

TRILLIUM NEWS AND VIEWS



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



www.cwl.on.ca
For God and Canada
Fall 2015



The Catholic Women's League of Canada - called to holiness through service to the people of God with....

ONE Heart....

Filled with Mercy, Compassion, Holiness

ONE Voice....

United in harmony to speak the truth with courage & zeal

ONE Mission....

The Catholic Women's League of Canada - embracing the call through prayer, trust, and personal encounter.

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER Fall 2015

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Editor's Notes

My dear Sisters and Spiritual Advisors,

I hope you enjoy this edition of the *Trillium News and Views*. This has certainly been a learning experience for me but a task that I've thoroughly enjoyed!

The *Trillium News and Views* Newsletter, the monthly *ON-line* Newsletter and the provincial website *www.cwl.on.ca* are all resources that can provide you with information and suggested actions from your provincial officers, on projects the council is pursuing for the coming two-year term. We do hope that you will share this information and use it in your own councils as a tool to educate members and encourage them to get more involved.

If you have received a paper version of this edition, then welcome to the new printed and mailing format for this newsletter. In an effort to keep costs down; printing, envelopes, mailing labels, posting costs etc., we are trialing this new format. The digital version is still available on line in the usual format and can be easily downloaded for your convenience.

We also have a new provincial executive following the elections at the July provincial convention. Get to know our new executive by checking the profile for each officer and diocesan president available on our website.

Highlights in this issue include the resolutions that were passed by the delegates at the provincial convention in July along with suggested actions to be taken. In this issue you will also find a brief report on both the provincial and national conventions.

Please remember to send in your information for our awards page so that our many accomplishments and milestones can be shared and recognized. Please pass this newsletter to others in The League and think about giving a subscription to someone. The order form can be found on page 47.

Mary Capobianco

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not!"

Dr. Seuss

Greetings

Being elected as your provincial president is still so amazing for me...you would think I hadn't known about this for the last two years! It is indeed an honour. My hope and prayer is that I will fulfill your expectations and one step more.

I welcome Bishop Fred Colli, Thunder Bay Diocese, to our team. This is his "hat trick" term. He has expressed his joy to be with us and we are just as happy to have him with us. My most sincere gratitude is extended to our provincial officers and standing committee chairs for taking on their leadership roles. Together with the diocesan presidents we make up your provincial executive who are ready and willing to do our very best!

Over the course of this year one major change has taken place at the provincial table. After much discussion, it was agreed that the role of the corresponding secretary has become so much more than correspondence. As agreed by motion, we no longer have a corresponding secretary elected to office, rather the president appoints an assistant to support her and the team for the term. This change will require adjustments to our policy and procedure manual and guidelines. The plan is for us to complete the task of changes to the required documents over the next two years. In order to best facilitate this need and time of transition, I have asked the former corresponding secretary / administrative assistant to continue in the position for the 2015 – 2017 term. Happily, she agreed.

Another appointed position was established at our pre convention meeting. As you can well imagine, keeping

records of our deceased members in this province is somewhat of an overwhelming task. This task of keeping the *Book of Life* up to date and accurate is part of the spiritual development standing committee chair's responsibility. To help facilitate our task it was decided by motion, to appoint a person to manage these records as they come from the national office, verify names listed by dioceses and hopefully not miss anyone who, after her years of dedicated service, so deserves her name in the Book of Life.

The provincial convention hosted by St. Catharine's Diocese in Niagara Falls was filled with "awe" moments... the falls being coloured blue and gold to announce our arrival and the butterfly launch to start the Opening Ceremonies to name just two. We conducted the business of The League, heard excellent speakers and reports, prayed together and had fun. (A full report of the convention can be found in this issue of the *Trillium News and Views*).

We were gifted with five resolutions from our members. These were sent to national for consideration. Kudos to everyone in Ontario from parish, diocesan and provincial levels who worked diligently to produce excellent and timely resolutions.

Representing Ontario at the national table was a privilege. The spotlight was on the provincial presidents (literally) as we sat representing the members across this grand country. The convention hosted by our national president's own diocese of Vancouver, British Columbia, was amazing. We were treated royally! Who will soon forget the Catholic Missions in Canada (CMIC) and the "bam-bams"?

In total 11 resolutions were sent to national for consideration. Five were brought to the floor and passed. Three were sent from Ontario. Two were sent to the provinces to use as deemed necessary and four were returned to the authors.

Other important news is that *The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition* was made a temporary voluntary fund for the next five years and The Catholic Women's League Foundation is now fully incorporated. I encourage you to keep watching for updates and news on the national website. A full report of the convention can be found in this issue of the *Trillium News and Views* and a copy of Ontario's oral report is posted on the national website.

As we began our term together, the provincial council turned its focus to the *Holy Year of Mercy* in conjunction with a one-year project, which was unveiled at the post convention meeting, based on the national theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*. Using the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and the *Beatitudes*, as our framework, we will embrace and emulate the Saints, canonized and Blesseds named by Pope Francis. Details will unfold at your parish and diocesan levels.

Beginning a new "CWL year" is always exciting. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide your every step as you journey.

Cheers and ttfn,

Pauline

*Ours is the Gift of care and concern,
Ours is the Gift of knowledge and skill,
Ours is the Gift of affirming the ways
of a loving God.*

Dear Members of The Catholic Women's League:

As the season of fall descends upon us, we once again return to our routines and schedules for our families and our work. This fall season brings some significant events to our attention as Roman Catholics. I also want to begin this newsletter article by saying how happy I am to be your provincial spiritual advisor under the leadership of Pauline Krupa and the provincial team. This is the third time that I have had this honour and I am looking forward to working with Pauline and the provincial council in building up The Catholic Women's League in Ontario and Canada, and in helping us all to grow in faith and understanding of our call from the Gospel.

Being members of The Catholic Women's League we share in the direction of our church and its issues. In particular we recall Pope Francis' latest encyclical, "Laudato si" which means "Praise to You" giving thanks to God for the wonders of all creation. This document is a rather lengthy one, but an important read for all Catholics. It challenges us to look at how we use the resources of our world and how we respect the earth itself, which the Pope calls our "common home". We know that we can abuse the gifts of creation and Pope Francis reminds us that this abuse has global effects. It hurts all of us, in particular the poor and most vulnerable of our society. He prompts us to examine our lifestyles, and to live more simply and with more respect for the environment and its riches. It is not only the work of governments and agencies, but if each of us did our little part to conserve, we can make the world safer, cleaner and leave a better and more positive legacy to future generations.

