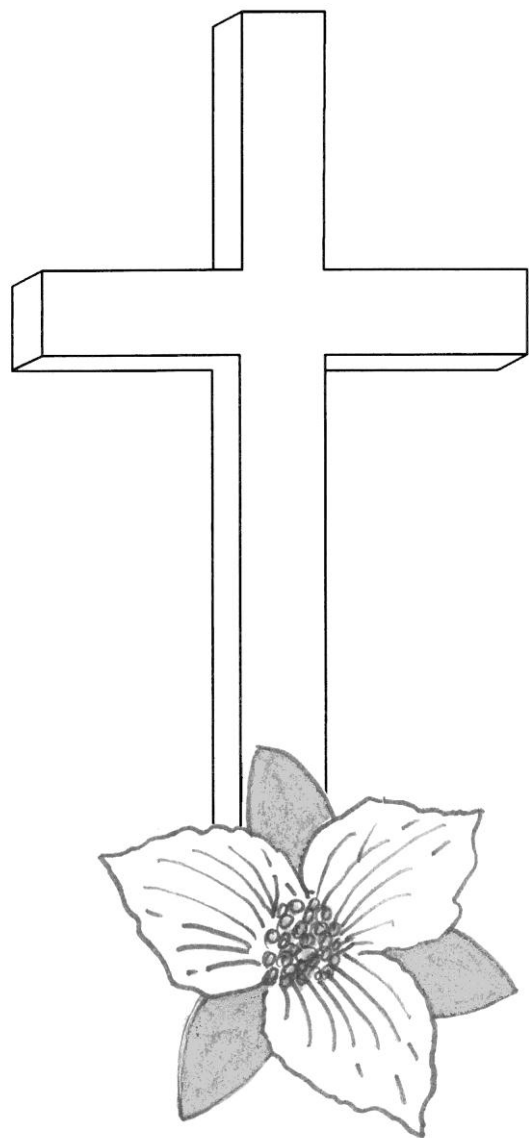


TRILLIUM

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

Spring 2014

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Editor's Notes:

The newsletter, the monthly *ON-Line* newsletter and the provincial website: www.cwl.on.ca are all available as resources to assist you as you work for the League.

The Ontario Provincial Convention will be hosted by the members of the Peterborough diocese, from **July 6-9 2014**, in the City of Cobourg. Registration **deadline is June 6th**. There will be a \$10.00 late fee charged to register after that date.

There is a convention information and registration package included with this issue for all mail subscribers other than life members who are sent their convention package by the provincial corresponding secretary. All others may download the convention package from the provincial website under the *Resources & Forms* tab.

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

Margaret

Ontario Provincial President

Betty Colaneri

"The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty." Pope Francis

My dear sisters in the League,

One of the most powerful themes of Pope Francis' pontificate has been the importance of working for social justice. In response to this call, I have asked each diocese as well as the provincial council as a whole and through standing committee chairpersons, to initiate a project to put this call into action. The dioceses and standing committees have responded with great enthusiasm. Through directives and reports we will be hearing more of these projects in the months to come.

As a provincial initiative we will be focusing on mental health issues. At our provincial convention in July one of our guest speakers will be the CEO of Pathstones Foundation which deals with mental health issues in teenagers.

God works within all of us, motivating us to take just, compassionate and wise actions. God's action in the world is mediated to us through others. A classic example from the Bible is when Jesus says the ones invited into heaven will be those who fed Him when He was hungry, gave Him drink when He was thirsty, invited Him in when He was a stranger, clothed Him when He was naked and visited Him when he was sick and in jail. The disciples asked Him *"When did we do this?"* and Jesus replies *"To the extent you did it to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to Me."* Matthew 25: 31-40

In his address to the youth at World Youth Day in Rio, Pope Francis spoke of the importance of values that are *"spirituality, generosity, solidarity, perseverance, fraternity and joy"* — values, he said, *"whose deepest root is the Christian faith."* In this quote, Pope Francis articulates the spiritual element of all faith-based work for justice. Being in touch with these "nonmaterial values" gives workers for justice energy, and prevents us from seeing ourselves as the saviors or fixers of the world's problems. By doing good for others and loving them is similar to loving God. We can't love God without loving others. We show our faith by doing good works for others and faith in God means taking care of others. We also come to God through nature. If we abuse the natural world, which is God's creation, we are indirectly abusing God. Social justice and environmentalism are not add-ons

or afterthoughts in a truly spiritual life. They are essential to our life with God.

We need to also be mindful of the needs of our members. Looking at the statistics from last year, there was a large number of members that did not renew. At a recent workshop, the speaker told us of how one of her mentors said that she should ask herself the following questions. *"What does it feel like to be in my presence? Do people feel better about themselves when they leave you?"*

We are witnesses of Jesus and how we represent ourselves to others speaks volumes. You may be the only homily they hear. What does your homily convey?

