

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 2016



***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 2016

Table of Contents

Editor's Notes	2
Ontario Provincial President	3
Spiritual Advisor	6
Spiritual Development Committee	8
Organization Committee	12
Communications Committee	14
Resolutions Committee	18
Resolutions Passed at Provincial and National Conventions	19
Recording Secretary	23
Treasurer	24
Past President / Historian	26
Community Life Committee	28
Education and Health Committee	31
Legislation Committee	34
Christian Family Life Committee	37
Highlights from the 69th Ontario Provincial Convention	39
Highlights from the 96th National Convention	42
Awards - Celebrations	45
Milestone Anniversaries	47
Diocesan Conventions Across Ontario	50
Newsletter Subscription Form	54

Editor's Notes

My dear sisters and spiritual advisors, as we enter into the autumn months, we can all take a moment to reflect back over the many activities from this past spring and summer. Our members have been very busy throughout our beautiful province and many of these activities have been captured in this issue of the *Trillium News & Views*. Highlights in this issue include the resolutions that were adopted at the provincial convention held in Stratford and the national convention in Halifax. As well you will find a brief report on both the provincial and national conventions.

Be sure to check out the photos in this issue of the many conventions held across the dioceses as well as the photos capturing the many celebrations, milestone anniversaries and CWL activities held throughout Ontario.

Today it's easier than ever for our members to stay in touch. This 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. You may also choose to receive this newsletter electronically by visiting our website at www.cwl.on.ca. or if you wish to receive a hard copy by regular mail, the subscription form can be found on page 54 in this issue.

Please remember to send in your information for the "Service Awards and Milestone" pages and be sure to send in any photos taken on those occasions. We want to share those wonderful accomplishments and milestones with all of our fellow sisters.

I encourage you to pass on this newsletter to others in the League. Use the information at your council meetings. Share the prayers, get inspired with new ideas and most of all keep informed. Perhaps think about giving a subscription to someone else. It's a great way to introduce someone to the workings of the League. Happy autumn days and happy reading!

Mary Capobianco

"In a world that is so filled with turmoil and suffering,
we need to experience God's mercy in our everyday lives and bring that mercy to others. God never stops or goes a halfway in showing Mercy to His children and He calls us to do the same".

(Pope Francis, *The Holy Year of Mercy: A faith sharing Guide*, p 8)

Greetings

What a wonderful summer we have just enjoyed. A bit too warm for some perhaps, but the tomatoes sure loved the weather. Everywhere I go I am hearing stories of the high numbers of jars of tomatoes people have put up for the winter. I can smell those wonderful sauces simmering already!

Over these next few months we bring to a close the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Each of the dioceses is making plans to wrap-up our *Blesseds Project*. Standing committee chairs and officers are wrapping up the *Saints and Beatitude Projects* as well. This does not mean our works of mercy should end. In the quote above you read how God's mercy never stops and neither should ours. Continue to do those wonderful works of mercy. It is always a win – win! I often think I get more satisfaction helping out than the person(s) I am helping.

Much has happened to change the face of Canada in these last months. Physician Assisted Death is now law. We may have lost that battle, but many still lay ahead. Recently, we met with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario executive council for our annual visit. One of the biggest concerns discussed was the right to freedom of conscience for doctors and healthcare providers; as well protection for healthcare institutions wishing not to participate in medically assisted dying and who will refuse to make direct referrals for patients who request medically assisted dying. It seems that Ontario is presently the only jurisdiction globally who is planning not to respect the right of freedom of conscience. I challenge you to research this information, make plans to visit your MPP and write letters to every member at Queen's Park to

make your views known. We all know the power of prayer....this is the same thing with a twist...the power of your voice and pen will do wonders!

In mid September we were honoured to meet with the seminarians studying at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. After a lovely dinner we met with a number of the young men journeying to priesthood to share our CWL story and present information on the Bishop Bernard A. Pappin Memorial Bursary Fund. Everyone who attended was happy to hear of our ongoing prayerful support and all that we do for God and Canada as members of the League. A similar visit is being planned for St. Peter's Seminary in the London.

The host committee for the 69th Annual Provincial Convention outdid themselves. We had a great time in Stratford. A huge thank you to Mary Bannon and Dara Hartman who co-chaired the convention. The convention program will long be remembered as something uniquely special, especially the celebration day for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Team OPC is grateful for all the comments and suggestions made on the evaluation forms.

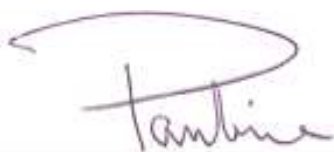
The host committee in Thunder Bay is taking your comments to heart to make the 70th convention just as good. Watch the provincial website for information about reservations at the Victoria Inn where the convention will be held. One of the suggestions made was to get hotel information out earlier, so the committee is aiming to have the information ready for posting in early October. It is our 70th Anniversary so you can be assured there will be lots of celebrating!

We welcome the newly elected officers on the national executive. We congratulate our Ontario members Margaret Ann Jacobs, President, Shari Guinta, Second Vice President / Communications and Betty Colaneri, Community Life, who we know will do us proud. Your gift of self and service to the League is a wonderful example to all our members who might be discerning taking on leadership positions in their councils.

This fall parish councils will welcome a new way to complete annual reports. Diocesan executive members were trained at a workshop in Toronto recently. Everyone in attendance is very excited about this new format for reporting. Watch for national's fall mailing which will contain details on how to complete the online reporting. It is as simple as a click of a mouse. Thanks to all those who attended and to the facilitators, most particularly Anne Madden, who organized the two days together.

In January 2017 we begin the new theme *Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call*. Our executive council and the national executive will be planning ways to bring the theme alive across the country at our fall gatherings. I remind you that you should not be using the new theme until January. I encourage you to find ways to celebrate the completion of our beautiful theme *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission*.

As we begin the new year of CWL, I wish all of you the very best of times. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to keep you safe in her loving arms.



Tantine



Joy is a Net of Love

As we come to the end of this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us firstly give thanks to Pope Francis who guided us to celebrate this unique year and helped us to reflect and broaden our understanding of how we can be a people of mercy and a Church of mercy to the world. Even though the official year will end, the works of mercy must continue in our lives if we are to witness to the mercy, compassion and love that the Holy Father suggested.

I recall learning the Works of Mercy when I was in grade school, and in all honesty, it was refreshing to examine them again and to pray about how we can put them into practice in our daily lives. In particular, we must remember the poor, the lonely, those who feel in some way that the Church has abandoned them and left them on the sidelines. We know of people who feel this way, they might even be in our families; they might be League members, and members of our parish community. As I mentioned at the closing Mass of our provincial convention, we pray that we will be like Mary, quietly attentive to the needs of those around us, and open to any direction that Jesus might give us to respond to those needs, even if the direction is different, uncomfortable, and challenging.

I imagine the best example of this for us might also be the example of Saint Teresa of Calcutta or Mother Teresa as most of us know her. She was women of faith and a woman of action. She listened to the call from the Lord to reach out to the most needy in India, and her example has touched the world and sparked an outpouring of generosity and service to others, as never seen before. We cannot all do as St. Mother Teresa did, but we can do our little bit, and this will make a difference in the life of the people we touch with our kindness and concern.