Another important issue that Pope Francis calls to our attention is the situation of the family in our society today. His special meeting with families at the *World Meeting of Families* in Philadelphia this year, and the *Synod on the Family*, which takes place in Rome, will

concentrate efforts on understanding the pressures, struggles and challenges that touch family life today. Pope Francis wants us, the Church, to be more responsive and supportive of families in all their forms. We pray that these encounters will bring forth some important and positive directives for us to accomplish this needed task.

As members of The Catholic Women's League we also know that our work together is not only for the good of society but also is an opportunity for us to grow in faith and understanding as Catholics.

This call to evangelization is not just a call to help others know the faith but also for each of us personally to deepen our understanding of the Catholic teachings that guide us as a Church. Recently I asked the Knights of Columbus to invest in the book called the Compendium of Catechism of the Catholic Church. Pope Benedict XVI gave us this book to encourage us to continue our learning. I recommend that each member of The League consider a copy for themselves.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of us to see our work as members of The League as not only the work of our organization, but also as work of the Church and of God. Pope Francis says the laity are co-workers with the priests and religious in helping to build the kingdom of God here on earth. The generous use of your talents and gifts in union with the gifts and talents of others helps The League to make a difference and to build this kingdom. Our cooperation and sharing is done in a spirit of mutual respect and appreciation for each other, and for the leadership of our councils. We know that as a team, we can achieve great things. As the letters of the word team indicate: *Together Everyone Achieves More*. May the Lord help us to be that unique and special team of leaders and women of service who together achieve much more for the building up of The League and for society. For God and Canada.

Sub-Chairperson: Verna Lynn Bergeron

Pope Francis reminds us often of Mary's testimony and intersessions...reflect on these clips from the Pope's homilies and speeches....

... the Pope told those present that Mary's life testifies that God never abandons us even in moments when it might seem he is not there...

... we pray, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, that the Holy Spirit will render this apostolic journey fruitful and foster in the Church missionary fervor to proclaim to all peoples, in respect and in fraternal dialogue, that the Lord Jesus is Truth, Peace and Love.

The Immaculate Virgin, as privileged witness of the great events of the history of salvation, "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart". (Luke 2:19)

Woman of hearing, woman of contemplation, woman of closeness to the problems of the Church and of people. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with all the resources of her feminine genius, she did not cease to enter ever more "into all the truth". (John 16:13)

Thus Mary is the icon of the Church that, in the impatient awaiting of her Lord, progresses, day after day, in the intelligence of the faith, thanks also to the patient work of men and women theologians. May Our Lady, authentic teacher of theology, obtain for us with her maternal prayer that our charity abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment". (Philippians 1:9-10).

Does prayer have to be formal or complicated?

In leading your council in prayer, try simplifying prayer...

- If you have a calendar or book with short quotes, a sentence or two each, consider reading a few with a suitable response/statement, between each followed by a pause for reflection.. the response could be .. Thanks

be to God... We glorify the Lord .. What a wonderful gift life is from God ... anything that comes to mind to connect the short quotes...

- Consider a litany or connect common prayers into a short service: *Hail Mary, Glory Be, Our Father, ...*
- Read a bible verse and provide a couple of statements for reflection .. pause and then end with a short prayer and the sign of the cross
- There are some simple prayers on the national and provincial websites as well ... www.cwl.ca and www.cwl.on.ca

Looking for daily inspiration in your Inbox?

- Daily reminder of the 'Daily 3 minute retreat'
- <http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>
- Daily meditation
- <http://www.silentinsight.com>
- Take 5 for faith (also an app)
- <http://www.takefiveforfaith.com>
- Catechism in a Year
- <https://howdy.flocknote.com/catechism>
- Gospels in a Year
- <https://howdy.flocknote.com/gospels>

QUOTES ON MERCY

Did you know? Pope Francis has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy December 8 2015 to November 20 2016

I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. Psalm 13:5

I had many friends to help me to fall; but as to rising again, I was so much left to myself, that I wonder now I was not always on the ground. I praise God for His mercy; for it was He only Who stretched out His hand to me. May He be blessed forever! Amen.

Saint Teresa of Avila

The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the mercy motivates us to do better.

Pope Francis

And even if the sins of soul are as dark as night, when the sinner turns to My mercy he gives Me the greatest praise and is the glory of My Passion.

St. Faustina

Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?

Saint Vincent de Paul

Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while the one ascends, the other descends.

Mark Hopkins



JUBLILEE YEAR OF MERCY

**8th December, 2015
to
20th November, 2016**

The Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, *"with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind."*

(Vatican Radio 06/05/2015, 13:33)

Sub-chairperson: Glenda Klein

"All Scripture is breathed by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Life Membership in The Catholic Women's League of Canada is often misunderstood. Life Membership is an honour that entails responsibility; it is not intended to be a reward for years of service or a retirement gift. National council requires support and active service from its Life Members.

It is expected that Life Members will serve when requested at all levels:

- to do research
- write briefs/position papers
- serve as a facilitator/animator
- program designer
- resolutions committee member
- speaker
- subcommittee chairperson
- advisor/mentor

It is an expectation that every Life Member will remain active in her own parish council.

If the nominee indicated on the Life Member Nominee Questionnaire that she is unable or unwilling at present to continue in active service to The League, please consider submitting her name at a future date.

There are other appropriate ways of honouring members for their dedication to The League such as with a certificate, maple leaf service pin or the Bellelle Guerin Award. Recipients of the Bellelle Guerin Award will not be eligible for Life Membership.

A nomination for Life Membership should always remain in confidence within your respective executives until final acceptance and presentation of the Life Membership pin and scroll. **A nomination does not guarantee acceptance.**

The criteria for Life Membership has been updated by national office this year and will take effect **May 1, 2016**. Applications for 2015 follow the existing criteria as outlined at www.cwl.ca.

Life Membership Nomination and Approval Procedure 2016:

- The Notice of Nomination for Life Membership form is completed by the nominating diocesan/provincial executive (*entire executive, not only elected officers*) and forwarded to the executive director; postmarked by September 15th.
- National office forwards the following information to the **nominating council**: criteria for Life Membership, Nomination Form for Life Membership, Life Member Nominee Questionnaire and Life Member Checklist for the Provincial Council.
- The **nominating council** provides the contact names and addresses on the Life Member Nominee Questionnaire form and forwards the forms as indicated on the tops of each form.
- The Nomination for Life Membership is completed by the submitting diocesan/provincial executive and is **accepted by motion at an executive meeting**. It is **signed by the diocesan/provincial secretary** (who verifies this executive action) **and by both diocesan and provincial presidents pending final approval upon completion of all other documentation**. This form is mailed to the Executive Director, postmarked no later than **December 15th**.
- The nominee completes the Life Member Nominee Questionnaire, indicating her **ability**, availability and

willingness to continue actively serving the League, forwarding a copy to the nominating president, diocesan and provincial presidents and the Executive Director, postmarked by **December 15th**. (New date!)