The upcoming months are exciting times as dioceses prepare for their conventions and we prepare for the provincial convention. It is a time to celebrate all the wonderful works that have been accomplished and look with fervour to the future.

Let us know of any milestones, anniversaries or special events that your diocese will be celebrating. We would like to congratulate and celebrate with you!

The Easter season is coming and in preparation, I invite you to spend time with the gift from the Holy Father, Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis *"Evangelii Gaudium"*, and The Joy of the Gospel. It is a beautiful document that is easy to read and understand. The opening paragraph gives you an insight to the beauty that lies within. *"The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encounter the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."*

Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary, His will for us will prevail; love will prevail over hate, justice over injustice and oppression, peace over exploitation and bitterness. This gives us comfort as we work for social justice.

May you and your families share an Easter filled with the Joy of Christ.

Spiritual Advisor

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

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

"Lord...You made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." (Confessions: book 1, chapter 1) this quote from St. Augustine touches upon a fundamental truth - We were created with a deep longing in our hearts to seek and find God. We were lovingly created by God so that we could experience God's unconditional love for us. To put it simply, we were created in love for love. Our spiritual life is greatly influenced by our response to that eternal longing within each of us to find God and to rest in God.

Lent is a great remedy for restless hearts because it helps us to focus on our spiritual life. This is something that we can so easily neglect throughout the year as we respond to the many demands of life. During Lent we enter with Jesus into the wilderness for 40 days so that we can be renewed spiritually. The wilderness represents that sacred space where we can encounter God with few distractions. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the traditional disciplines of Lent, we journey with Jesus and come to know and love Him on a deeper level. We also experience the unconditional love that Jesus has for each one of us.

Praying allows us to communicate with God which is foundational to spiritual life. We cannot know the Lord if we do not talk to the Lord. There are many wonderful prayers and devotions we can offer during Lent, including participating in the greatest prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This Lent you may also wish to consider spending at least 15 minutes a day quietly communicating with the Lord in the silence of your heart, for silence is an essential part of communication. **Our prayer life helps us to rest in our loving God.**

Fasting or other acts of penance help us to discipline our minds and bodies in order to focus more clearly on God. The sacrament of penance is also a very important tool in assisting us in the area of spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation with God and neighbour. I invite everyone to celebrate this beautiful sacrament during the season of Lent as a means of helping you to draw closer to our Lord. **Our acts of penance help us to rest in our merciful God.**

Almsgiving is also a very important part of our Lenten practice. We unite ourselves more closely with Christ who stated, *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* (Mt.25:40). We make the effort to assist those who are in need, especially the poor and marginalized. Our acts of charity remind us that God

can never be outdone in generosity. **Our almsgiving helps us to rest in our generous God.**

Another great remedy for a restless heart is to be a member of the Catholic Women's League. Here you are offered the support of your sisters in the League and are able to grow spiritually as you strive to put your faith into action. **The Catholic Women's League helps us to rest in our faithful God.**

Please be assured of my prayers and deep gratitude for your faith, goodness and love for the Lord. Let us use this Lenten season to intensify our response to that longing in our hearts to draw closer to our Lord. Let us enter into the wilderness, and through prayer, acts of penance, charitable works, and membership in the Catholic Women's League, take the time to rest in our gracious, loving God. *"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."*

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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



Spiritual Development Committee

Anne Madden, Chairperson
Sub-chairperson: Glenda Klein

"So it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
Luke 24:46-48

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from an ancient ceremony. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts, which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled them with ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins; just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until (Maundy Thursday) Holy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later all Christians, whether public or secret penitents came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance. In 325, the Council of Nicea discussed a 40-day Lenten season of fasting, but it's unclear whether its original intent was just for new Christians preparing for Baptism, but it soon encompassed the whole Church.

How exactly the churches counted those 40 days varied depending on location. In the East, one only fasted on weekdays. The western church's Lent was one week shorter, but included Saturdays. But in both places, the observance was both strict and serious. Only one meal was taken each day, near the evening. There was to be no meat, fish, or animal products eaten. Until the 600s, Lent began on Quadragesima (Fortieth) Sunday, but Gregory the Great (540-604) moved it to a Wednesday, now called Ash Wednesday, to secure the exact number of 40 days in Lent; not counting Sundays, which were feast days. Gregory, who is regarded as the father of the medieval papacy, is also credited with the ceremony that gives the day its name. As Christians came to the church for forgiveness, Gregory marked their foreheads with ashes reminding them of the biblical symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes) and mortality: *"You are dust, and to dust you will return"* (Gen 3:19).

Organization Committee

Pauline Krupa, Chairperson

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow.