The Catholic Women's League offers us opportunities to reach out and to be these messengers of mercy. I recall at the provincial convention how our funeral luncheons were seen as special acts of mercy for

those who are grieving, and how the little sandwiches were compared to little actions of mercy and love. It gave us a new perspective on how these acts of kindness are seen, especially by others.

Now that the fall season is upon us, and we return to our regular routines in school and family, let us remember that the work of The Catholic Women's League, which touches each one of us as members, continues to build a stronger church and society through our efforts and generosity. As we cooperatively work together, sharing our gifts and talents, respecting each other's needs and abilities, we bring the message of the Gospel to our world in a very tangible way. Like Saint Mother Teresa, we help to make "something beautiful for God". I wish to close with a few quotes from Saint Mother Teresa which can help us as League members in all that we do.

- *If you judge people, you have no time to love them.*
- *There are no great things, only small things with great love.*
- *Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.*
- *Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.*
- *If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.*
- *Peace begins with a smile...*
- *Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.*
- *I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love.*
- *If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.*
- *Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.*

Bishop Fred J. Colli
Provincial Spiritual Advisor

Sub-Chairperson: Verna Lynn Bergeron

Cozy Book Worm Library – suggested readings:

Lourdes Way of the Cross: Way of the Resurrection – Maria de Faykod ISBN978-2-9531749-3-9



Several resources

www.theupperroomhomeofprayer.org - go to the 'resources' page and then click on 'Amazon' to access paperbacks and kindle books.

Women of the Old Testament: Their Lives, Our Hope- Pia Septien ISBN 978-0-7648-2204-9

Women of the New Testament: Their Lives, Our Hope- Pia Septien ISBN 978-0-7648-2216-2

Magnificat is a spiritual guide to develop our prayer life, drawing us closer to Jesus and His Blessed Mother. The pocket-sized book enables us to spend our entire day, at specific intervals, in the presence of Jesus no matter where we are. Each day offers prayers that are inspired by the "Liturgy of the Hours". The daily mass readings and prayers, "Life of a Saint" and gospel/theme mediation, and "Lectio Divina" one Sunday each month all inspire and lead us to holiness. It also provides faith-filled articles that are both timely and relevant with what's happening in the Church today. This dynamic little book will bless us over and over again, drawing us into an encounter with Jesus on a daily basis. To subscribe to the monthly *Magnificat* visit its website www.magnificat.com. There are thirteen issues a year, one per month and a special issue for Holy Week.



Prayer in the Morning

Invitation to Prayer

Lord, open our lips.

And we shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to God in the highest.

And peace to God's people on earth.

Praise – *Hymn of Praise (optional)*

Psalm "Praise" Followed *by a moment of silence* Psalm 63

My soul thirsts for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a
dry and weary land where there is no water. **R**

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding
your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is
better than life, my lips will praise you. **R**

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your
wings I sing for joy.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth
praises you with joyful lips. **R**

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your
wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. **R**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now
and will be forever. Amen. **R**

Word of God - Choose appropriate verse from the
readings of the day

Canticle of Zechariah

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty. The
prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God
shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is giv'n; a
Saviour comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before
him goes the herald, forerunner in the way; the prophet
of salvation, the messenger of Day.

Where once were fear and darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinners' eyes, to guide
the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace: O bless our
God and Saviour with songs that never cease.

Intercession- Let us turn to Christ our light and pray:

R. Christ our light, hear our prayer.

For all God's people, bringing willing hands and hearts to
God's work in the world, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For all those deprived of basic necessities of life and for the
people responding to their need, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For those who have died and for their families and
friends, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For ourselves, called to share what we have generously
and joyfully, we pray to the Lord. **R**

Our Father

Concluding Prayer -

God our Saviour, you call us into your service. Make us
wise and resourceful: children of the light who continue
your work in this world with untiring concern for integrity
and justice. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord almighty order our days and our deeds in
lasting peace. Amen.

Close with Sign of the Peace.

Prayer at the End of the Day



O my God, at the end of this day I thank You most heartily for all the graces I have received from You. I am sorry that I have not made a better use of them. I am sorry for all the sins I have committed against You. Forgive me, O my God, and graciously protect me this night. Blessed Virgin Mary, my dear heavenly mother, take me under your protection. St. Joseph, my dear Guardian Angel, and all you saints of God, pray for me. Sweet Jesus, have pity on all poor sinners, and save them from hell. **Amen.**

Follow with: Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.



Sub-chairperson: Glenda Klein

Innovate, Inspire, Motivate

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary these words have specific meanings that could be very useful to us as CWL members.

Innovate:

to do something in a new way

to have new ideas about how something can be done

Inspire:

to make (someone) want to do something

to give (someone) an idea about what to do or

create to cause (something) to happen or be created to cause someone to have (a feeling or emotion)

Motivate:

to give (someone) a reason for doing something to be a reason for (something)

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is facing declining membership for a variety of reasons but lack of interest should not be one of them. We are a dynamic organization who takes on social justice issues, locally, provincially, nationally and globally. Our resolutions have helped to change the face of Canada, why are we not shouting this from the roof tops?

Some of our cutting edge topics have included:

Euthanasia, Income Supplement Programs for Seniors, Human Stem Cell Research, Plastic Bags - The High Cost of Convenience, Limit the Sodium in our Food, Safe Potable Water for First Nations Communities, Financial Assistance for Diabetes Supplies, Automobile Tire Age - Safety Risk, Understanding Palliative Care, Prohibit the use of indoor tanning equipment by youth, Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Modified Food Products, Feathers of Hope - Empowering First Nations Youth, Enhance the Canada Health Care Act to Include Home Care, Expand the Nutrition North Program, Training for the Safe Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles, Ban the Use of Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products, Banning the use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides.

(for a full list of resolutions www.on.cwl.ca and www.cwl.ca).

If we want the League to survive into the future, we need to make our organization dynamic so that every Catholic woman in the country will want to be a member. Thinking outside the box, imaging new ways to accomplish our objectives while still living our vision and mission, is a must.

I challenge you to come up with your ideal vision of the how The Catholic Women's League could and should be operating to be more inclusive, open and dynamic; a League that **Inspires, Innovates and Motivates!** I welcome your ideas and suggestions.



Congratulations to Ontario's newest Life Members -

Standing at the back (left to right) Colleen Randall (Ottawa Diocese), Linda Squarzolo (Sault Ste. Marie Diocese), Wilma Vanderzwaag (St Catharines Diocese) and Margaret Van Meeuwen (Peterborough Diocese).

Seated (left to right) are: Elizabeth Bartolussi (Thunder Bay Diocese), Mary Jean Horne (London Diocese), Sandra Wieckowski (Thunder Bay Diocese) and Donna Provost (Pembroke Diocese).

Absent: Kathy Huffman (Kingston Diocese)

Technology and Social Media Repercussions*Submitted by Sharon St. Jean,*

"Emails, text messages, social networks and chats can also be fully human forms of communication. It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal. Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, but they can also lead to further polarization and division between individuals and groups. The digital world is a public square, a meeting-place where we can either encourage or demean one another, engage in a meaningful discussion or unfair attacks. I pray that this Jubilee Year, lived in mercy, "may open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; and that it may eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 23). The internet can help us to be better citizens. Access to digital networks entails a responsibility for our neighbour whom we do not see but who is nonetheless real and has a dignity which must be respected. The internet can be used wisely to build a society which is healthy and open to sharing."

