws**

- Laws are all about dreams; reflected on Bellelle Guerin and her dream of a national organization for Catholic women; reflected on other dreams in particular support for Velmas's Dream; encouraged us to dream along....

### **Provincial Presidents:**

#### **Alberta Mackenzie**

- Developed on-line training for Human Trafficking; building relationship with First Nations is focus; euthanasia concerns

**British Columbia and Yukon**

- Letters of protest to government concerning de-criminalization of women; visited bishops to present resolutions; welcome Aboriginal women – CWL 101

**Manitoba**

- Personal experience of palliative care and support at home for husband in his last days battling cancer; very appreciative of all who helped

**Military Ordinariate**

- Praise for men and women sent to defend our country; PTSD on the rise – affects family and friends of person suffering; support is not there for them

**New Brunswick**

- Women living in poverty is main focus; educating members on what living in poverty looks and feels like; ways to support these women is a priority

**Newfoundland and Labrador**

- Care for seniors; advocate for independent living for elderly; nurture the environment; water fracking serious concern;

**Nova Scotia**

- Drug recycling program; strategy for social justice program; support for leadership program for First Nations people (St. Xavier University)

**Ontario**

- On board an Air Ontario all is well; emphasis on stigma of mental illness; on-going social justice projects for each diocese and standing committee

**Prince Edward Island**

- Four times a year provincial chairs personally contact parish counterparts to address concerns; presented *Discernment of Gifts* workshop; abortion issue was main focus

**Quebec**

- Partners for Life new project; mental health is great concern (highest rate of suicide); think outside the box; pilgrimage part of provincial convention

**Saskatchewan**

- Convention focus on Paschal Mystery; social justice award instituted; Walk for a Stronger Canada; focus on building relationship with Aboriginal women

**National President**

- In awe of deep faith of members as witnessed through theme *We Have Seen the Lord* as they reached out in service; affirmed in the League through visits across Canada and globally – seeing members bring the Gospel to life; building bridges with Aboriginal women has been a focus

**National Spiritual Advisor**

- Witness to members reaching us out to the periphery through resolutions and visiting Government; report on the Spiritual Advisor's lunch: help to dispel the myth of CWL so all women will be involved; workshop to support younger and foreign priests in understanding the League; SA expressed a desire to write articles for magazine; let SA help with discernment of leadership; conflict resolution (PIES); meeting planning; plan for "CWL Circle", have older members invite younger/newer members to discuss spiritual formation

Daily highlights of the National convention have been posted on the national website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) Please take the time to review these postings along with the full oral reports and resolutions.



## **Awards   Celebrations   Special Events**

**St. Peter's** council in Thunder Bay celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> CWL anniversary on May 6<sup>th</sup> with a special mass followed by a celebration in the church hall. Bishop Fred Colli attended as well as many dignitaries. A total of 39 charter members received their 25 year pins. Father Terry Sawchuk, launched a two month-long celebration with a declaration of the CWL Days. A spiritual Rosary with candlelight procession and crowning of Mary was celebrated outdoors. A banquet with historical displays will wrap up this happy time.

<b>25 Years of Service</b>	<b>25 Years of Service</b>	<b>25 Year Of Service</b>	<b>10 Year Of Service</b>
Agnes Andrea Anne Beda Susan Benvegnu Olga Bystrican Sadie Canzi Celestina Carella Isabella Carella Karen Carlucci Marisa Cavion Helen Christie Annette Comuzzi Gilda Covino Alice Drndak Debroah Ewing Hazel Fletcher	Anne Frastak Olga Fuchek Elizabeth Gollat Kathleen Humenaj Pauline Krupa Anne Labdik Kisti Lacko Lana Latta Brigitte Marchinko Mary Margarit Angela Meady June Meady	Mary Migay Barbara Nyman Lori Pecchia Annie Pero Elda Pessotti Christina Pizzi Jane Slobodnik Marie Suffak Jean Suffak-Wyrot Ida Trevisan Marie Walsh Mary Zack	Katrina Burns Martha Hardy  <b>New Members</b>  Claudia Stein Jennifer Lee DeFranceschi Keri Arthur Lori Morin Beverly Wychophen Christine Sullivan Paula Melanion

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council, Pembroke Diocese held a special dinner celebration to honour members.

<b>40 Years of Service</b>	<b>25 Years of Service</b>	<b>10 Year Of Service</b>	<b>Certificate of Merit</b>
Marcella Cybulski Ellen Hill Joan Rodgers	Mable Proulx Dawn Thivierge	Dale Pepin Fay O'Reilly	Sylvia Currie Irene Rekowski Darlene White

## **Bellelle Guerin Awards**

### **Thunder Bay**

On June 13, 2014, at their regular monthly meeting, Genevieve Jourdain was recognized for her years of dedicated service with the Bellelle Guerin award from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Women's League.

Bellelle Guerin was the first president of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. This award is presented to an individual who have been a member of the League in good standing for at least 25 years, has served on the Parish and Diocesan executive and has demonstrated her love of the League through her words and actions.

Genny served three terms on the Diocesan Executive Council as Resolutions Convenor, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

She has been a member of Our Lady of Lourdes CWL Council for 31 years serving in several positions but most effectively as President and has been an unwavering source of information and direction.

Not only a League member she has been a member of the Parish Council for a number of years. She has been a lecturer, Eucharistic Minister, brings communion to the sick and shut-ins and is a member of the choir.

Our Lady of Lourdes CWL Council was formed in 1962 and is the only First Nations Catholic League Council in Ontario.





## Alexandria-Cornwall

Bellelle Guerin Awards were presented to Phyllis Leroux and Monique Ingram at the annual Alexandria – Cornwall diocesan convention held May 25, 2014. Both members are former Diocesan Presidents and have served their parishes and diocese for many years. We join our members in extending warm congratulations, and may Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless them with good health and many more years of service to God and Canada.



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