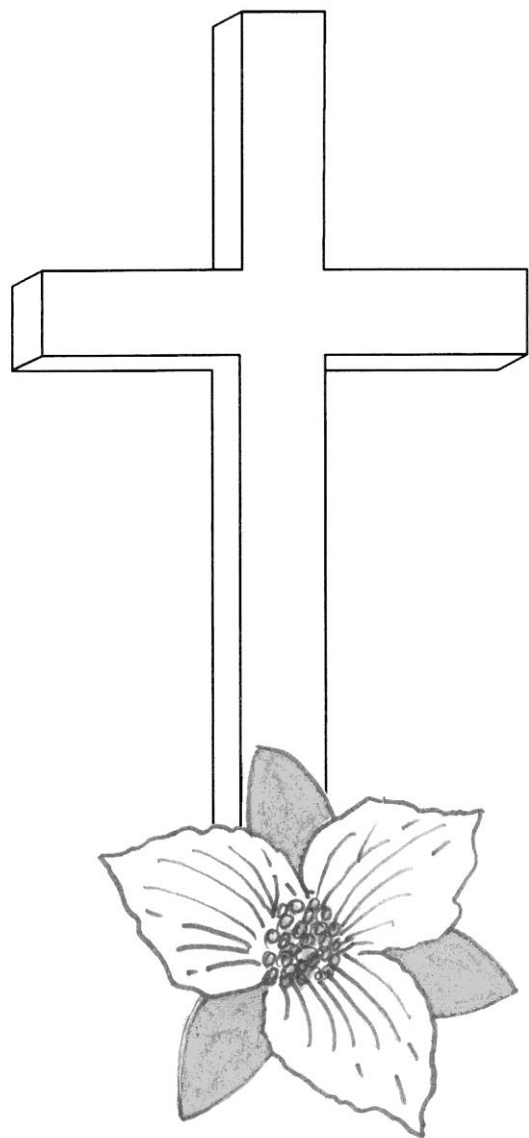


TRILLIUM

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 2015

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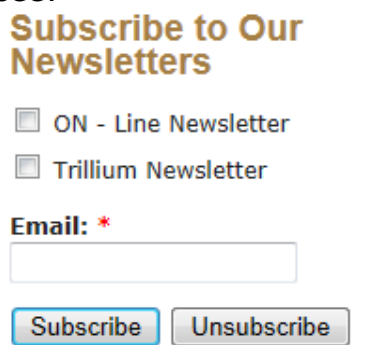
Editor's Notes:

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 St. Catharines diocese, from **July 4-8 2015**, in Niagara Falls. Registration **deadline is June 8th**. 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.

There are two ways to subscribe to the Trillium newsletter:
To receive notice of the electronic copy of the Trillium, go to the homepage of the Ontario website and you will see:



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

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

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

This is my last issue as the editor of this newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience and thank all of you for your contributions and support.

Margaret

Ontario Provincial President

Betty Colaneri

"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jer. 29:11



My dear sisters in the League,

We began the New Year as we do every New Year, reflecting on the past and looking ahead for a renewed promise. We ask God to refresh us and to give us a new vision for the year ahead with all its uncertainties and changes. We embraced a new theme, *"One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"*. It is the perfect transition from *"We Have Seen the Lord"*. With all the amazing experiences we have had that enabled us to see the Lord in others, the time has come to go out and profess it to all we personally encounter. Mary had the famous encounter with Elizabeth because of her sense of compassion for her cousin. That same compassion is what fuels our desire to go out and seek those in need. The reason we help the homeless. Not only do we feel with our hearts, we think with our hearts and we answer with compassion. One heart with faith as our foundation and source of strength. We benefit from our love of the League and the sisterhood that is forged in friendship and faith.

We are the voices from all across Canada that form one voice speaking out for the marginalized. A voice for the voiceless. One voice, speaking out against the recent legislation on physician assisted suicide and the Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

Jesus sent out His disciples two by two knowing that, we as humans, could not do it alone. We need to rely on each other for support and encouragement in the face of adversity. Our beliefs are one and we educate ourselves to be prepared for our mission. One mission working toward a future that will create the best atmosphere for our families and support the hopes and dreams of our children.