From Pope Francis/ message "Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter" for the 50th World Communications Day, May 8, 2016.

I am sure many of you will recall spending hours on the phone with friends, discussing school, boyfriends and parents or hanging out after school discussing the same topics. But now, even chatting on a cell phone has become passé. There is no doubt that technology and social media have changed the way we live our lives today and can serve as a powerful tool to enhance education, communication and learning; few would dispute that. We have all been witness to the increase use of technology in our everyday encounters; with schools, doctor's offices, businesses etc.

Along with all of the benefits and convenience that technology brings to our children and ourselves (email, text messages, social networking etc.) there is certainly a corresponding responsibility. So I pose a question; are we making sure that we are staying informed about the negative aspects which can be a result of over or improper use of the above? In today's digital world, the lines between public and private, personal and professional have become very blurry. In light of this, many schools, businesses etc. have established information guidelines which have been provided to students, staff and/or personnel regarding proper use of the internet and social media. The goal is to give students and adults the tools they need to navigate the maze of technology and manage their social media usage responsibly and with an understanding of what their social media footprint is.

Significant research has turned up some interesting developments. We are hearing of issues such as "Facebook Addiction Disorder" and "Facebook Depression" occurring with overuse. We refer to Facebook only as the assumed pioneer of social media in its current form, however there are many other platforms as well; Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and others, all offering the ability to put all thoughts and experiences out there for the masses to see without delay. This in a society where so many of our youth live with varied types of mental illness. Has the attempt to make all things faster and easier in fact caused even more problems? Facebook Addiction Disorder is a disorder in which the person is afraid to disconnect from social media for fear of missing something important. Is it possible that these platforms may act as a magnifier, or at least perpetuate issues for people who are already susceptible to depression or struggle with low self-esteem?

An additional valid concern is what happens to important social skills when, the majority of the time, we are using gadgets rather than verbal communication. For many perceive that there is an element of protection; a perception of anonymity, when they do not need to look someone in the eye and tell them what they are trying to say. Is this possibly causing an insensitivity that may be

irreversible?

“Cooling off” before responding immediately to an intense emotion, is something many of us were taught; taking time to think things through. How will our children react to an intense emotion they may have if that mechanism of “cooling off” has not been learned? Will the need to react to the emotion and the need to react immediately result in hurt feelings or regrets? Hasty, poorly thought out responses are no longer just between two people or even observed by a couple of witnesses. The response is out there for everyone they are connected to, to see - forever. Regrets or not, the perspective that comes with time cannot undo it.

I am sure most of us have been in a situation, in a restaurant, where those you were with, or perhaps people sitting at an adjacent table, sat in silence with their phones “in their faces” rather than talking to you or those they were with. Will our younger generations be able to hold their own in a conversation, when conversation seems to be becoming a thing of the past? The reality for our children is that there is still a basic requirement to be able to carry on a real conversation; perhaps for a job interview. Will they be able to get over the awkward pauses that years of non-verbal communication has taught them? Will they be able to socialize; go to a gathering and “mingle”?

Children today are very often witness to the fact that their parents are often expected to be “on” at all times by their workplace. Evenings and weekends are no longer their own to spend with their families. There may be an expectation that they answer emails and texts immediately. Are adults making it socially acceptable to be constantly “plugged in”?

In an article dated August 21, 2014, the following was noted: “UCLA scientists found that sixth-graders who went five days without even glancing at a smartphone, television or other digital screen did substantially better at reading human emotions than sixth-graders from the same school who continued to spend hours each day looking at their electronic devices”. We cannot learn non-verbal emotional cues from a screen. Reading expressions is a skill we have all learned without realizing

it. Reading expression of the written word is much more difficult and can very often be misinterpreted.

Technology, as we know, is not all bad. Its positive effects on our young people are recognized and have been well documented. However, experts are still divided on the extent that technology is affecting our younger generation and whether the positive outweighs the negative or the other way around. Several years of research seem no closer to a definite answer to these questions. The research continues. The fact is that the number of available social media platforms, as well as the supporting technology, is ever evolving. It is understandable that research would struggle to keep up and that statistics outdated by the time of publication.

Surely as parents and grandparents it is of great importance that we facilitate open communication with our children/grandchildren; making the discussion on the benefits and dangers of social media a priority. We need to convey the importance of setting limits and teach by our example the importance of self-regulation when it comes to the time we expect our children to unplug and engaged with the “world” instead of a screen.



Sub-chairperson: Bernadette Burgess

When I accepted an executive position in the League, little did I know that doors would open to a whole new phase in my life. I have found a group of talents that I did not know I possessed. I learned a set of skills that I would never have acquired. None of this would have occurred if I had not become actively involved in The League and received the help of people I met along the way.

When doing League work, every position is meant to be done by a committee, not an individual. The elected person appoints others to work with her. She may invite other knowledgeable individuals or members interested in the committee. They may be asked to do research, provide information or assist in various ways. Some members might be invited to join the group as a way of teaching them about the work of the committee and mentoring them for the future. The advice of former chairs and Life Members should also be sought.

Mentors are an invaluable resource in our organization. The word "mentor", as a noun, can mean **"an experienced and trusted advisor"** and as a verb **"to advise or train (someone, especially a younger colleague)"**. In order to find women to take any executive position in the League, they need mentors to work with them, train them and advise them. If they can count on the support and know the mentorship will be there, they are more likely to step forward.

Bishop Pappin once said, "The Catholic Women's League needs to find those bright lights and polish them." Did you notice one of those "bright lights"? Are you willing to do some "polishing"?

This past summer I lost my wonderful mentor and friend, Honorary Life Member Lucille Cullen. Lucille loved the League. Not only did she serve as parish president in two different parishes, she was also a diocesan, provincial and national president. A number of years ago, when we teamed together to offer leadership courses in our area,

we became good friends. We enjoyed discussing our shared interest in all League matters and attending special events at various parishes. Lucille wanted to share all her knowledge and expertise with her interested League sisters. She wrote many articles about League concerns, authored or assisted in writing a number of books, including the *Jeopardy* book. She was the “go to” person when any questions were raised about the League. Many times I received a call from her saying she had gathered a pile of League materials and she wanted to share them with me. How fortunate was I to have Lucille Cullen as my mentor!

As St. John XXIII said, “Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

Resolutions

This past summer several resolutions were adopted at the conventions held in Stratford and Halifax. The following article provides a summary of the approved resolutions. The complete documents can be found on the provincial (www.cwl.on.ca) and national (www.cwl.ca) websites.

The resolutions adopted at the Ontario Provincial Convention in July 2016 were:

ON.16.01 Enhance the Canada Health Act to Include Home Care

The Canada Health Act was put into effect in 1984. While provinces and territories are responsible for health care, the federal government provides the funding and sets the national standards for health care. Only four provinces in Canada have chosen to provide home care services. This resolution urges the federal government to amend the Act to recognize home care as an essential service and provide the funding so it will be available in all provinces.