You have to trust God. (Pope Francis I)

As we count down the days until the last shovel of snow is tossed, members across our province are in the midst of their membership drives. In her most recent Communiqué, National Organization Chairperson, Barb Dowding, reflected on a statement made by membership coordinator, Amanda McCormick who feels that councils need to motivate. She goes on to say that potential members will join groups "they perceive as being valuable, relevant, engaging and social." We **know** we are these women! Are you, then, letting others know? How do you share all your good news stories? A quick way to share in your parish is to have a CWL corner in the parish weekly bulletin that highlights more than the council's monthly meeting, membership drive or fund raising. Celebrate yourself! There is something wonderful about telling your parish community that the council sent baby booties for newborns with a thank you note to the mother for choosing life, that the council sent letters to the government in support of the bill to ban tanning beds for youth or that 100's of members completed an online survey to support Catholic education in Ontario. Barb's closing comment bears repeating... *"I quote from Amanda's report...the two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through."* (Sydney J. Harris)

Membership in Ontario

According to the latest report, membership in Ontario for 2012 was 51,118 and in 2013 it was 49,604. Statistically it is known that we lose members each year by their passing and that we are getting new members. However, we continue to miss those non-renewed members. Find ways to reach out to them with an invitation to rejoin. Please remember to re-member those ill or in nursing homes not able to keep up with their memberships. As part of the provincial social justice project, I have encouraged councils to find creative ways to pay for the memberships of those who might get forgotten. It's a way of "paying it forward" or becoming "membership angels". If 10 members chipped in the cost of one large double – double, you could pay for that one membership of a 50 year + member who might be lapsed. Sadly, if she were to die her name would not appear in the National Book of Life.

Catch the Fire!

The good news is that councils continue to keep the fires burning. There are a number of presentations planned across the province this spring and into early summer. Our provincial website is posting dates for *Catch the Fire!* presentations on the events calendar. Be sure to look for a presentation near you. National office continues to support councils through subsidy grants. (Application for subsidy can be found on the national website). When a council submits a report of the presentation a flame is added to the map and the number of attendees tracked. At the end of June 2014, the councils with the highest percentage of participation will have the national per capita fee waived for 2015.

S'Mores

This development day workshop has evolved from the topics chosen by those who attended *Catch the Fire!* presentations. It comprises many of the workshops already found on the national website (www.cwl.ca) under standing committee sites, programs and workshops. Topics selected:

1. Discerning a Call to Service
2. Evangelii Gaudium
3. Objects of the League – A Spiritual Perspective
4. Effective Meetings
5. Mentoring
6. Dealing with Conflict in Order to Reach a Win-Win Solution
7. How to Develop a Parish Council Policy and Procedure Manual
8. Resolutions
9. Parliamentary Procedures
10. Hospitality Protocol
11. Ethical Guidelines

At the winter meeting of the provincial council, members agreed to “open this gift” at the Provincial Convention in Cobourg this July. This will allow for planned *Catch the Fire!* presentations to be completed. When first announced, the *S'Mores* package was called the “something special that comes after *Catch the Fire!*, like dessert”. It was stated that it is not a replacement for CtF nor is it in competition with it. Rather is it the next step for members to take what they know of the League to another level. So....keep the fires burning.....

“Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire!”

(St. Catherine of Sienna)

Communications Committee

Colleen Randall, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Margaret McAllister, Heather Sisk

"Let our communication be a balm which relieves pain and a fine wine which gladdens hearts."
Pope Francis

Each day as I read the words of our beloved Pope Francis I am encouraged that my faith, as humble as it is, can be an inspiration to others. Pope Francis says *"The Church needs to be concerned for, and present in, the world of communication, in order to dialogue with people today and to help them encounter Christ."* As Catholic women we are presented with so many opportunities to "be" that example of Christ in the world.

Each action has a reaction. When we offer a smile or hello as we enter a room, Christ is there. When we welcome a newcomer to Sunday mass or spend precious moments visiting with shut-in parishioners, Christ is there. Alternatively, when we gossip or complain or judge, that is the Christ that others see.

"It's a small world, after all" is an understatement these days. We can be connected to every corner of the earth within milliseconds. We are confronted with tragedy of epic proportion instantly. The experience often leaves us afraid and alone – out of control of what goes on around us. These feelings can become the norm, making us comfortable in our apathy. We are so used to seeing the pictures of the poor and down trodden that they no longer upset our day.

Good communication can help us grow in unity with our families, communities and the world. Good communication can educate, enlighten and empower for good. We must be open to listen and learn. It is only through mutual respect and understanding that we can start to help each other.

Pope Francis calls the internet a gift from God but cautions us that those without access to the internet must not be allowed to be left behind. As much as I encourage everyone to check out the OPC and diocesan websites for updates and ask for information to share on Facebook, I am also a big fan of face to face contact. There is nothing like the personal touch. It is how the League got started. The CWL pioneers, like Bellelle Guerin, Katherine Hughes and Loretta Kneil, took the train to towns and cities across the country in order to spread the word.

The internet, Facebook, Twitter, and email are all wonderful conveniences that have the potential to spread the good news quickly and effectively but there is nothing like a good old-fashioned telephone call or visit over a cup of tea to enhance our listening skills and enable us to better understand the needs of others. It is then and only then that we can put our faith into action and be the face of Christ that our world so desperately needs.