- National office verifies that the nominee meets criteria 1-3 and the executive director confirms this fact to the submitting provincial or diocesan executives.
- **A Life Member checklist is completed by the provincial president who verifies completion of the Nomination for Life Membership and the Life Member Nominee Questionnaire.**
- **Life Member Checklist and** a cheque for \$100.00, along with the specific date on which the Life Membership will be presented are forwarded to national office by February 1st.
- National office will forward the completed Nomination for Life Membership and the Life Member Nominee Questionnaire forms to the national chairperson for organization for confirmation that the nominee meets all the requirements.
- At the winter meeting of the national executive, the list of those nominees meeting all the criteria and requirements is presented and the nominees are officially accepted as Life Members of national council.
- Following acceptance by the national executive, the submitting provincial and diocesan executives and the nominee's parish council will be notified. A Life Membership pin and scroll will be sent to the nominating diocesan or provincial council prior to the anticipated date of presentation.

Note: There will be no public announcement of the nominee's approval prior to notification by national office.

For complete list of forms & criteria: National Manual of Policy & Procedure (revised 2015) www.cwl.ca

Sub-chairperson: Sharon St. Jean

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children."

Nelson Mandela

Many councils will conduct the *Pornography Hurts* campaign in their parishes in the coming months.

The Canadian Criminal Code defines child pornography under section 163.1(1) as:

- a) A photographic, film, or other visual representation, whether or not it was made by electronic or mechanical means; i) That shows a person who is or is depicted as being under eighteen years and is depicted as engaged in explicit sexual activity or; ii) The dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, for sexual purpose, of a sexual organ or the anal region of a person who is under the age eighteen years or;
- b) Any written material or visual representation that advocates or counsels sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this act.
- c) Any written material whose dominant characteristic is the description, for sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen years that would be an offence under this act: or
- d) Any audio recording that has as its dominant characteristic the description, presentation or representation, for sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under eighteen years of age that would be an offence under this act.

Essentially, child pornography is any pornographic image or representation which involves a minor. In Canada, this means an individual under the age of eighteen.

Producing, distributing, possessing, and accessing child pornography are offences under the Canadian Criminal Code.

The statistics are alarming. One in three females and one in six males in Canada experience some form of sexual abuse.

The following is information I found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) titled *Ten Points to Create Safe Environments for Children*. I invite you to familiarize yourself with these ten points and pass this information along. Education is a key component in the battle against pornography. The article was written by Teresa M. Kettelkamp, Executive Director, Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, USCCB and is reprinted here with permission.

Ten Points To Create Safe Environments For Children

Sexual molestation is about the victim

Many people are affected when a priest abuses a minor, but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life. The abuser, the family of the abused, and the parish community are all affected by this sin and crime, but the primary person of concern must be the victim.

No one has the right to have access to children

If people wish to volunteer for the church, for example, in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, safe environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the church without proper screening and without following the rules.

Common sense is not all that common

It is naive to presume that people automatically know boundaries so organizations and families have to spell them out. For example, no youth minister, cleric or other adult leader should be in a child's bedroom, alone with the child.

Child sexual abuse can be prevented

Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm. These barriers come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime

Those who have been abused seldom just get over it. The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Some have even described the feeling as if it has scarred their soul.

Feeling heard leads toward healing

Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one's pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor's appropriate sense of rage and indignation are acknowledged. Not being acknowledged contributes to a victim's sense of being invisible, unimportant and unworthy; they are in some way revictimized.

You cannot always predict who will be an abuser

Experience shows that most abuse is at the hands of someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family. Most abuse also occurs in the family setting. Sometimes the nicest person in the world is an abuser, and this niceness enables a false sense of trust to be created between abuser and abused.

There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers

Training and education help adults recognize grooming techniques that are precursors to abuse. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts. Another common grooming technique is to allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not

approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, which includes wrestling and tickling. It is also critical to be wary of age-inappropriate relationships, seen, for example, in the adult who is more comfortable with children than fellow adults. Parishes can set up rules to guide interaction between adults and children.

People can be taught to identify grooming behaviour

Which are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship? An abuser may develop a relationship with the family to increase his credibility. Abusers might show attention to the child by talking to him/her, being friendly, sharing alcohol with a minor and giving the child status by insinuating that the child is their favorite or special person. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Background checks work.

Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie.

*Teresa M. Kettelkamp, Executive Director
Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

(Reprinted with permission)

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Sub-chairperson: Bernadette Burgess

This summer was a busy time for resolutions. In July five resolutions were adopted at the Ontario Provincial Convention in Niagara Falls. These were forwarded to the national resolutions committee. In August the national convention was held in Vancouver, and three Ontario resolutions and two others were approved.

The complete resolutions can be found on the website cwl.on.ca. Following is a summary of resolutions adopted at the Ontario convention:

ON.15.01 Ban the Use of Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products

Several personal care products contain tiny beads of plastic. These can be found in hand cleansers, body washes, deodorants, toothpastes, and cosmetics. They contain about 330,000 per tube and wash down the drains. They are so small that they pass through the screens of waste treatment plants and end up in lakes and rivers. Since they are plastic, they remain in the water polluting for a very long time.

ON.15.02 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Neonicotinoid pesticides are used as seed treatments, spray for fruit and vegetables, on greenhouse plants and in pet flea protection. They are taken up by the plant and can be found in the soil. There has been a sharp decline in pollinators in Canada, including honey bees. The cause is thought to be because of pesticide use, disease and loss of habitat. Evidence indicates that neonicotinoid pesticides can cause serious harm.

ON.15.03 Mandatory Police Vulnerable Sector Checks for the Supervision of Minors

Police record checks were established to provide screening of individuals working or volunteering with the vulnerable. In Ontario there is no legal requirement for organizations to have these police checks done. In order to prevent child abuse, the requirement for these police checks needs to be mandatory.

ON.15.04 Provision of Regulated Housing for the Chronic, Severely Mentally Ill

Mental health and addiction patients could be better served in their community if given proper support and housing. Not only would this save the high cost of hospitalization but also the heavy use of emergency services and policing systems. The goal would be to enable people to enjoy a meaningful life in their community with secure, quality housing.

ON.15.05 Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long-Form Census

In 2010 the federal government cancelled the mandatory long form census and replaced it with the voluntary household survey. Since the census was mandatory there was greater response rate. Many organizations and agencies used the information provided to allocate funds and services to certain sectors. Because the data collected is less reliable, this is a concern.

National resolutions can be found on the national website www.cwl.ca.