- *Forwarded to the national resolutions committee*

ON.16.02 Equal Access for Permanent Residence, an Amendment to the Immigration Act

The current Immigration Act excludes any person in a low-skill category from applying for permanent residence in Canada. Temporary foreign workers provide valuable work in Canada but are not eligible to apply to live in Canada permanently. In 2011 the "Four In – Four Out" law was passed. This meant that temporary workers could only stay in the country for four years, after which they were arrested and deported. They then had to wait four years, outside the country, before being allowed to return. These workers provided essential labour for decades and should be eligible for permanent residence in Canada.

- *Forwarded to the national resolutions committee*

ON.16.03 Expand the Nutrition North Program to Include All Communities Accessible Only by Air

The "Nutrition North Program" was launched in 2011 by the federal government to provide subsidies for a variety of perishable and nutritious food to be shipped to communities only accessible by air. In 2014 the program was reviewed and it was noted that an additional 48 communities would also be eligible. However, the program was only available to those enrolled in 2011. The resolution urges the federal government to include all communities who qualify.

Note: On July 18, 2016 the federal government announced that the "Nutrition North Program" would be expanded to include an additional 36 communities.

- *Was forwarded to the national resolutions committee but was withdrawn following the government announcement.*

ON.16.04 Training for the Safe Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles by Youth Under the Age of 16

The use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on roads or crossings is regulated and restricted to those 16 years of age or older. However, there is no regulation to govern use on private land and competition circuits. Nova Scotia requires youth to have passed an approved training course. New Brunswick requires safety training for all ATV operators. Regulations requiring training must be put in place in Ontario to protect youth from serious injury or death.

The following resolutions were approved at the National Convention in August 2016:

2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act

- *See above*

2016.02 Eating Well With Canada's Food Guide

Canada's Food Guide was last revised in 2007. A Senate committee recommended that the guide be revised to reflect current scientific evidence which recognizes the benefits of fresh and whole foods and restricts the consumption of highly processed foods.

2016.03 Warning Labels on Food and Drug Products for All Inactive Substances and Additives

Inactive substances in food may be used to maintain freshness, make it look better or aid in its processing, packaging or storage. In drugs they may be used for freshness, make the products more tasty or prevent spoilage. People may not be reacting to the product but to the inactive substances that were added.

2016.04 Amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service

Palliative care is health care that improves the quality of life for patients, and their families, facing life-threatening illness. This care attempts to provide prevention and relief of pain, affirms life and supports the family. Palliative care is not an essential service under the Canada Health Act. As a result, only 16 to 30% of Canadians have access to this care.

2016.05 Amend the Canada Health Act to Include Home Care as an Insured Health Service

- *See above*

We must become familiar with these issues by reading the resolution and brief. Consider the suggestions in the action plan. What can you do individually, or as a council, to bring about change?



Some members from the Ontario Resolutions Team
Sue Lubowitz, Toronto Diocesan Resolutions Chair, Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Provincial Resolutions Chair, Iris McNulty, President, St. John the Evangelist, Durham Region) and Shirley Christo, Toronto Diocesan President.

"One of the cornerstones of good written communication is the clear, concise expression of ideas or information. The recording secretary, through good written communication, is an important contributor to the history of her council."

The above quote is taken from the *Executive Handbook* under 'Secretary' – page SEC-15. What follows is a concise list of the DUTIES of the RECORDING SECRETARY:

'The recording secretary shall:

- assist the president in preparing the agenda for meetings
- list all correspondence to be brought to the meeting
- notify members of the time and place of the meeting
- distribute copies of the minutes of the previous meeting prior to the meeting
- record the minutes of meetings (for a sample of meeting minutes see the National Manual of Policy and Procedure or the Handbook for Secretaries)
- retain minutes as a permanent record
- bring the minute book containing past minutes to meetings
- be a signing officer for official documents
- be responsible for receiving reports from the executive
- provide the president with a copy of the executive members' annual reports to assist in preparing the president's annual report
- be responsible for all council papers and records
- keep a copy of each executive member's monthly and annual reports'

This is followed by further instruction as to other things the recording secretary should know or do.

In the *Handbook for Secretaries*, page 5 through 13, another list outlines her duties and gives examples of agendas and minutes.

The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, Pages 63-

64 has an outline for this position and in the *Constitution & Bylaws*, page 22, there is a very short outline (4 basic duties). These resources, in addition to several others, especially *Robert's Rules of Order*, help both new and seasoned secretaries to do a better job. Past recording secretaries can provide invaluable mentoring and she or other members with experience should be sought out for guidance.

When a member takes on any position, it is a learning experience, so give yourself time to adjust and find your way, read up all you can, do your best and try not to stress out. In time, you will know more and your own unique talents will surface. Remember, that minutes can be written. However, if you cannot type but another member is willing to do the typing, then involving this other member might lead to her taking on the role in the future.

Your involvement as recording secretary is a gift to the League and for that we are grateful. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us and help us in all we do for God and Canada.

Treasurer

Patricia M. Rivest

Holiness consists simply in doing God's will and being just what God wants us to be."

St. Teresa of Liseaux

Greetings to all treasurers in Ontario:

Welcome to all newly elected treasurers and welcome back to all treasurers returning for another year. I look forward to working with you.

Treasurers have the great responsibility of maintaining detailed records and preparing monthly reports as well as preparing a budget, as a guide for the financial year.

It has been a couple of months since we completed an awesome time of the year; convention time. Whether we gather together at diocesan, provincial and/or national, it is a great time for Catholic women to gather. What a feeling of sisterhood when we meet in convention to share our accomplishments, share our faith, pray together, renew friendship, make new friends and of course have fun.

Education and knowledge of the League is imperative for leadership in the League. I know that all members do not wish to be leaders, and I can appreciate that. However, it is still important for personal knowledge of the League. Attending conventions is a great means of education and knowledge.

When you are preparing your budget for the upcoming year, did you remember to set aside 10-15% of your funds for membership development? Conventions are a means of membership development.

A gentle reminder that member per capita is due and payable at national office January 1st of each year. Remember to work closely with your organization chairperson regarding memberships.

Sainte Jeannie Emilie de Villeneuve watch over all Treasurers. Sainte Jeannie Emilie de Villeneuve pray for us.

During this Year of Mercy, may we continue to live out our theme – **One Heart** filled with mercy, compassion and holiness, **One Voice** united in harmony to speak the truth with courage and zeal, **One Mission** embracing the call through prayer, trust and personal encounter.

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

As I look out the window at the grapes ripening on the vine, I realize how quickly the summer has gone. Fall has always been my favourite season when God takes out His paintbrush and nature becomes His canvas. It is also a time of harvest for us and even though I have seen it for many years, I still get excited to see the grapes come in for processing. It is a beautiful tribute to all the hard work done in the field when the finished product is placed on the shelf. The work we do for the League is very much like that. It is the hard work done at the grass roots, out in the field so to speak, that we can show the fruits of our labour. I'd like to think of historians as the farmers in the field. As the farmer watches the vines to be sure that they are growing in the right direction for the best possible yield, we watch our members and provide policy and procedure to guide our members for the proper results. The farmer makes sure that the vines get everything they need to produce the best grapes. Historians are mentors that can provide members with the information they need to be informed and at their best when they serve. Farmers know that the harder the roots work, the better the grapes. The harder our members work at the grass roots, the better the League is as a whole.