Another change this year has been made is on the provincial executive. We are pleased to announce that the position of "Corresponding Secretary" has been renamed "Administrative Assistant". We felt that the position was understated because her work behind the scenes, and especially at the executive meetings, far exceeds correspondence. As the president's right hand woman, her assistance is invaluable. Our Manual of Policy and Procedure has been revised to reflect the change and we ask that you refer to the position as Administrative Assistant from now on.

The future looks promising with the endorsement from the Holy Father. "a topic close to my heart. And that he fully recognized the need to study "criteria and new methods in order that women may not feel like guests but full participants in the various spheres of society and church life. I am convinced that it is urgent to offer places to women in the life of the church and to welcome them, bearing in mind the particular and transformed cultural and social sensitivities." Pope Francis also stated: "You women know how to embody the tender face of God, His mercy, which is translated into a willingness to give time rather than to

occupy space, to welcome rather than to exclude. In this sense I like to describe the feminine dimension of the church as the welcoming womb that regenerates life.”

How can we not become extremely excited being called to be part of the life of the church and society as a whole! In light of recent developments, we need to keep up to date with the new curriculum and the legislation regarding physician assisted suicide and do whatever we can. Above all, we need to have a fervent prayer life to give us the strength to do all we do. Just like the rainbow that follows the rain, spring that follows winter, Easter that follows Lent. It is our faith that gives us the grace to know we will rise from the ashes.

As I put this submission together, I find it hard to believe that this is will be my last Trillium News and Views article as your president. It has been such an incredible journey on many levels along with the opportunity of meeting wonderful people from across Canada including sisters in the League, lay ministers and distinguished religious. I am sincerely grateful to the national executive and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, especially Cardinal Collins, for their guidance, encouragement and direction. It has been a privilege to work with all the provincial presidents from across Canada that brought pride for their provinces and faith in the League to every meeting with such dedication.

I have had the good fortune to work with an awesome provincial executive! They have given of their time and talents to serve the provincial council with such commitment and devotion. I am in awe of all they have done over the past two years. We have become “storm sisters” by weathering it all.

There are no words that could adequately express my gratitude to all the members of Ontario for gifting me with the privilege and honour of serving you and representing you at the national table. I carried the members from across Ontario with me wherever I went with great pride.

I am eternally grateful for this amazing opportunity to learn so many things, grow in many ways, a sisterhood to treasure, developing new friendships and creating memories I will always cherish. It is my hope that you will look back on my term as president with fondness and feel that I served the members with passion.

Rest assured of my continued prayers for our council and all members across Canada.

May you and your families share an Easter filled with blessings and joy of the Risen Lord.

Women of faith – Women of Action



Spiritual Advisor

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

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

There is a story told about an inebriated man who was coming home early one Sunday morning after a night of drinking and he stumbled upon a group of Christians on the riverbank having a baptismal ceremony. He ended up walking into the river and the minister grabbed him and held him under the water and, after a few seconds, raised him up and asked, "Have you found Jesus?" The man was too shocked to answer. On the third dunk he was asked again, "have you found Jesus?" The man responded, "are you sure this is where he fell in?" On the morning of the Resurrection, many came to the tomb but could not find Jesus, including Mary Magdalene. We are told that she was weeping at his tomb when He appeared to her. She presumed that Jesus was the gardener because she did not recognize Him. It was not until He called her by name, "Mary", that she realized it was the Risen Lord. She was so filled with joy that she had to share the news. Mary went to the disciples and said, "I have seen the Lord." It is no coincidence that a woman who deeply loved the Lord was the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus.

On the day of our baptism our name was pronounced with the words, "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." We became a new creation in Christ and became members of His Body. We began an incredible journey of discovery as the Lord continues to call us by name to a deeper and more profound relationship with Him. At times our lives can become so complicated that the distractions prevent us from focusing on this great gift. We begin to experience the "empty tomb" rather than the Risen Lord. Mary Magdalene certainly realized this in her experience as she moved from tears of sorrow to tears of joy when she recognized the Lord. There is another woman who can also help us to recognize Christ, especially when we feel weighed down by life. When it seems dark and we are lost, Mary, the Mother of God can help us to find her Son.