The national resolutions committee brought three of the above Ontario resolutions to the national convention. They were ON.15.01 Microbeads, ON.15.02 Pesticides and ON.15.05 Long-Form Census. The other two were:

2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services

Although between one to two million children and youth suffer from mental illness only 20% receive services because of the long wait times. This can contribute to suicide. Governments are urged to provide increased access to services.

2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom in the case of Carter v. Canada

In February 2015 the Supreme Court struck down the prohibitions on assisted suicide. The ruling is suspended for twelve months to give parliament time to write new legislation to comply with the decision. Section 33 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms can be invoked by the government when the Supreme Court makes a ruling. This gives the government, rather than judges, the final say on important matters of public policy. This would give the government more time to act on this ruling. Section 33 is known as "the notwithstanding clause."

Congratulations to the councils who studied these topics and developed the resolutions. Their work is done, but the work is just beginning for us. As members we need to become familiar with these issues by going to the websites and reading the details in the resolution and brief. If the action plan asks us to write letters, it is important that we do so. If the government is bombarded by letters, they will certainly notice. Remember, The League has a letter writing guide to help with these letters. Perhaps some councils may consider having "a letter writing bee" where the group gets together to write the letters. Remember when letters are sent to a federal member of parliament, a stamp is not needed!

Happy Writing!

I came across an article on the Internet www.effectivemeetings.com that has helpful advice for Minute takers. Some of the wording and information has been amended to reflect what we, as CWL Recording Secretaries, need to know:

Are you unsure what information you should record and what you should leave out? You're not alone. Meeting Minutes are important so don't give up. They capture the essential information of a meeting – decisions and assigned actions. They keep attendees on track by reminding them of their role in a project and clearly define what happened in a group session. Many times members have been confused or in disagreement about what happened in a meeting. With minutes to refer to, everyone is clear.

What most people don't know is that meeting minutes shouldn't be an exact recording of everything that happened during a session. Minutes are meant to record basic information such as the actions assigned and decisions made. Then, they can be saved and used for reference or background material for future meetings relating to the same topic.

The following instructions will help you take useful and concise meeting minutes:

-If you are recording the minutes, make sure you aren't a major participant in the meeting. You can't perform both tasks well.

-Create a template for recording your meeting minutes and make sure you leave some blank space to record your notes.

-Don't try to record notes verbatim – it's not necessary. Minutes are meant to give an outline of what happened in the meeting, not a record of who said what. Focus on

understanding what's being discussed and on recording what's been assigned or decided on.

-Record action items and decisions in your template as they happen – don't wait until after the meeting to pull them out of your notes or you could make a mistake. If you don't understand exactly what decision has been made or what action has been assigned, ask the chair to clarify.

-Review your notes and add additional comments, or clarify what you didn't understand right after the meeting. Do this while the information is fresh in everyone's mind.

-Type your notes out in the template you created before the meeting – this will make the notes easier for everyone to read and use.

-Avoid inflammatory or personal observations. The fewer adjectives or adverbs you use, the better. *Dull writing is the key to appropriate minutes.*

-If you need to refer to other documents, attach them in an appendix or indicate where they may be found. Don't rewrite their intent or try to summarize them.

-When you finish typing the minutes, send them to the chair for review. If you have a Minutes Review Committee, send them a copy of this first draft and ask for their input. Send the final copy of the minutes to attendees right away. Keep a copy of the notes (and the template) for yourself in case someone wants to review them later.

There are many resources for Recording Secretaries; we should make use of these as we learn the responsibilities of our position, i.e. ***Robert's Rules of Order, Handbook for Secretaries*** – which can be downloaded from the national website, ***Constitution and By-laws***, and the ***National Manual of Policy and Procedure***.

“Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others”

1 Peter 4:10

Greetings to all treasurers in Ontario:

Welcome to all newly elected treasurers and welcome to all treasurers returning for another year. I look forward to working with you over the next two (2) years.

Three practices that should be adhered to: Budgets are a must, timely banking and good record keeping.

Budget:

November/December is the time for preparation of a draft budget for the upcoming year. If there is an appointed committee for this task, the budget is presented to the executive for their recommendations/approval and then presented to the membership for approval by motion. Once the budget has been approved, a motion may be made at each meeting that all outstanding bills are paid. If an item that has not been approved in the budget, or exceeds the budget amount, it requires a specific motion. Having an approved budget will eliminate financial discussions at every meeting.

Membership:

Per Capita is due and payable at national office January 1st of each year. Remember to work closely with your organization chairperson regarding memberships.

Bishop Bernard F Pappin Memorial Bursary:

Bishop Pappin passed away on August 27, 1998 while serving as Spiritual Advisor to the Ontario Provincial Council of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada. In his memory a bursary fund has been established by motion of the provincial council for the purpose of arch/diocesan seminarians in need of personal financial support. (*The Ontario Provincial Council Manual of Policy and Procedure*). The bursary fund is financed by donations from CWL councils. Parish councils are encouraged to continue their support of this very worthy

cause. Please forward your generous donations to me, your Ontario Provincial Treasurer.

Let us continue to support The League and in doing so, we can truly live our theme – One Heart, One Voice, One Mission.

Past President / Historian

Betty Colaneri

"History is the story written by the finger of God."

C.S. Lewis

After the provincial convention, I have taken some time to adjust to my new role as historian. Life is a lot like that. Our roles may change for various reasons giving us the opportunity to reflect on what we have done, plan for the future and do some purging to make room for what's to come. As much as we are eager to move on, we can't lose sight of our past. It is our past experiences that make us who we are today. The late Sister Claire Fitzgerald came to speak to one of our school council conventions. The statement she made still holds true today. "You have to know your story before you can go to the wall to fight." The same can be said about The League. It is so important to know our history so we can appreciate and honour the women who have gone before us paving our way as well as the opportunity to educate others of all the things we have done. It is because of the dedication and hard work of those before us that we are welcomed and respected by government. Many may not be aware of all the resolutions that were instrumental in creating bills that became law or the many acts of service in our communities or the social justice projects that have been initiated by our members or the groups within our parishes that we have organized and continue to support.

Everything stems from a need. The League was born by the need for service and compassion to others that arrived from other countries (many of our own ancestors), with one suitcase in hand, seeking a better life for their children. Jesus sends us out with a need to

help His people. Pope Francis calls us "women of genius" that know the needs of the church and the world with great compassion.

As it was done for us, it is now our turn to make history. Remember that everything you do today will be part of history tomorrow. There never seems to be enough hours in the day but try to keep track of all that is done in your council. It is important not only for your present council but for the next generations to know your story. We all know the saying, "a picture is worth a thousand words" so be sure to capture those moments. They may not seem very important at the time but it will be. You won't be able to go back and do it again so it is best not to have any regrets. Memories can be the best things to reflect or to look back on.