At the national convention in August, Past President Betty Anne Brown Davidson, gave a beautiful tribute to Past Honorary Life Members, Mary Matthews and Lucille Cullen. She stated, "Two great women upon whose shoulders we stand, knowing that we are their children, the fruit of their efforts". Each gave their own unique gifts and by mentoring many members, their legacy lives on for all of us to benefit. It was a wonderful convention and everything that was done has now become a part of our history.

After the convention, we were able to take some time to visit Pier 21 before heading home. As we walked closer to it, I found myself getting emotional with the thoughts of my parents and sister coming through Pier 21 to travel on to their home in a new country. It has been turned into a museum that documents how immigrants arrived to Canada. With pictures and artifacts on display you can easily put yourself in their shoes as you look out on the water and envision the ship arriving. History beautifully preserved in the stories of those that lived it to share with visitors to Pier 21 so they can understand what they endured to follow a dream. One of the things my sister did was have a name plate placed on the walls inside the Pier. What a moving experience to see my father, mother and sister's names as well as all the names of so many others on display! It is an awesome tribute to those that helped form this country. There was also a display of the Sisters of Service who helped immigrants arriving to Canada. As you know, The League began because of the need to help women who were new to this country. We have, are and will continue to play an important role in helping immigrants.

You can't help but feel a great sense of pride in those throughout all of our history that worked so hard to provide us with the tools and direction we need to serve. The farmers have passed the shovel to us so that we too can be outstanding in our fields!



Sub Chairpersons: Mary Hawkley and Margaret Van Meeuwen

Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual. Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven. Mission is born of a constant experience of God's merciful anointing.

Pope Francis

Dignity and rights of persons-

Remembrance Day, November 11th, for many of our new Canadian families will be their first experience with this day of reflection. Take the time to educate these new Canadians about the significance of this day and all that we are truly grateful and blessed with in this country. I encourage members to read *Feathers of Hope: A First Nations Youth Action Plan*, to have a better understanding of the challenges that these young people face in their day to day living. By educating ourselves on their situation we will be in a better position to help these young people achieve a future with hope and positive change.

Members are also asked to follow the progress of the inquiry into the "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women". May the process and the results of the inquiry bring healing to the families of these women. Pray for all involved.

Social and economic justice-

Velma's Dream, which was created by Honorary Life Member, Velma Harasen became a permanent voluntary fund at the National Convention in Halifax. Velma's Dream assists Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) with projects such as funding a Shepherd's Field hospital and a youth project. Let us keep up our support.

Refugees, immigration and citizenship-

A new resolution under this standing committee was passed at the Ontario Provincial Convention this past July in Stratford.

Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Residence, an Amendment to the Immigration Act.

Please review this resolution and the action plan on our provincial website cwl.on.ca.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)-

The CCODP is celebrating 50 years of solidarity. Some of the highlights of those 50 years:

- Advocated alongside Nelson Mandela for an end to apartheid in South Africa (1988-1989)
- Campaigned for dignified working conditions in garment industry sweatshops owned by companies such as Nike and Levi's (1995-1997)
- Demanded cancellation of the foreign debt of the 50 poorest countries (1998-1999)
- Called for responsible mining and the creation of an ombudsperson (2006-2009 and 2013)

\$600 million dollars has been invested in 100 countries since CCODP began. Fifteen thousand projects were funded in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Development and Peace education and action campaigns have been an essential part of its work to create a just world. The Fall Campaign, "**Heart of the Action**", highlights the organization's 50 years for Canadians to be agents of change. This fall we are invited to learn about the importance of mobilization and to support the practices of small family farmers which not only feed the planet but cool it as well. Signing the postcard will ask the Prime Minister how Canada expects to meet its commitment to invest \$2.65 billion between now and 2020 in support of people in the Global South who are severely impacted by climate change. It calls on the Canadian Government to consider the role of small farmers in the Global South.

Members and councils are asked to keep the "1% Program" as part of their giving plan.

As the cooler weather comes our way and we have been recharged by a restful summer, let us go forward and continue with compassionate action in the final months of the Year of Mercy.

Helping Communities With Mercy and Compassion



Picture shows members from St. Ignatius the Martyr CWL council, Ottawa Diocese working on the Milk Bag Project. Our Lady of the Visitation CWL in Ottawa initiated a Milk Bag Division in March 2014. This has now expanded to other CWL councils and beyond. July 2016, donations of 25 sitting mats; 12 totes; and 121 pillows were sent to be amalgamated with other donations and then shipped to developing countries.



To celebrate the Year of Mercy, the CWL of St. Joseph Highland Creek, Toronto Diocese, led the "Feed the Hungry" project which brought the entire community together to collect specific foods for the Nunavut Food Bank and for the community of Iqaluit, which has air-only access. A total of seven skids of food were collected, sorted, packaged and sent to the Iqaluit community.

Sub Chairpersons: Mary Jane Yaeger and Heather Sisk

Autism in Ontario: What we know and don't know
Submitted by Colleen Randall, OPC Education and Health
Standing Committee Chair

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopment disorder with impairments in social communication and a pattern of repetitive stereotyped behaviors. Onset is early in childhood and the presentation changes with development over the life span. It can affect behavior, social interactions and one's ability to communicate verbally. There are no socioeconomic, geographical, ethnic or cultural boundaries for ASD. Approximately 1% of the Canadian population suffers from ASD which means that 100,000 Ontarians suffer from this lifelong disorder. There are many levels to the Autism spectrum ranging from severely handicapped and very low functioning to

very high functioning. ASD affects many aspects of people's lives. Because of the nature of the disorder, diagnosis is difficult and often takes years. Treatments are available but with individual needs

changing as the individual grows it is often a struggle to keep up with the changes.

There are no specific medical treatments that will help all individuals. The recommended treatments are a combination of medical and behavioral interventions that are monitored closely and often. Intervention, treatment programs and support services are necessary for the majority of people with ASD. They help them to develop strategies for success, to learn about their own strengths and to make use of these strengths to improve their quality of life. The disorder does not remove the



uniqueness from the person; like the rest of us, they just want to be the best they can be.

Communication is often a problem for people with autism. They often lack the social skills used to develop language and most times act out the frustration through tantrums and screaming. Speech therapy must be adjusted to the individual and practiced often so that skills can be developed that can cover all social situations.

In researching this article I learned so much that I have never heard before. Autism is a very complex disorder. It affects each person differently and changes as we age. If you check out some of the blogs and articles written by individuals within the spectrum there are a lot of highly intelligent individuals. They talk about wanting to change the language that describes them and the perception around how the world views them and they want people to know they have a lot to contribute. Treatment and support programs are available across Ontario but vary by location. Most families who have members with autism define their requirements as "appropriate and timely services for the individual living with ASD along with support and understanding from the community and respite, support and understanding for caregivers." Professionals are often taxed by the number of patients and programs require such a varied range of services that often times patients fall through the cracks.

I want to especially thank a friend who has lived this disorder as a caregiver for her valuable feedback to my research. We must educate ourselves so we can be advocates for this cause. So many suffer... we can help.

Welcome to Holland

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability – to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip – to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum, the Michelangelo David, the gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!" you say. "What do you mean, Holland?" I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy.

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to some horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy a new guidebook. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around, and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills, Holland has tulips, Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy, and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

The pain of that will never, ever, go away, because the loss of that dream is a very significant loss.

But if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things about Holland.