Our Blessed Mother Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego at Guadalupe in Mexico in 1531 and spoke these words to him: "Listen, put it into your heart my dearest son, that the thing that disturbs you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing. Do not let your countenance, your heart be disturbed. Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you." These beautiful words of comfort that Mary addressed to St. Juan Diego she also says to each one of us. She wants us to let go of our fear and concerns so that, as a loving and caring mother, she can lead us to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As your spiritual advisor I have had the privilege of working with many women who have helped me to find Christ. It has been a joy and privilege to work with the members of the Catholic Women's League of Ontario, especially with your wonderful Executive. I have experienced the Risen Lord in so many wonderful ways and I am most grateful. I pray that Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel will continue to inspire you and that more women will join you and find Jesus Christ!

May God bless you and The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

Spiritual Development Committee

Anne Madden, Chairperson
Sub-chairperson: Glenda Klein

Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:14)

Decalogue of Assisi for Peace

The Assisi Decalogue for Peace was introduced by Pope John Paul II following the Day of Prayer for Peace in the world that took place on February 2002. The ten propositions that follow were meant to inspire the political and social action of nations to work for peace and quest for the progress of the whole human family. The religious men and women who came together from these nations were motivated by a common conviction: humanity must choose between love and hatred.

1. We commit ourselves to proclaiming our firm conviction that violence and terrorism are incompatible with the authentic spirit of religion, and, as we condemn every recourse to violence and war in the name of God or of religion, we commit ourselves to doing everything possible to eliminate the root causes of terrorism.
2. We commit ourselves to educating people to mutual respect and esteem, in order to help bring about a peaceful and fraternal coexistence between people of different ethnic groups, cultures and religions.
3. We commit ourselves to fostering the culture of dialogue, so that there will be an increase of understanding and mutual trust between individuals and among peoples, for these are the premise of authentic peace.
4. We commit ourselves to defending the right of everyone to live a decent life in accordance with their own cultural identity, and to form freely a family of his own.
5. We commit ourselves to frank and patient dialogue, refusing to consider our differences as an insurmountable barrier, but recognizing instead that to encounter the diversity of others can become an opportunity for greater reciprocal understanding.
6. We commit ourselves to forgiving one another for past and present errors and prejudices, and to supporting one another in a common effort both to overcome selfishness and arrogance, hatred and violence, and to learn from the past that peace without justice is no true peace.
7. We commit ourselves to taking the side of the poor and the helpless, to speaking out for those who have no voice and to working effectively to change these situations, out of the conviction that no one can be happy alone.

8. We commit ourselves to taking up the cry of those who refuse to be resigned to violence and evil, and we desire to make every effort possible to offer the men and women of our time real hope for justice and peace.
9. We commit ourselves to encouraging all efforts to promote friendship between peoples, for we are convinced that, in the absence of solidarity and understanding between peoples, technological progress exposes the world to a growing risk of destruction and death.
10. We commit ourselves to urging leaders of nations to make every effort to create and consolidate, on the national and international levels, a world of solidarity and peace based on justice.

Peace is a gift that we should cherish and nurture; these ten propositions will hopefully ignite each of us to act the way they are leading us.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me...



Organization Committee

Pauline Krupa, Chairperson

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

Pondering (co-authored with Joleene Kemp)

Last year my own parish council celebrated its 25th anniversary. Being a chartered member, I have twenty – five years “under my belt”. Recently our provincial executive discussed the feelings members are expressing concerning the flood of information and expected action that seems to be required by each and every standing committee. Over the past week I have pondered this very thing.

Twenty-five years ago we watched a documentary on any number of world events ... a production put together after the fact. Today we watch those same events as they happen. Twenty-five years ago we received letters in the mail to keep us up to date with family affairs. Today we receive text messages almost hourly. Twenty-five years ago directives came to us in the mail once every few months. Generally it was one or two pages to read ... a few ideas to consider for just one standing committee. Fast-forward to 2015 and we are seemingly being buried in paper work thanks to the advances in technology and the information highway.