Photographs are a wonderful way of seeing our history. The Ontario Provincial Council will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary in 2017. Preparations are underway to commemorate this wonderful occasion. I will be asking councils for mementos of milestones that have happened over the past 70 years so we can celebrate all the achievements together. It will be interesting to see what was happening in our province, country and the world around us as well as to be able to look back on the things that shaped us. As members we should cherish the past, embrace the present and encourage the future. I look forward to delving into the archives with excitement to see what the past will reveal so I can share it with you. If you have anything you would like to share, please feel free to share it with me. I would love to see it or hear about it!

Our family used to always sit around the table tell or sharing stories. From there I developed my love of hearing how things began; the reason behind what is done; how things are made; where the ideas came from; the creativity or inspiration that it stemmed from; how people came to live where they do; (and the romantic in me) how people met.

That is how my fascination for history began so I know I will enjoy my term as past president. After all, I have been told, I'm History!!

Community Life

Wilma Vanderzwaag

Sub Chairpersons: Mary Hawkley and Margaret Van Meeuwen

"Individually we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."
Ryunosuke Satoro

To begin my term as Community Life Committee Chairperson, I did some research. There are two definitions for community. The first states: a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. This would be a good definition of our communities. The second definition states: a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals. The second definition is perfectly suited for the CWL and the Community Life Committee. We are standing chairpersons at all levels sharing our beliefs, interests and goals. Through our goals and objectives we can strive to make our communities more like the second definition where everyone feels fellowship and belonging.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

At the National Convention in Vancouver, Dr. Josephine Lombardi stated some very startling statistics:

-One-half of the world's population lives on less than two dollars per day.

-30,000 children die each DAY due to poverty.

-20% of people who live in the developed nations consume 86% of the world's resources.

"If we all did God's will," said Dr. Lombardi, "we would not have 20% of the world consuming everything."

What can we do? National Chairperson for Community Life Doreen Gowan challenged each parish council to increase contributions to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace 1% Program. There has been a steady decline in contributions to this vital organization. The League has supported CCODP's 1% Program since 1969. Contributions benefit current programs supporting economic development, literacy and

education, helping women escape domestic violence and more in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Haiti. Through the national office, councils can order new pamphlets that outline the 1% Program at no cost. Go on the CCODP website www.devp.org for more information. Councils are encouraged to think of creative ways to achieve their contributions and to share/send those success stories to me.

The Fall Campaign is "Create a Climate of Change" which encourages each of us to take up Pope Francis's invitation to engage in an open and honest conversation about our world. We can learn to live on this earth in a way which is sustainable and life-giving for all. On the website is the campaign guide which includes how to organize a vigil to take place October 23-25, 2015. This is a great way to show our support.

VOTE!

It is the responsibility and the right of every Canadian citizen to participate in the federal election by casting their vote. Read about the candidates in your area and ask questions about issues that are a concern to our Catholic values to see where they stand. The federal election will be taking place on October 19, 2015 so mark your calendars as a reminder. Participating in the voting process is another way our voice is heard and makes a difference.

CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association)

His Holiness Pope Francis is calling members to pray daily for peace in the Middle East. There are ongoing conflicts in Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Iraq that are causing high poverty rates, a lack of land and stable jobs. Since 1948, the Christian population has steadily declined from 20% to only 1%. For more information visit www.cnewa.ca/web/MEC. Please continue to pray for the many that are affected by these conflicts.

FEATHERS OF HOPE - A FIRST NATIONS YOUTH ACTION PLAN

At the 68th Annual Provincial Convention held in Niagara Falls, Ontario this past July, members had the opportunity to take copies of the *Feathers of Hope-A First Nations Youth Action Plan*. In the message from Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, he states "The action plan prepared by these young people offers a way forward. It extends a hand and an offer of partnership to the adults around them. They don't ask decision-makers to take the action plan away and make change. They ask decision-makers to walk beside them and work together to improve the circumstances of their lives. The action plan offers 'steps to make hope real' and begins with actions that decision-makers can implement to start making a difference." Let us encourage the decision-makers in our areas to get behind this important step for First Nations children and youth. Read the chapters, Taking Action and A First Nations Youth Action Plan to see how each council can find ways to help. Councils that did not attend the convention can obtain copies by calling 1-800-263-2841 or email advocacy@provincialadvocate.on.ca.

In 2014, resolution ON.14.02 *Feathers of Hope-Empowering First Nations Youth* was passed. In the action plan of this resolution the first recommendation is to read this report. Take the time to do this and continue with the other suggestions in the action plan.



Sub Chairpersons: Mary Jane Yaeger and Heather Sisk

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

Our Vision: Mentally healthy people in a healthy society.

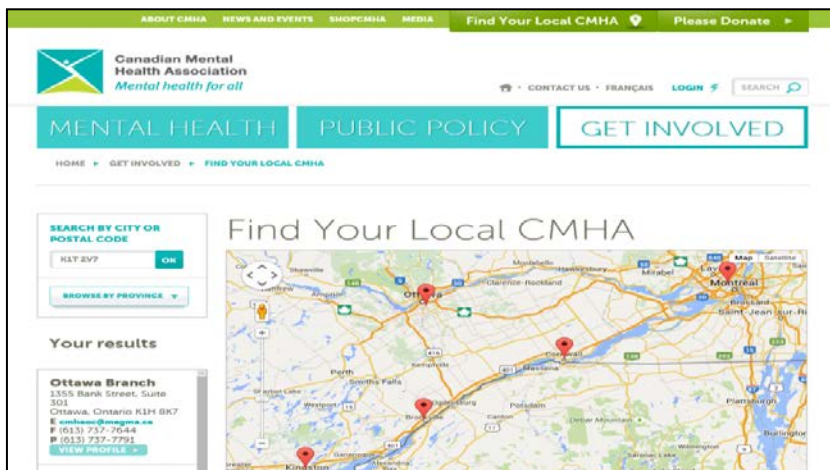
Our Mission: As the nation-wide leader and champion for mental health, CMHA facilitates access to the resources people require to maintain and improve mental health and community integration, build resilience, and support recovery from mental illness.

Our Key Values and Principles:

- Embracing the voice of people with mental health issues
- Promoting inclusion
- Working collaboratively
- Influencing the social determinants of health (e.g. housing, justice)
- Focusing on the mental health needs of all age groups
- Using evidence to inform our work
- Being transparent and accountable

In support of Ontario Provincial Council Resolution **ON.13.01 Reduce the Stigma Attached to Mental Illness** this article is to help members become aware of the resources available through the Canadian Mental Health Association <https://www.cmha.ca/>.