Written by Emily Perl Kingsley



Sub Chairperson: Celeste Guse

More On Canadian Federal Electoral Reform

The article under legislation in the spring edition of *Trillium* introduced the subject of electoral reform, outlining our current method of voting and the alternatives being considered. As mentioned in that article, our current government assured us that the 2015 federal election would be the last time Canadians voted using the first-past-the-post electoral system. They pledged to introduce legislation within 18 months and tasked the House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform with studying the issue and coming up with proposals by December 1, 2016, with legislation promised by April 19, 2017.

Many Canadians like the idea of reforming the electoral system, but many more, according to recent surveys, are content with the current system. There are many who think this is too important an issue to be rushed... that if change is to take place, we should take the time required to make sure we get it right!

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has indicated he favours an instant-runoff system using preferential ballots, but other parties have different ideas. The Conservatives want to keep the current first-past-the-post system, while the NDP wants a form of proportional representation. The Conservatives are demanding a referendum on any reform and a great number of Canadians appear to agree with this.

The House of Commons has given the Special Committee on Electoral Reform the task of leading a national consultation process on Canadian federal electoral reform, giving Canadians the opportunity to participate in the national dialogue and shape our future electoral system at the federal level... be it the current process, or one

developed as the result of the committee's consultations and recommendations.

While most of us have been out and about enjoying the glorious summer weather, the committee heard from many public servants, academics, and electoral officers from Canada and around the world. The hearings continued throughout the summer. In an effort to involve 'ordinary citizens', all 338 MPs were 'invited' to hold town hall meetings in their communities to gather the general public's views on electoral reform. Some MPs are reaching out to their constituents in other ways to find out what their constituents want.

Committee members will be conducting cross-country consultations beginning mid-September and it is hoped that those attending will have an opportunity for input, and for presenting their views and choices about a new voting system.

It is important for Canadians to understand that the electoral system matters in their daily lives. "The electoral system is more than vote casting and counting ... it is a way for Canadians to influence their future, give their consent to be governed, and to hold their representatives accountable." (Quoted from *Electoral Reform, Your guide to hosting a successful dialogue on Canadian federal reform*, a federal government publication available at canada.ca/electoral-reform-dialogue)

In a recent essay released by the Fraser Institute, John Pepall states, "With the ongoing parliamentary committee investigating alternative voting methods, and in the discussions about electoral reform, the implication is that our present way of voting is deeply flawed. However, first-past-the-post is simple. Voters and candidates understand how it works, and since governments can easily be defeated under our system, it helps ensure accountability."

"Canada has functioned relatively well as a democracy. We have had nearly 150 years of uninterrupted

democratic rule with dozens of peaceful transfers of power. By the standards of our times, our elections have been well-conducted, our franchise liberally composed and our policies relatively enlightened.... Before we embark on changes, we should carefully consider not only the upside and drawbacks of reform, but also the merits of our current system." (Peter Loewen, director of the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto).

We pray that any effort to reform our electoral system will truly reflect the needs and wishes of all Canadians, not just politicians, public servants, academics and electoral officers.



***Blesseds and Saints display at the 69th Annual
Ontario Provincial Convention
Niagara Falls, ON. July 9 - 13, 2016***

Christian Family Life Committee

Sub Chairpersons: Anna Brady

Vocations which falls under this committee is a very important aspect of The League. Vocations do not only mean priests and religious but it also includes the vocation of permanent deacon, married, single, widowed and divorced.

Does your diocese have a special mass or event that is celebrated annually for vocations? Do you promote the role of vocations? Do you know of a young man or woman in your diocese/parish that epitomises that of a devout and spiritual person that could fulfill the role of a priest or religious sister? How about a married man that would be fitting for the role of a permanent deacon?

Your diocese will have a vocations director who advocates for these young men and women. I should not say just “young” men as it has become more common that men are entering into this field later as a new calling or a calling which they have finally heard.

In the Hamilton Diocese, an annual Vocations Mass each fall is celebrated for all vocations! This was the dream of our new national second vice president, Shari Guinta, when she was diocesan president. This event is a joint project of The Catholic Women’s League, Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club. They are now celebrating their 15th year.

If you do not have an event as such, I encourage you to consider promoting vocations and if possible hosting an event. I am eager to hear how and what is happening with vocations in your diocese! For more information, feel free to contact me.

If you have not heard, Pope Francis has named six women and six men to commission the study of women as deacons. The role of women in the church has been

studied and talked about for thousands of years. God bless them during this important time in history!

Wikipedia states: "Women in Church history have played a variety of roles in the life of Christianity - notably as contemplatives, health care givers, educationalists and missionaries. Until recent times, women were generally excluded from episcopal and clerical positions within the Christian churches, however great numbers of women have been influential in the life of the church - from contemporaries of Jesus, to subsequent saints, theologians, doctors of the church, missionaries, abbesses, nuns, mystics, founders of religious institutes, military leaders, monarchs and martyrs."

A Prayer for My Vocation

St. Arnold Jansen, SVD, Founder of Three Religious Communities

Lord, I thank you for the gift of love and for your love.

Help me to know myself better and to know my talents, as I try to choose my life's work,

Help me to see and to understand all the possibilities open to me.

Help me to choose a path which will be a response to your love for me.

Give me strength Lord, to follow your will for me, and to do well in whatever I choose.

**Report on the 69th Annual Ontario Provincial
Convention**

Stratford, ON. July 9 - 13, 2016

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

Saturday, July 9th

While the official opening of our conventions is always the Opening Mass on Sunday evening, this year many members arrived in Stratford on Saturday and enjoyed a most energetic performance of "A Chorus Line".

Sunday, July 10th

On Sunday many delegates enjoyed a tour of Stratford. Approximately 200 delegates met for the Resolutions Dialogue in the afternoon which was facilitated by Resolutions Chairperson Linda Squarzolo and Legislation Chairperson Carol Richer.

The Opening Mass, hosted by Immaculate Conception Church, was celebrated by Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Bishop of London and concelebrated by Bishop Fred Colli, Provincial Spiritual Advisor, Bishop of Thunder Bay and Bishop William McGrattan, National Spiritual Advisor and Bishop of Peterborough and along with 12 spiritual advisors from across the province. The celebration focused on The Holy Year of Mercy, the "Beatitudes" and love of neighbour as demonstrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan. In keeping with custom, several dignitaries brought greetings and welcomed delegates including National President, Barbara Dowding and Provincial President, Pauline Krupa. A reception followed in the church hall.

Monday, July 11th

On Monday morning Bishop William McGrattan's keynote address focused on the importance and meaning of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, who has captivated the world as Bishop of Rome. Pope Francis encourages charity and reconciliation through witness and dialogue. The world is still interested in this man who encourages the church to "take to the streets" to lead

people to Jesus Christ, to wake up the world with our witness. "An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral." In his summary, Bishop McGrattan affirmed the CWL in its ability to be authentic and encouraged delegates to continue to be "who we are". Monday afternoon saw four resolutions presented, all of which were unanimously passed for presentation at the national convention in August in Halifax. The day ended with the tradition of diocesan dinners, where all delegates from each diocese joined together to share food and fun. These dinners are eagerly anticipated at each convention.