Resolutions Committee

Rosanne Sogan, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Donna Provost & Wilma Vanderzwaag

*"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things."* Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Throughout the thirteen dioceses in Ontario, councils have considered and established resolutions. The titles have been forwarded to me and I in return have submitted those titles to the national resolutions chair, Shari Guinta.

Once a resolution has been written, including the brief, action plan and cited works, it then must be formally presented to councils. They must be moved, seconded, and adopted by majority vote. They may be debated and amended, and secondary motions can be applied to them.

How it evolves at each level of the League

Parish Level:

- The resolution is read either by the resolutions chairperson or a committee member;
- moved and seconded for the adoption of the resolution;
- opened for discussion and may be amended or deferred; and
- a majority vote decides its fate.
- If adopted, the resolutions chairperson is responsible for:
 - ✓ ensuring that the president and secretary sign the resolution verifying it was adopted;
 - ✓ providing and sending copies of all required documents to the diocesan resolutions chairperson before the deadline date;
 - ✓ ensuring that a parish council member is prepared to speak briefly in favour of the resolution at the diocesan convention.

Diocesan Council:

- The diocesan resolutions chairperson obtains all adopted parish council resolutions and any proposed by diocesan standing committee chairperson.
- Resolutions, briefs and support materials are reviewed by the diocesan resolutions committee;
- the committee gives recommendations and presents them to the diocesan executive for acceptance at its pre-convention meeting; and
- if accepted, the diocesan resolutions committee prepares the resolutions for presentation to the diocesan council; and
- presents it following the report of the standing committee to which it pertains.

- The resolution is read by the diocesan resolutions chairperson, moved by the president of the submitting council or her designate, seconded and then opened for discussion;
- it will then be amended or deferred; again a majority vote decides its fate.
- If the resolution is adopted, the resolutions chairperson is responsible for acting on the resolved clause(s) by:
 - ✓ communicating the resolution to her municipal government or community-based organization, where directed, OR
 - ✓ forwarding the necessary copies and accompanying support material to the provincial resolutions committee by the deadline date;
 - ✓ a letter signed by the diocesan president and secretary to verify that the resolution was adopted, as required, by a majority vote by the council; and
 - ✓ diocesan council member must be prepared to speak briefly (2 minutes) in favour of the resolution at the provincial convention.

Provincial Council:

Follow all the points as above under "Diocesan Council" as this also pertains to the Provincial level. Insert "Provincial" where "diocesan" is mentioned.

The only other changes are as follow:

- If the resolution is adopted, the resolutions chairperson is responsible for acting on the resolved clause(s) by:
 - ✓ communicating the resolution to her provincial government or other provincially-based organization, where directed, OR
 - ✓ forwarding necessary copies and accompanying support material to the national resolutions committee by the deadline date;
 - ✓ ensuring that a letter signed by the provincial president and secretary to verify that the resolution was adopted, as required, by a majority vote by the council;
 - ✓ ensuring a provincial council member be prepared to speak briefly (2 minutes) in favour of the resolution at the provincial convention;
 - ✓ preparing a short issue summary or explanation to accompany each resolution for publication in the fall issue of Trillium magazine.

National Council:

Follow all the points as above under "Diocesan Council" as this also pertains to the National level. Insert "national" where "diocesan" is mentioned. The only other changes are as follow:

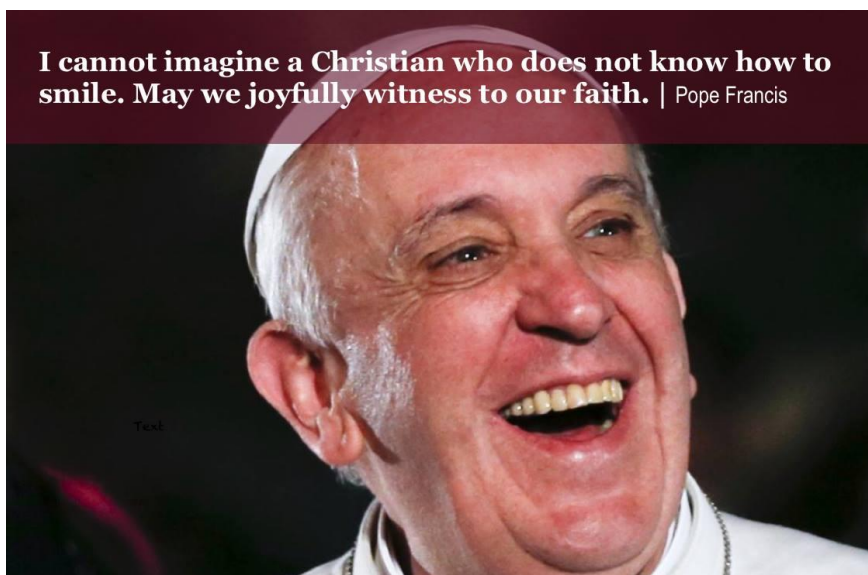
- If the resolution is adopted, the resolutions chairperson is responsible for acting on the resolved clause(s) by:

- ✓ communicating the resolution to her provincial government or other nationally-based organization, where directed, OR
- ✓ forwarding necessary copies and accompanying support material to the national resolutions committee by the deadline date,
- ✓ ensuring a letter signed by the national president and secretary to verify that the resolution was adopted, as required, by a majority vote by the council;
- ✓ a Provincial council member must be prepared to speak briefly (2 minutes) in favour of the resolution at the national convention;
- ✓ preparing a short issue summary or explanation to accompany each resolution for publication in the fall issue of The Canadian League magazine.

Study and Implementation of Resolutions

The League is noted for their ongoing work and submission of resolutions. Once resolutions have been adopted they become the official opinion of the League. The final level of an adopted resolution destined for the government will be acted upon by that level of the executive; (diocesan/municipal; provincial/provincial; national/federal). Actions with national concern will not be carried out until after a national convention and only by the national executive except if stated differently. The same would be for the provincial level.

Resolutions which refer to specific standing committees will be directed by that chairperson and the information will be filtered down to all counterparts who in turn will encourage education of their members as stipulated in the resolved clause(s).



Recording Secretary

Patricia M. Rivest

For this article of the Trillium News and Views, I am going to step outside the box and not write on the position of Recording Secretary. There will be directives to give further information on this position.

Winter is a beautiful season and one of the many miracles God has provided. But since this winter has been so cold, so snowy, so long and sometimes so nasty, I believe we are in need of some laughter and joy.

Laughter is an instant vacation. I read recently that studies show we need at least 12 laughs (not giggles – laugh-out-loud laughs) a day to be healthy. Laughter is the best medicine. Laughter is contagious!

I hope you find some laughter from the following:

1. Work fascinates me...I could watch it for hours
2. I used to think I was indecisive, but now I am not so sure!
3. All mothers have intuition – some have radar
4. Inside me is a thin person struggling to get out. I can usually sedate her with chocolate cake, chocolate cupcakes, chocolate bars, chocolate donuts and chocolates.

Find laughter in your daily lives and don't forget to share it.

Having joy is having a happy life. Joy is not the absence of trouble; it is the presence of Christ. Our busy daily lives and hectic schedules can take the joy out of living.

To find joy, here are some inspirational thoughts to ponder:

1. Be open to new ideas and adventures
2. View mistakes as opportunities to learn
3. Change your thoughts and change your world
4. It is choice – not chance – that determines our destiny
5. The best sermons are not always preached, they are lived
6. At times, we find our true direction in the winds of change
7. Live in the present. Walk the fine line between living in the here and now while holding in your heart your fondest memories and your dreams and aspirations for the future

Joy is the light that fills us with Hope, Faith and Love. Find your joy and share it with others.

Treasurer
Lucy Hendrikx

"We have seen the Lord"

I am pleased to have this opportunity to ponder with you this blessed Lenten season in preparation of Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. At this time we purge our hearts and minds of those things which may distance us in our relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. In this way we will be ready to receive Him on Easter Sunday and travel the road to Emmaus in His company, with our eyes open to his role in our lives.

As provincial treasurer, I am here to receive your donations to the Bishop Pappin Bursary. This Bursary of \$ 300 will be paid out each fall to successful applicants who are returning to the seminary for further studies to the priesthood. Through your generous donation the Ontario Provincial Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada can help up to 10 seminarians in their studies. You can contact me through the Provincial website if you need my mailing address. If you know of any seminarians who might like to apply for this assistance, please find an application form on line at www.cwl.on.ca and give it to them. The deadline for application to the Bishop Pappin Bursary is Jan. 31st of each year.

The second item of interest to which I would like to draw your attention is the Provincial Development Fund. As you may or may not realize National has a Development Fund. This fund is set up to assist parish, diocesan and provincial councils to promote League leadership training and other development workshops i.e. resolutions and spiritual development. More information on this Development and Leadership training fund can be found on the National website. You can apply to this fund once in a calendar year. Requests for funding will be evaluated on an individual basis by Diocesan and Provincial Presidents and the National Chairperson of Organization. Applications may be made to the Provincial Development Fund by the host Parish or Diocesan council for events which are not approved by the National Development Fund. For guidelines, application and follow up forms see Appendix A2.6.9-01 to A2.6.9-05 of the Provincial Policy and Procedure, which can be found on line at www.cwl.on.ca. Both these funds are set up to give vibrancy to your CWL council and the work it does for God and Canada.

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

Past President – Historian

Marlene Pavletic

*...Teach us to share with others at home and abroad,
the good things You have given us...*

League Prayer

Spring ushers in the season for diocesan conventions...a wonderful time of renewal. Elections will take place in several dioceses and have taken place already in many parishes. In August, a new national executive will be elected.