Many of us are in the generation of accepting technology but not fully embracing it so it is our task then to use it at our comfort level with enough forward thinking to realize that others use it to a much greater extent. Start by filtering things as they come your way. Don't get caught up thinking you have to check emails hourly.....pick a time once a day or once every two days. Choose a time frame to go through your emails. From the subject line decide which are most important. Deal with those first. Think of it along the lines of reading a newspaper. You first go to the parts that interest / concern you most and then scan the rest of the paper to see if something catches your eye. Find a balance that works for you. Membership in the League is more than keeping up with the information flow ... that is only one small part. Perhaps this is why membership is declining... we need to get back to a time when our spirituality, sisterhood and good works defined us as the special women that we are...The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Think about these questions...

1. Why did I join the League?
2. Why do I renew my membership each year?
3. If I wanted to encourage my daughter, daughter in law, niece, cousin, sister, sister in law, friend, new parishioner to join or remain a member what would I say and what would I do?
4. Am I part of the solution or a stumbling block?

Is there something to be said for simplicity, compassion, passion?Are we...**One heart...One voice...One mission....**

Communications Committee

Colleen Randall, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Margaret McAllister, Heather Sisk

Recently the head of Vatican communications issued a statement saying that communication begins in the womb. We hear the heartbeat and voice of our mother and others around us. In today's society we are bombarded with social media and often overwhelmed by the ability to instantly be aware of what is going on in the world. Getting back to the basis of communication is not easy. How often do we sit quietly and listen to our children or grandchildren play? How often do we look out the window and just enjoy the sheer pleasure of God's creations in nature? How often do we take the time to truly place ourselves in solitude to greet God in prayer and thanksgiving for being alive? This is the true basis for communication - listening for the presence of God and being present to accept His plan for our lives.

Remember to smile and say hello to everyone. You may be the only example of Jesus that people see. Make certain there is no mistaking His joy. When they respond, look them in the eye, not above their heads. You want to make each interaction one that leaves that person feeling like they are special - like their presence in your life, no matter how small, is important. I can imagine that a personal encounter with Jesus would have felt that way.

On February 12, 2015, while attending my own parish council meeting, I overheard a 45 year member tell the lady next to her of a recent experience she had. While sitting in her church one Sunday (her parish does not have a CWL) a lady noticed her pin and leaned over to her asking "What does the CWL do besides fundraising and bake sales?" Kay was a little taken aback when she struggled for an answer. What **do** we do besides fundraising and bake sales???

The parish council meeting that night had been busy. We have a new executive so the reports were lively and informative. There were arrangements being made to assist the Sacramental team with first communion enrollments and the confirmation retreat. There was discussion of setting up a visiting team to nursing homes in the parish sighting that it was a long cold winter and the residents who attend monthly mass at the homes are asking for more. They crave company and a smile and a listening ear. Because we do not have a resolutions or legislation chair, discussion got around to what was entailed in that standing committee and the work done at provincial and national levels with the provincial and federal governments.

When the meeting was coming to an end I asked the member who had struggled for an answer to the "What does the CWL do?" question if she had found an answer. She agreed that the meeting was a great example of what we do and who we are as Catholic women. She would not struggle again for the answer. We must all remember that we are practicing Catholic women who are members of a Catholic organization whose mission statement is "... rooted in gospel values. Calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God." It really isn't what we do... it is who we are.

Resolutions Committee

Rosanne Sogan, Chairperson

Sub-chairpersons: Donna Provost & Wilma Vanderzwaag

*"Social justice cannot be attained by violence.
Violence kills what it intends to create."*

St. John Paul II

At this time of the year those councils who have been diligently working on a resolution or perhaps 2 (nothing wrong with wishful thinking) should be carefully crossing the "T's" and dotting the "i's". Please make sure that the resolution is ready to be presented to your councils at your diocesan conventions.

Ensure that the "Whereas" clauses are: worded positively; based on documented, accurate facts (these facts must be clearly found in your brief and in your cited material); clear and concise.

Equally as important is guaranteeing that the bridging clause(s), the "Resolved," clauses are properly forwarded to its destination (the next level of The League and if being directed to the government at which level). Please remember that action is not taken until the resolution is adopted at the level to which it is destined.