Tuesday, July 12th

Tuesday began with mass celebrated by Bishop Colli. In his homily, Bishop Colli focused on the spiritual works of mercy. Following mass, delegates filed out of the hall and re-entered through the symbolic Holy Door. Diocesan presidents processed pictures of their chosen Blesseds while provincial officers processed pictures of their chosen Saints (which were featured in their reports).

Action, Prayer and Reconciliation: Following a poverty lunch of soup, a bread roll and water, a team of delegates sorted through a mountain of non-perishable food items donated by the delegates. When the groceries were all sorted, a member of the St Vincent Society graciously accepted the groceries, along with cash donations and gift cards. Another team of delegates was blessed by Bishop Colli and missioned to "The Local", a Stratford community-based group who provide food and learning to those in need. The nominal donation of \$2.00, paid by each delegate for the poverty lunch, was donated to "The Local". While these actions were taking place, the remaining delegates spent time in prayer and reflection. The sacrament of reconciliation was offered during this time. Delegates maintained a prayerful and reflective silence throughout.

"CWL Women Living Mercy Every Day", was the title of the address by motivational speaker Anne Shore. She was very affirming, stating "The Catholic Women's League is a

blessing to the whole Canadian society”, adding “we make our parishes better”. She then issued a challenge to go further, to go deeper; to recognize the grudges, resentments and hurts we carry in our hearts, then forgive and let them go in prayer.

Delegates enjoyed a delicious banquet of roast beef with all the trimmings after which a delicious lemon mousse medley was served with coffee and tea.

Wednesday, July 13th

Following the introduction and blessing of nine new Life Members, the 2016 Social Justice Award was presented to Alice Gazeley from the Diocese of Kingston which was followed by the traditional *Invitation to Convention* presented by the Thunder Bay delegates. National President, Barbara Dowding brought the latest news from national council and complimented Provincial President, Pauline Krupa on a wonderful convention.

Author and palliative care expert, Michelle O'Rourke talked candidly about the recent passing of her beloved father, George, who had died the previous week in the Chatham-Kent residential hospice that she helped design and develop. After sharing photos and stories of her family's final weeks and days with her dad, many reflecting moments of genuine joy and laughter, she went on to offer a convincing argument for making quality end-of-life care more widely available.

Concelebrating the Closing Mass at St Joseph's Church with Bishop Colli was Bishop Joseph Dombroski, Auxiliary Bishop of London, along with nine spiritual advisors. In his homily, centered on the wedding feast of Cana, Bishop Colli urged delegates to be like Mary, to be attentive and sensitive to the needs of those around us, adding we may be surprised at the direction Jesus wants us to go. We are to trust in the task He has for us. Reaffirmation of Officers was facilitated by Past Provincial President, Marlene Pavletic. Following the closing luncheon, delegates reluctantly bid a fond *adieu* to Stratford.

Report on the 96th Annual National Convention **Halifax, Nova Scotia August 14-17, 2016**

Prepared By:

*Anne Madden, Ontario Provincial President-Elect /
Organization and*

*Colleen Randall - Ontario Provincial 1st Vice
President / Ed & Health Committee Chair*

The 96th annual convention was held at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Pauline Krupa represented the Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) as voting delegate; accredited delegates were Anne Madden and Colleen Randall. The theme was *One Heart, One Voice, One Mission, Palliative and Hospice Care*.

St. Mary's Basilica, a short walk from the hotel and convention centre, was the venue for the opening mass. The grandeur and magnificence of the Basilica emphasized the tradition of The League, as the flags of each province were processed into the church. Four hundred voices joined together to sing "O Canada" and welcome the liturgical procession with many bishops and spiritual advisors from across Canada. Archbishop Anthony Mancini of Halifax-Yarmouth spoke on the word of God and how we, as members, are called to witness, to hear the word and to respond to it.

The official ceremonies commenced with greetings from dignitaries. Barbara Dowding, National President, formally declared the convention open and spoke on the importance of how we encounter one another at convention; our strength comes from faith lived out through mercy.

Monday began with a WUCWO prayer service and guest speaker Sr. John Mary of the Sisters of Life, Toronto. She spoke about "Women of Mercy United in One Heart, One Voice and One Mission". The afternoon session opened with a memorial service for deceased members; Two of our beloved Ontario Life Members were celebrated, Mary Matthews and Lucille Cullen. The presidents reports were well presented and we all beamed as our president, Pauline told the story of our blessed and saints project and how it blossomed across the province. Pauline made

us proud! The provincial reports are available on the national website.

A Year of Mercy Pilgrimage from the hotel through the Holy Door of St. Mary's Basilica and a Eucharistic celebration initiated Tuesday's sessions. Everyone hurried back to the convention centre in order to listen to Fr. James Mallon's talk "I Am a Mission on This Earth" (a quotation from Pope Francis' *Evangelii Gaudium* #273). We – the church – do not have a mission, we are a mission. Very inspirational talk! The commissioning of new Life Members was celebrated and nine members from Ontario were welcomed: Elizabeth Bortolussi, Mary Jean Horne, Kathy Huffman, Donna Provost, Colleen Randall, Linda Squarzolo, Margaret Van Meeuwen, Wilma Vanderzwaag and Sandra Wieckowski. It was a beautiful ceremony!

The standing committee chair reports reiterated the work of members across the country. The first of five resolutions was presented. Resolution 2016.01: Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status, an Amendment to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was debated and carried.

On Wednesday standing committee chair reports continued with four more resolutions being moved and carried. Resolutions 2016.02: Eating Well With Canada's Food Guide; 2016.03: Warning Labels on Food and Drug Products for all Inactive Substances and Additives; 2016.04: Amend the Canada Health Act to Identify Palliative Care as an Insured Health Service and 2016.05: Amend the Canada Health Act to Include Home Care as an Insured Health Service. Full details of these resolutions and their actions plans are available on the national website.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island will host the 2017 national convention – book early! Barb Dowding, National President, bid the assembly farewell and thanked everyone for her opportunity to serve the past two years. Several of Barb's statements hit home... "From prayer to Parliament, our voices must be heard" and "Wake up the world by walking the talk!"

The new theme, introduced by the new National President Margaret Ann Jacobs, is "Inspired by the Spirit – Women Respond to God's Call". It will be in effect January 2017. The rite of election took place and the following executive officers were elected:

President – Margaret Ann Jacobs

President-Elect / Organization – Anne Gorman

1st Vice-President / Education and Health– Fran Lucas

2nd Vice-President / Communications - Shari Guinta

Secretary Treasurer – Janet McLean

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chair -

Jacqueline Nogier

Christian Family Life Standing Committee Chair - Doreen Gowans

Community Life Standing Committee Chair - Betty Colaneri

Legislation Standing Committee Chair - Nancy Simms

Resolutions Standing Committee Chair - Joan Bona

Over 800 members attended with prayerful enthusiasm and joy beyond measure. If you have never participated in a national convention please put it on your bucket list... there is nothing like it!



*Pauline Krupa,
Ontario Provincial
President presenting
Works of Mercy
Book to Barbara
Dowding, National
President during
business session at
the National
Convention in
Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS



On the left, Gloria Machacek, mother of Spiritual Advisor Fr. Michael Machacek from Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Toronto receives her 40 Service Pin from Nancy Fenech the President and Alice Mycan.