Many women in our councils are capable but fear prevents them from taking on a leadership role. So often we hear the testimony of those who were fearful, took the step, and were personally rewarded in so many ways. Renewal is vital for the League's survival. New ideas and new ways of doing things foster growth. My suggestion to all members is to garner courage, put aside the obstacle of fear and enjoy all the gifts you will receive from a new role in the League. Past presidents can identify, reach out to and encourage these women. Invite them to run for office and offer them support so they don't feel alone. That's what sisterhood is all about!

On another note, as much as we are entering the future with elections, we must also document our past. The histories of parish and diocesan councils need to be preserved. The provincial council prepares a history book every decade. The last one covered the period from 1997 – 2007. In a few short years, provincial council will be collecting this information so it is not too early for diocesan councils to be preparing a brief summary for each year beginning 2007-08 which identifies the president and summary of activities for each year.

Many of you may already be aware that the revised *Constitution & Bylaws 2013* (C&B) booklet is now available for purchase from the national office. Changes approved at the national convention (2013) have been included. The document is also available for reference on the national website. Every member in the League should be familiar with the C&B. Take a few minutes at meetings to review it section by section.

The League is truly a gift that needs to be shared! My prayer is that more women will offer their time and God given talents in League service. In the words of National Past President Velma Harasen, *May Our Lady of Good Counsel led each of us on the path we are destined to be!*

Community Life

Mary Jane Yaeger, Chairperson

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

THERE IS AN AGE-OLD PROVERB ABOUT POVERTY WHICH TELLS US:

**Give a man a fish,
and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish
and you feed him for a lifetime.**

...

BUT SHOULDN'T WE ASK WHY THE MAN HAS NO FISH (reprinted from Development & Peace Website)

Our focus should be social justice. Many councils are helping by volunteering or donating to food banks. We may know some members of our own councils, parishes or communities who have had to visit a food bank for assistance. The reasons vary from loss of job, illness in the family, or disasters such as weather, floods or fire. We cannot judge them, but we must pray for them and offer our help.

I prepared an article for the On-Line Newsletter in January 2014 and referenced Hunger Count 2013. "In March 2013, 833,098 people turned to a food bank in Canada, down from 872,379 the previous March". *Hunger Count 2013* bears witness to the need for food banks across Canada and moves beyond this, to seek solutions that address the root causes. The full report can be read at:

<http://www.foodbankscanada.ca/FoodBanks/MediaLibrary/HungerCount/HungerCount2013.pdf>

Development and Peace, the Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis, is participating in its global anti-hunger campaign, *One Human Family, Food for All*. This campaign seeks to bring an end to world hunger. This will be the central theme of their 2014 Share Lent campaign.

Please go to their newly updated website, www.devp.org. They have many resources available to help your council and/or parish participate in this worthwhile campaign.

- Posters
- Prayer cards
- Bookmarks
- Celebration booklets
- Organizers guide
- Year-round Monthly giving brochure
- Collection envelopes

I particularly like the idea that we are involving young people in this issue. There are many children that are going to school every day without food in their stomachs. We all know that the most important meal of the day is breakfast. These young people are struggling with trying to understand **why** they have no food like the other students and then we expect them to pay attention and absorb what is happening in the classroom. One of the items you can download has questions, a word search, and prayers for youth.

An example would be:

5. How many children in the world are underweight through malnutrition?
A. 1 in 4 B. 1 in 7 C. 1 in 10 D. 1 in 20
7. What percentage of the world's hungry people are women?
A. 40% B. 50% C. 60% D. 80%
8. Women grow 80% of the staple food in Africa. How much of the land do they own?
A. 1% B. 10% C. 40% D. 80%
9. How much of the world's food is wasted per year?
A. 1/10 B. 1/5 C. 1/3 D. 1/2

Food Quiz Answers: 5. A, 7. C, 8. A, 9. C (Source: CAFOD)

GREAT questions that make you think as an adult and yet these questions are on the 'kids' page – simply amazing!

Please participate in this year's Share Lent campaign.

Development & Peace – Share Lent Prayer Card
(Reprinted from Development & Peace website)

The richness of your harvest
Thank you for the smile of the child:
eyes bright, belly full, licking
the last caked crumbs from his spoon.
Thank you for the pride of the woman:
arms spread, palms stretched, heavy
with her first year's harvest.
Thank you for the joy of the man:
coming home to his family's future
with fair payment for his crops.
Thank you for the love
of the neighbour:
seeing another's need, sharing
from the little she owns.
Thank you for the hope that we share:
determination that all should enjoy
the richness of your harvest.
(Written by Amy Fox/CAFOD)

Education and Health

CAROL RICHER, CHAIRPERSON

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

..... through service to the people of God

As women of faith, we are all familiar with the story of someone dying that we might live.... in the context of our Faith, the ultimate gift! It would be impossible to count the number of people who have been and continue to be beneficiaries of that ultimate gift. This is our Faith, this is what we believe.