The CMHA website is an awesome resource for all things related to mental health.



In the top right corner you can click on a link to find your local CMHA office to either get services or to volunteer. The above is a picture of what comes up when I input my own postal code.

Brochures can be downloaded from the site by clicking on the MENTAL HEALTH tab. There are various topics available such as *Anxiety Disorders, Children, Youth and Depression, Depression and Bipolar Disorder, Eating Disorders, Feeling Angry, Getting Help, Grieving, Mental Health for Life, Mental Illness and Mental Illnesses in the Workplace*. Brochures can also be purchased by clicking the ShopCMHA tab or by calling 1-800-875-6213 extension 4125.

In addition, under the Public Policy tab, the website contains discussion papers and research related to Ontario Provincial Council Resolution **ON.15.04 Provision of Regulated Housing for the Chronic, Severely Mentally Ill**. All documents are downloadable and printable to share with those members who do not have internet access.

CMHA has many effective partnerships that encourage education, communication, influence policy, and provide resource support in workplaces, schools and homes. As a partner of the CMHA, Bell Canada supports their efforts and uses its resources to influence change and

educate communities. Bell Let's Talk <http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/> is a big part of that. Their website is full of resource material and contact information (also downloadable and printable). The Bell Let's Talk Facebook page keeps people current to any event or situation that can provide valued information to the masses.

In reading both of the above mentioned resolutions the action plans call for education of members. These resources will help tremendously. Find out more...

Legislation Committee

Carole Richer

Sub Chairperson: Celeste Guse

'Oh Canada, Our Home and Native Land'

Are We Taking Our Canadian Citizenship For Granted?

As new citizens of Canada, recent immigrants were asked, "What is the one thing that best represents Canada to you?" One responded, "I immigrated because I couldn't imagine a better place to live". Another replied, "Nature and Canada's vast expanses. Canada is such a beautiful country. I am looking forward to the privilege of enjoying all the freedoms and responsibilities that come with Canadian citizenship". And another, "For me, it's multiculturalism and unlimited opportunity".

In order to qualify for citizenship, all immigrants must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of Canada by passing a comprehensive citizenship test. Questions range from the responsibilities of citizenship, to the role of the courts in Canada, Canada's symbols, history, and geography, and much more. Immigrants spend many hours preparing to take the Oath of Citizenship and become Canadian citizens. Could we, who were born, raised and educated here in Canada, pass the test?

Not long ago citizenship tests similar to the test that immigrants have to pass were taken by high school students across Canada. The results were very disappointing. The national average for the students' test was 68%. The passing mark for the official test is 75%, meaning that, on average, high school students in Canada would fail to qualify for citizenship in their own country!

Many countries in the world have established successful mandatory high school citizenship classes. Perhaps it's time to create a mandatory citizenship class for Canadian high school students, one which would require them to learn about who we are and where we come from, and the meaning and importance of our citizenship. The official citizenship study guide '*Discover Canada -The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship*' could easily form the basis for such a class. It is available at www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/discover.pdf and provides interesting and informative reading for citizens of all ages. Check it out. You'll be surprised at how much you don't know about Canada!

We have many reasons to celebrate our Canadian citizenship. We enjoy freedom of thought, speech and religion. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, entrenched in the Constitution of Canada in 1982 sets out additional rights, including mobility rights, aboriginal peoples' rights, official language rights and minority language educational rights, and multiculturalism.

The right to vote is one that many take for granted here in Canada. It is not only a right, but a responsibility, along with obeying the law, taking responsibility for oneself and one's family, serving on a jury, helping others in the community and protecting and enjoying our heritage and environment. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms begins with the words "Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law", reminding us of

how our duties as Christians and our responsibilities as citizens are the same.

The new Canadian citizens mentioned earlier were also asked, "As a new Canadian citizen, what difference can you make to this country?" Some of their answers...

"I believe Canada's commitment to human rights aligns with my own values, and I want to contribute in having a positive impact in this country" ... "I would like to vote in local and general elections to make my voice heard in decisions that affect my family and I" ... "I will help those in need and volunteer in charity work" ... "I plan to get involved in the community to my fullest."

All Canadian citizens have a responsibility to contribute to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of our country. Are we as eager to fulfill our duties as Canadian citizens as those new Canadians, or are we simply taking our citizenship in one of the best countries in the world for granted?

How can we apply our national theme ONE Heart, ONE Voice, ONE Mission to our Canadian citizenship? With ONE Heart, may we welcome new Canadians, learn to understand and love one another, and be willing to share the many good things this country has to offer. With ONE Voice, may we speak out to ensure that marginalized peoples and those living on the peripherals of society are protected and treated with dignity, respect and fairness. Let our ONE Mission be to enjoy the rights of citizenship while at the same time honouring our responsibilities and contributing all that we can to the diversity, richness and beauty of our country.

Then we can proudly proclaim "I am Canadian!".

(With information from Government of Canada website)



Sub Chairpersons: Anna Brady and Margaret McAllister

The task entrusted to the Christian family life standing committee is vast. We are responsible for the following:

- **marriage and family**
- **sanctity of life**
- **ministry to: youth, widowed, disabled, separated, seniors, divorced**
- **vocations.**

I have chosen to focus at this time on **sanctity of life** as it was prevalent at the national convention in Vancouver. *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition* was adopted as a temporary voluntary fund by the delegates with donations being directed through your treasurer.

Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of *Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC)* was at the convention and he provided information which can be shared with your members. EPC can be contacted at:

Euthanasia Prevention Coalition
Box 25033, London, ON Canada N6C 6A8
info@epcc.ca

RU486 - On August 18, 2015 at the national convention, a motion was made which states: "The national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 95th annual convention assembled, re-affirms The League's position on the respect for human life by writing to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health, Health Canada and the media, to request the federal government to halt distribution of RU486 abortion drug and enter into public hearings on this subject and urge all members to write letters to the above mentioned positions on this subject."

National President Barbara Dowding stated that a letter would be composed and sent to the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada regarding the abortion pill – RU486 (as well as the others listed above) and that all members are urged to **write letters prior to**

January 2016 when distribution of RU486 is planned to commence. Please read Barb's letter which can be found on the national web page.

Sanctity of life deals with all stages of life from conception to natural death. There are many topics that revolve around this diverse topic such as: **various reproduction technologies, abortion, teen suicide, assisted suicide and euthanasia**; all of which are of great concern to Roman Catholics and many Canadians. The media sensationalizes these issues by filling the newspapers, TV, radio, periodicals and our computers with daily reports.