The Frances Lovering, Woman of the Year Award was started in the Hamilton the year 2000. Each year the award is given to a deserving woman nominated by her council for outstanding work done in her council and community. Pictured above from left to right - Ana Sousa (Hamilton Diocesan President)



Graduating Class of the Leadership and Public Speaking Course in Ottawa Diocese with facilitators Moira Mathews and Claudette Joseph.



Ann Madden, Ontario Provincial President-Elect presenting The Ontario Provincial Council Social Justice Award to the 2016 recipient, Nice Gazeley at the Ontario Provincial Convention.

MILESTONE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to all members on reaching these special milestones in their service to The League.

<i>Nativity Of our Lord CWL, Toronto</i>	
10 Years	Pauline Blendick Theresa Roberts Stella Almeida
20 Years	Mary Ann Amodeo Cheryl Carty Rose D'Souza Marianne Hamilton Anita Haugh Lennie McGrann Judy Zammit
25 Years	Maria Carvalho Mary Foran Maria Giangioppo Frances Whelan
30 Years	Helen Borg Donna Fowler
35 Years	Jo-Anne Donovan
40 Years	Gloria Machacek Marie Watts
45 Years	Naomi Willock-Tonna
50 Years	Dorothy Scanlon
<i>Our Lady of Fatima Council, Renfrew</i>	
10 Years	Cathy Black Maureen Brennan
20 Years	Violet Bujold Charlotte Cleroux Berny Mortimer Gail Murphy Doris Thacker
25 Years	Veneta Richards
30 Years	Phyllis Shields Teresa Haley
35 Years	Diana Larocque Agnes Walker Jeanne Winters

40 Years	Margaret Clemow Pauline Hughes Irene Rekowski
45 Years	Alice Houwen Teresa Manion Margaret Carty Cecilia L'Abbe Ann Lauman
50 Years	Violet Chaput Gerarda Mulvihill Philomena Wright
55 Years	Jeannette Holmes Merle Ritz
<i>St. Francis Xavier Council, Renfrew</i>	
10 Years	Diane Dillon Karen Corbin
20 Years	Marilyn Leclair Margaret Moriarity Carol Varrin
25 Years	Aldine Gray
30 Years	Carol Sulpher
35 Years	Frances Graves
40 Years	Norma Bennett Francine Cameron Johanna Mathieu
45 Years	Yvonne Kohl Rose Nighbor Josephine Plazek
50 Years	Rita Burnett Dorothy Roach
55 Years	Diana Freemark Enid Kennedy Shirley Kennelly Angela Legary Ann O'Reilly Eunice Meilleur (rec'd by sister Gerry Craig)
60 Years	Ida Lepack
65 Years	Lois Agnel Barbara Helferty Agnes Mask
70 Years	Sylvia Smith

<i>St. Joseph, Highland Creek Council, Scarborough</i>	
10 Years	Ann Anthony Anita Anthony Therese Baduria Nicole Corrado Erin Corrado Rosemer Enverga Marilena Florio Patricia Furtado Patricia Hall Mary Karawaju Leela Kinoshita Maureen McGrath-Corrado Rose Rozinka Josie Troccoli Anna Vigliatore
20 Years	Marjorie Herrera Cynthia Menezes Lucia Vacca
25 Years	Maria Steger Philomena Traynor
30 Years	Pam Canham Yoshiko Huang Jean Lewis Suanne O'Neill Lintoy Sahadath
35 Years	Grace Beardsworth
40 Years	Kelly Mary Winifred Martin



DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS ACROSS ONTARIO



**Hamilton Diocesan Convention at the Crowne Plaza in Kitchener
May 13-15th, 2016.**

Picture shows the Life Members from the Hamilton Diocese.



**Hearst
Diocesan
Convention
April 29th
- May 01st
, 2016**

*Hosted by
Our Lady of
Fatima
Council in
Cochrane.*



London Diocesan Convention, April 18th -20th, 2016 in Sarnia.

Picture shows Diocesan Executives at the head table.



93rd Annual Ottawa Diocesan Convention- April 23rd, 2016. CWL member, Hailey Bentham played the role of Blessed Elizabeth Turgeon and shared her life story.



Pembroke Diocesan Convention - May 28th, 2016.

Hosted by two Renfrew Councils: St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Fatima. Pictured from left to right, Joan Lemay, Co-Chair for 2016 Diocesan Convention and president of St. Francis Xavier, Pat Weller Pembroke Diocesan President and Darlene Meleskie, Co-Chair and President of Our Lady of Fatima Council.

96th Annual Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan Convention, May 13th - May 15th, 2016.

Linda Squarzolo, Past Diocesan President of Sudbury was presented with her Life Membership by National President, Margaret Ann Jacobs along with Karen McDonald, Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan President.





St, Catharines Diocesan Convention, May 25th, 2016

(From left to right) Fr. Richard Kowalchuk, Spiritual Advisor, Linda Squarzolo, Ontario Provincial Rep, Shelly Tamas, St. Catharines Diocesan President, Wilma Vanderzwaag, New Life Member and Most Rev. Gerard Bergie, DD.,J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines and Past Provincial Spiritual Advisor.



Thunder Bay Diocesan Convention, in Dryden, Ontario held April 29th, 2016. New Life Member Prayer Service for Liz Bortolussi and Sandra Weickowski.

Timmins Diocesan Convention in Englehart, Ontario April 29th - May 1, 2016.

Audrey Shelton, President- Elect with Yvette VanLankveld, Christian Family Life Chair standing next to the Nostalgia Table at the banquet.



**Toronto Diocesan
95th Annual
Convention, May
5th - 6th, 2016.**

*Celebrations for the
95th Anniversary
included cake,
punch and musical
entertainment.*

*Shirley Christo,
Toronto Diocesan
President and Rev.
Robert O'Brien,
Diocesan Spiritual
Advisor.*



Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Convention, May 29th, 2016.

Installation of new diocesan executive at closing Mass.



**Ontario
Provincial 70th
Anniversary
Committee
Presentation:**

*from the left:
Anna Tremblay,
Betty Colaneri and
Wilma
Vanderzwaag.*

TRILLIUM NEWS AND VIEWS
Newsletter Subscription Form

Please print clearly:

Name: _____

Council: _____

Diocese: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone No. _____ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Email Address _____

Privacy Policy

This contact information will only be provided to the provincial treasurer and the provincial newsletter editor to record your subscription and mail your newsletter and may be shared with a third party for mailing purposes. This information will be destroyed one year after your subscription has expired.

Note: *diocesan spiritual advisors, Ontario life members, honorary life members, and provincial subcommittee chairs, are entitled to a complimentary newsletter subscription.*

- ☐ \$5.00 One year subscription
- includes two issues -spring & fall beginning _____
- ☐ Additional years ordered @ \$5.00 per year
_____ (no. of years) Total amount \$ _____

Please mail this form along with a cheque for \$5.00 per order/per year.

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

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



Prayer for a Caring Heart

*Merciful God,
Give me a caring heart,
Show me how to attend to the needs of loved ones
with gentleness and patience.
Make me a healing and comforting
presence in their lives.*

*Help me to care as well for those whose needs far
surpass my own-
those who hunger and thirst,
the imprisoned and the lonely,
those without homes or hope.*

*Restrain any tendency to judge their circumstances
but to offer instead, graciousness, understanding
and consolation.*

*In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, model of
caring and compassion, I pray.*

Amen.

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.**