Although we know that being an organ donor can't possibly bestow the gift of life on anywhere near the number who have benefited from the sacrifice of the cross, we do know that up to eight lives can be saved by one organ donor.

In 2006 the national convention of The Catholic Women's League of Canada was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. My long-time friend and I had been planning for two years to attend the convention together, and as the time drew near, our excitement was growing. This was to be her first national convention. She had, however, been on a waiting list for a kidney transplant, and just weeks before the convention, a kidney became available and she successfully received her new kidney. We were all so happy that she had been given a new lease on life; our prayers had been answered. But we also knew in our hearts that someone had to die in order for her to receive that amazing gift, and many prayers were offered for the donor and his family. My friend, who lives in Nova Scotia, was able to join me for parts of that convention, and today, thanks to an organ donor, she is a healthy and active CWL member in her home parish.

I'm sure many of you share similar stories. We all recognize the importance of organ donations. But there is another way that we can help to save lives, *without having to die!*

Last year it was urged that the national council of the CWL acquire a national *Partners for Life* identification number through *Canadian Blood Services*. I recently received a communiqué from my national counterpart, Peggy Roach, which stated that The Catholic Women's League of Canada is now a proud supporter of this program. At the national executive meeting in November of 2013, a representative of *Canadian Blood Services* made a presentation on the *Partners for Life* Program, and kits were distributed to the national executive. I was given the kit at the winter Ontario Provincial Council meeting, and will share with you some of the information it contains.

Canadian Blood Services is a not-for-profit, charitable organization whose sole mission is to manage the blood and blood products supply for Canadians. To this

end, *Canadian Blood Services* collects approximately 900,000 units of blood annually and processes it into the components and products that are administered to thousands of patients each year. Every donor is screened, and each unit of blood or blood product collected is tested for a variety of transmissible diseases. They also manage the *One Match Stem Cell and Marrow Network*, whose mission is to secure, in an expeditious way, donors for Canadian bone marrow transplants and for patients abroad.

Partners for Life is a nationwide program, designed to encourage corporate and community organizations to commit to saving lives by donating blood as a team, to reach an annual "lifesaving goal". Joining *Partners for Life* means that you are committed to saving lives by donating blood as part of your team's 'quota'. It allows you to know that you are helping to save the lives of patients in need, and shows your commitment to being socially responsible.

Joining *Partners for Life* can help to increase the profile of the CWL nationally. Contributions are tracked, and regular reports recognize the organization's support. It can engage CWL members in a worthy cause that aligns with our values/objects ... making a difference, promoting the awareness of issues that affect all Canadians, and protecting the sanctity of human life.

Twenty four CWL groups already partner with *Canadian Blood Services*, by volunteering, sponsoring clinics and encouraging members to donate, and have been doing so for years. Two groups were already *Partners for Life* prior to the presentation to national council; Winnipeg and Prince George.

How can our members in Ontario get involved? It couldn't be easier! (1) Book an appointment to donate by calling 1 888 2 DONATE or visit www.blood.ca to find a clinic. (2) Register for *Partners for Life* at www.blood.ca/joinpartnersforlife. Complete the registration form (on line or at a clinic) using **the CWL's unique Partner ID Number CATH011269**.

Be sure to use the CWL's unique ID number. This will allow *Canadian Blood Services* to track your contribution and to recognize you and our group in various ways. Your friends and family members are also welcome to register using this unique ID number. Members throughout the province are strongly encouraged to get involved at the parish council level by assisting Canadian Blood Services in recruitment activities and/or increasing awareness for the cause.

The demand for blood is constant. Every minute of every day, someone in Canada needs blood. Cancer patients can use up to 8 units of blood every week during treatment. A victim of a motor vehicle collision can need up to 50 units of blood. We all know someone who has needed blood or blood products for surgery or medical treatments. *The good news is that one blood donation - in just one hour - can save a life.*

As members of the League, we are always seeking innovative ways of promoting social justice, of showing our spirit of caring and sharing. Partners for Life offers us a unique opportunity to fulfill our Mission Statement commitment of

'...service to the people of God'.

(Information in this article obtained from the Canadian Blood Services promotion package for 'Partners for Life')

Prayer for Catholic Education

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

Growing 
Together
in Faith

Legislation

Linda Squarzolo, Chairperson
Sub-chairperson: Theresa McGuire

The **Parliament of Canada** is modelled after that of Great Britain and has three components: the Sovereign (represented by the Governor General), the Senate and the House of Commons.

The monarch (king or queen) is the head of state. The **governor general** is the Queen Elizabeth's representative here in Canada. Each governor general is appointed for a term of five years.

The **Senate** is the upper house of the Parliament of Canada. It is referred to as the red chamber. The Senate is made up of 105 members. The senators are chosen by the prime minister, but the governor general summons and appoints them. Representation in the Senate is divided equally among four geographic area of the country (Ontario, Quebec, the Maritimes and the Western Provinces). When Newfoundland and Labrador joined Confederation they were given six seats. Each territory is represented by one senator.