Reproductive technology - It is important for all members to be aware of the Church's teachings on these issues both as a means to become pregnant or to prevent pregnancies.

Abortion is the intentional induced ending of the life of an 'unborn child' using chemicals and or suction-aspiration or vacuum-aspiration. A miscarriage is the result of a spontaneous abortion.

Teen Suicide is sadly becoming a stigma in today's society. This is such a critical issue as each year younger children are taking their own lives. At times it is the result of stress factors such as bullying, depression, family stressors, abuse, cults, etc. and they feel this is their only way out of their pain. Our children need to feel safe and wanted!

At the recent national convention in Vancouver **Resolution 2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services** was adopted. It urges "the federal government, in collaboration with provincial/territorial governments, to provide increased early intervention and access to children and youth mental-health programs" and "encourages provincial councils to become aware of this issue as it pertains to their province/territory, and to act on it, as deemed necessary/prudent."

You can do your part by following up with the action plans found on the web site.

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia-

Another resolution adopted at the national convention dealt with assisted suicide and euthanasia - **Resolution 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in the case of *Carter v. Canada***

Canada urges "the federal government to invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, keeping the present law against physician-assisted suicide in force, notwithstanding the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of *Carter v. Canada*."

Keep abreast of this case and follow the actions found for this resolution on the national web page.

In addition to this the national council will be establishing an ad-hoc committee to draft a response to the ruling on the *Carter v. Canada* case. Watch for it in the coming month on the national web site.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us in all we do for God, Canada and The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

*As the family goes,
so goes the nation
and so goes the
whole world
in which we live.*

Saint John Paul II

**Report on the 68th Annual Ontario Provincial
Convention
Niagara Falls, ON. July 4 - 8, 2015**

*Prepared By: Anna Tremblay,
Provincial Communications Committee Chair*

Sunday, July 4th was a beautiful, warm, sunny day ... perfect for the release of Monarch butterflies by members of the Ontario Provincial Executive before proceeding in to Our Lady of the Scapular Church for the Opening Mass of the 68th Annual Provincial Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in Niagara Falls. Provincial Spiritual Advisor Bishop Gerard Bergie, celebrant, was joined by many parish and diocesan spiritual advisors. Following the Eucharistic celebration and greetings by dignitaries, delegates were treated to a reception in the parish hall.

On Monday morning (the feast of St. Maria Goretti) the homilist Father Rico Passero, nephew of Provincial President Betty Colaneri, spoke of forgiveness in his homily. Keynote speaker Dr. Josephine Lombardi of St. Augustine Seminary, shared her thoughts on her vision of the theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission* with a unique view of the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth. Dr. Lombardi reminded us that fear is not of God; that before we can become another Christ we need to become another Mary; that unity does not mean uniformity; that men and women complement one another; then challenged the delegates to answer "How have I revealed Christ in my life?" In her closing statement she stated "If you speak to one's heart, their mind and body will follow."

In the afternoon Doctor Moira McQueen LLB, MDiv, PhD, DSL, Executive Director of Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, addressed the pressing issue of palliative care, stating unequivocally that palliative care does not include assisted suicide. Delegates were informed that Canadians need to work together, we need a national strategy, and we need to develop common

messages and communicate them clearly to government. We have work to do! Resolutions Chairperson Rosanne Sogan archived 17 resolutions (three under Community Life, 11 under Education and Health). The afternoon concluded with the Crowning of Mary. That evening, delegates gathered for diocesan dinners. A photo booth complete with costume props was available, after which many enjoyed dancing to a five-piece band. What a wonderful day!

Tuesday began with mass celebrated by Father Hugh Gibson; Mr. John Hawley introduced a special project to acknowledge the contribution of natives to the War of 1812; Glenda Klein brought greetings on behalf of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC); and the Credentials Report was given. National President Barbara Dowding gave her report in which she referenced a letter to the Hon. Peter Mackay, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, posted on the national website (www.cwl.ca), the *Year of Consecrated Life* and the *Extraordinary Year of Mercy* (which begins in November 2015). To the delight of delegates she announced that the CWL Leadership Foundation (introduced in Edmonton in 2012) is now an incorporated, private, not-for-profit organization. Five resolutions were presented and passed. Following lunch it was announced that \$1,690 was collected for the Bishop Bernard Pappin Memorial Fund. The diocesan presidents gave their reports, as did Bishop Bergie. The first annual Social Justice Award was presented to Colleen Martin from Thunder Bay for the outstanding work she did establishing the Mikinakoos Children's Fund. After a brief break, Carol Mullins of *Quiet Whispers Ministry* facilitated a wonderful workshop. Tuesday evening, delegates gathered for the traditional banquet - a wonderful evening filled with great food and lots of laughter - the perfect ending to a very busy day.

Following opening prayer on Wednesday morning, London delegates extended a rousing invitation to all attendees to join them for the 2016 Ontario Provincial Convention in Stratford July 9 - 13. The provincial officers all gave their reports while the Registration Report announced a total of 171 voting and accredited

delegates in addition to 236 other delegates for a grand total of 407 delegates attending the 65th Annual Ontario Provincial Convention.

The highlight of the day was the election of a new executive of the Ontario Provincial Council. Following hugs and congratulations all around, delegates filed onto buses to attend the Closing Mass celebrated by the new Provincial Spiritual Advisor Bishop Fred Colli, at which the newly-elected executive members were installed (President - Pauline Krupa, President-elect - Anne Madden, 1st Vice-President - Colleen Randall, 2nd Vice-President - Linda Squarzolo, Recording Secretary - Annette Kelly, Treasurer - Patricia Rivest, Past President/Historian - Betty Colaneri, Standing Committee Chairpersons - Colleen Martin, Carol Richer, Rosanne Sogan, Anna Tremblay and Wilma Vanderzwaag

Without a doubt this was an excellent convention; the delegates were educated on important current issues by excellent keynote speakers, spiritually enriched with meaningful prayer services, uplifting music and daily Eucharistic celebrations. They learned of all the wonderful work being accomplished across the province by League sisters, and enjoyed excellent meals and entertainment. The goal of faith, fun and fulfillment was definitely achieved.



Newly Elected Executive Members of the
Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Report on the 95 Annual National Convention
Vancouver, British Columbia August 16 - 19, 2015

Prepared By:

*Colleen Randall - Ontario Provincial 1st Vice
President / Ed & Health Committee Chair and
Linda Squarzolo - Ontario Provincial 2nd Vice
President / Resolutions Committee Chair*

The 95th Annual Convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada was held August 16 – 19 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia. Pauline Krupa was the voting delegate from the Ontario Provincial Council and accredited delegates were 1st Vice President Colleen Randall and 2nd Vice President Linda Squarzolo.

The Opening Mass was celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Parish, which is also the Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Sheshan, in honour of Chinese Catholics. Prior to the mass a First Nations smudging ceremony with sacred medicines was held. The celebrant was Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, Archbishop of Vancouver. The Lieutenant Governor attended and brought greetings on behalf of the people of British Columbia. Other dignitaries also welcomed the delegates.

The business sessions began on Monday morning with the keynote address given by Dr. Josephine Lombardi. Over three days she gave her interpretation of the theme, *One Heart One Voice One Mission*. On Monday she began with *One Heart* and discussed the need to love self, others and God. *One Voice* encourages us to speak of God, to be the voice for Jesus and inspires others to have an encounter with God. *One Mission* gives us the task of bringing Jesus to the world through our actions, living lives of gospel people and giving this example to others.

Bishop Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria, entertained the delegates with his talk and personal stories. He encouraged League members to continue their efforts in

their many causes, to express concerns to government and to provide assistance to the less fortunate.

Patricia and Kathleen, from Catholic Missions in Canada, explained about the work being done to bring the gospel to remote areas of our country. Catholic Missions in Canada has been a national voluntary fund since 2001. League members and councils are encouraged to contribute to this fund but also make others aware of this organization and the work they do.

Many interesting reports were given by the provincial presidents and national officers. We beamed proudly as our own Ontario Provincial President Pauline Krupa explained about the accomplishments of our province and provided a visual display to illustrate these achievements. Members are urged to visit the national website to read the full reports.

Honorary Life Member Velma Harasen has been elected for a four-year term to the WUCWO executive as the First Vice President for North America Region. She explained about the work of this international organization of Catholic women. WUCWO will be meeting in Halifax next year.

A motion was approved to make the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition a temporary national voluntary fund for the next five years. This motion was significant because of the Supreme Court's ruling to strike down the current legislation.

Another issue raised was the recent announcement by government to approve the abortion drug RU486, without any public hearings or discussion. Members are urged to write letters to the Prime Minister, Minister of Health and Health Canada to halt its distribution.

The delegates were reminded of the 1% Program to assist Development and Peace. Councils are encouraged to donate 1% of their funds to this program and individual members are urged to give 1% of the amount spent on

luxury items. These programs support women in the Global South.

Pavel Reid gave information about the upcoming synod on the family and the New Evangelization. The Pope has requested this special meeting of the bishops to discuss problems facing today's families and to give consideration to the forms some marriages have become in recent times.

Five resolutions were adopted at this convention. They are:

- 2015.01 Increased Early Intervention and Access to Children and Youth Mental Health Services

- 2015.02 Ban Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products

- 2015.03 Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

- 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in the case of *Carter v. Canada*

- 2015.05 Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long-Form Census

The Closing Mass was held at Holy Rosary Cathedral with National Spiritual Advisor Bishop William McGrattan presiding.

The convention was well-attended with 882 present, including members, spiritual advisors, bishops and guests. Conventions are such a valuable learning experience that all members should consider attending, whenever possible. The 96th national convention will be held in August 2016 in Halifax.

We hope to see you there!

AWARDS - CELEBRATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS



**Congratulations
to our Newest
Ontario Life
Members:**

***Mary Hawkley
Lucy Hendrikx
Colleen Martin
Anne McKinnon
Rosanne Sogan
Heather Sisk***



*Newly minted Ontario Life Members attending
the National Convention
(from left to right) Anne McKinnon, Mary
Hawkley, Rosanne Sogan and Pauline Krupa*



***Congratulations to
Colleen Martin, the first
recipient of the first
annual Social Justice
Award***

Colleen Martin, seen here with Betty Colaneri and Pauline Krupa



Congratulations to everyone responsible for the three resolutions from Ontario that were successfully passed at the National Convention August 18th, 2015

*Pictured above from left to right:
Rosanne Sogan, Ontario Provincial Resolutions Chair
Jacqueline Nogier, National Resolutions Chair
Sue Lubowitz, Toronto Diocesan Resolutions Chair*



Ontario Delegates attending the National Convention

ONE HEART
VOICE
MISSION

MILESTONE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the members of St. Joseph Highland Creek, Scarborough Region, Toronto Diocese celebrating these milestone service anniversaries.

10 YEARS

Bernise Clunas
Eileen D'Souza
Monique Isidor
Denise Murrell
Joan Snooks

Clementina Costa-D'Aguiar
Clare Gotera
Anne McDonald
Patricia Rebeiro
Margaret Wilton

20 YEARS

Justine Csenge
Joy Ezemenari
Jocelyn Thompson

Pierrette Emerson
Mary-Ann Lewis Rameriz
Tina Zappulla

25 YEARS

Irene Dillabough

Eileen (Bobby) Lepage

30 YEARS

Lina Civello

35 YEARS

Barbara Clifford

45 YEARS

Agnes Fowler

Ethel McGilley

Roma O'Meara



Faith

*Seeing light with your heart
When all your eyes see is darkness*

Family

*Having a place to go is home
Having someone to love is family
Having both is a blessing*

Friends

*Friends are angels that lift us up
When our own wings have trouble
Remembering how to fly.*

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Make cheque payable to: **OPCCWL** or
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Mail to : Patricia Rivest
86 Alderton St., Leamington, ON N8H 4R3

Thanksgiving Prayer For CWL Members

Holy Spirit, with grateful and joyful hearts, we give you thanks and praise for all the good things You have given us through The League.

We thank you for the many gifts and blessings of friendship that you have granted to the members of The Catholic Women's League.

We are grateful that you have inspired so many to come and share their time and talents, while at the same time blessing everyone with many more gifts.

Help us to never forget that You are always with us listening to our prayers, ready to give us comfort, hope and courage.

Lord, through Your Holy Mother, Our Lady of Good Counsel, our patroness, we pray that You will bless and protect us always. Grant us strength, wisdom and peace as we strive to live as women of faith.

Help us to go forward and spread the good news of your love through the many workings of the members of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, AMEN

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pray for us.

*- taken from Council Prayer Partners,
prayer by Donna Capobianco*

World Meeting of Families Prayer

*God and Father of us all,
In Jesus, your Son and our Saviour,
you have made us
your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.*

*May your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.*

*May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your
love.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
pray for us!*

Return: Mary Capobianco
133 Richland Cres.
Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 4C6



League Prayer

**We humbly pray you, O God our Father
To bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada.
Bless our beloved country, our homes and families.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
To give light to our minds and strength to our wills,
That we may know and fulfill your great law of charity.
Teach us to share with others, at home and abroad,
The good things you have given us.
This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ
And the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.
Amen.**