A senator must be a minimum of 30 years of age, be a subject of the monarch, own property worth at least \$4,000 and own property in the province which he or she represents.

The **House of Commons** is the lower house and called the green chamber. It is a democratically elected body whose members are known as members of Parliament (MPs). The House of Commons is comprised of 308 members, who are elected by the voters. When the next election is held, this number will rise to 338. Each member represents a certain geographical area, called a riding. They hold office until the next election is held, usually up to four years.

Whichever party obtains the greatest number of seats, their leader becomes the Prime Minister. He chooses a cabinet, which is the executive of the government in power. They are responsible for the administration of the government and the establishment of policy.

In order for any bill to become law, it requires the approval of both the House of Commons and the Senate.

Christian Family Life

Marlin Taylor, Chairperson

Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak. It is useless for a man to flaunt his knowledge of the law if he undermines its teaching by his actions. - Saint Anthony of Padua (1195-1231) Doctor of the Church, Memorial Day June 13

As we journey through the season of Lent I want to Quote from the Lenten message of our Holy Father Francis 2014- *May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are "as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything" (2 Cor 6:10), sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy.*

Ministry to Elderly:

I want to provide seven steps that were taken from a Caregivers Ten Step Action Plan in A Guide to programs and Services for seniors in Ontario:

1. Start talking about what your family members want as they age. For example, if they want to stay in their own home, should they be looking at home renovations to make it easier to go up/down stairs?
2. Try to avoid making promises you may be unable to keep. If a spouse or parent asks you to promise never to put him or her in a nursing home, you may want to reply- I promise I will do the best I can and I promise I will always be here for you.
3. Understand the critical role of legal and financial planning. Learn where original documents are stored. Ensure individuals have prepared necessary documents such as wills, advance directives and powers of attorney.
4. Ask questions about the health care system. Learn about what alternative accommodations exist
5. Be aware of losses your loved one may have to deal with so you can be prepared to better cope with them:
 - Incontinence
 - Memory loss
 - Wandering concerns
 - Inability to recognize you or other loved ones.

6. Talk within the family about how you plan to divide responsibility for your loved one's care and well-being.

7. Appreciate what you can gain from caregiving:

- A new relationship
- New skills
- Increased compassion, growth
- New friendships
- The building of memories

To make it easier for seniors, their families and caregivers to get information about different services and programs refer to:

"A guide to programs and services for seniors in Ontario- Seniors' INFO line: 1-888-910-1999"

COLF has said it nicely: Let's Build a Better World together.



**ST.SIMON & ST. JUDE, BELLE RIVER**

New Members	10 Years of Service	25 Years of Service
Denise Deimling	Madeleine Barrette	Linda Belland
Sonya De Rose	Beverly Booker	Denise Cecile
Angela Dufault	Louise Catton	Catherine De Clark
Josie Gagnier	Marcella Caza	Mary Ann Grant
Marion Gauthier	Carmel Chauvin	Rosella Pinsonneault
Jo-Ann Hennin	Betty Ann Kelly	Helen Strong
Janine Le Blanc	Linda Larocque	
Martha Massender	Catherine St. Pierre	
Liz Meloche	Geraldine St. Pierre	
Annette Poisson	Doreen Snyder	
Eleanor Sylvestre		

40 Years of Service

Linda Lee Cassidy
Bernadette Lanoue
Jeanne Lauzon
Connie Luhowy
Patricia Preston

Special congratulations to **Rita Crosby**
celebrating 50 years of service.

Holy Name of Jesus council in North Bay had their 60th CWL anniversary on February 3, 2014. This special occasion will be celebrated on May 3, 2014 with a dinner. Past presidents, past executives, past spiritual advisors and Bishop Plouffe have been invited to this special occasion.

Awards**Celebrations****Special Events**

St. Kevin's Council from Sault St. Marie Diocese is celebrating 50 years.

25 Years of Service	40 Years of Service
Diane Gallagher Carmen Lehto Marie Vautour	Suzanne Beaudry Joan Gunville Nancy Shank
Special congratulations to Lou Burns celebrating 50 years of service.	

St. Mark's council in Prescott, Ontario celebrated their 85th Anniversary.

New Members	10 Years of Service	25 Years of Service	40 Years of Service
Edith Batstone Ann Norton	Laura Bradley Shannon Jones Eileen Kearns Kim Lawrence	Muriel Franklin Marie Lambert Laura Lee Scott Alanna Whelan	Glenna Bonneau Ann Davy Peggy Israel Anna Linnen Evelyn Mallett
Special congratulations to Rosita McDonald and Regina Wert celebrating 50 years of service.		Special congratulations to Joan Fortier and Reta Gannon celebrating 50 years of service.	

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Subscription deadline date is August 6 2014 to receive the spring issue