In your Brief remember the following:

- the opening paragraph must contain a statement about the issue and may include the specific action requested in the resolved clause;
- the body of the brief should reinforce the reasons for the resolution. The most important reasons are expanded upon in the same order of presentation as in the "whereas" clauses. Other less significant reasons may be added;
- the closing paragraph must summarize and emphasize the validity of the issue.

Other important considerations for writing the brief include:

- using relevant and current facts from reliable sources
- using quotations to support a statement only when the source is cited in the brief and identify by using parenthetical referencing
- developing the facts and reasoning logically
- avoiding the promotion of assumptions as if they were facts
- maintaining a dignified tone
- ensuring spelling and grammatical accuracy
- limiting the size of the brief to one page or less.

Your cited reference material should be in proper alphabetical order and correctly notated. There are 2 examples below for you to use.

Assembly of First Nations. The \$9 Billion Myth Exposed: Why First Nations Poverty Endures. Publication. Ottawa: < <http://www.crr.ca/divers-files/en/publications/reports/diversReports/mythExposed.pdf>>

Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates. Aboriginal Children and Youth in Canada: Canada Must Do Better. Recommendations for Action. June 23, 2010.

To those dioceses that do not have a resolution to present this year take the next few months as an opportunity to research ideas and think of topics that may warrant a resolution. Your deadline to submit a title next December will be here before you know it.

I wish each of you great success in your efforts to successfully pass your proposed resolutions at your own level and I look forward to receiving them to present at the provincial convention in July.

May Our Lady of Good Council continue to guide you in all you do for God, Canada and The Catholic Women's League of Canada.



Recording Secretary

Patricia M. Rivest

Blessed Mother Teresa said, “*To keep a lamp burning, we must keep putting oil in it*”.

Have you thought of yourself as a lamp? A lamp shines, illuminates, enlightens, shows the way, glows softly or burns brightly.

Women illuminate the world with their beauty, creativity, intelligence, patience, kindness and wisdom. Their eyes sparkle when talking and laughing with family and friends. Their smiles radiate warmth and comfort when helping others. And, their faces beam when engaged in meaningful work. Women are lamps for one another – to support, to encourage, to love, to care, to counsel, to be a friend and to be of service to those in need.

But to keep our lamps burning, who will fill our lamps? Who will be the keeper of our flame?

We must be the keepers of our own flame. We need to fill our own lamps - first not last. We must commit to our own well-being and self-care – lest our flame flickers and goes out.

To be the oil in our lamps, we need to take time to rest, recoup, relax, regroup, regenerate, spend time in prayer, listen to the Holy Spirit within, look at the beauty of God's creation, smile, laugh, spend time with family and friends and feel the joy in our lives. Take time to fill our lamps. The world needs our flames, but we need to oil our lamps.



Administrative Assistant

Jeannie Coleman

Our National Policy and Procedures Manual reads, "Members may wear more than one pin at any given time but good taste and discretion on the part of the member should prevail." We belong to the largest organization of Catholic Women in Canada and to be able to say that and have the pin to prove it is an honour. So ladies wear your pin and be proud of what it stands for and be ready to talk about The Catholic Women's League when someone walks up to you and says, "what is your pin all about?" It is very important that we all wear our Catholic Women's League pin with pride. Remember, the little pin that was given to you when you joined the League or that anniversary pin marking your 10, 25, 40, 50, 60 or 75 years a member are blessed so please treat them with respect.

I would like to share a little poem with you that was given to me a long time ago and many times I have given it to a sister in the league that had forgotten her pin at a Catholic Women's League function but of course I would also pass her a booster button for the C.W.L. and a request for a donation to a good cause. Some people call it a fine.



PIN POEM
(By Glenda Klein)

This pin is shining so bright
'Cause you reflect Jesus' light
You have worked with all your might
Long hours into the night.

This service pin which you wear
Makes others much more aware
Of God's Good News that you bear
To show all others that you care.

We give you this pin today
'Cause in your own special way
You've answered God's call to pray
With League sisters here and away.

Treasurer
Lucy Hendrikx

"One Heart
One Voice
One Mission"

Once again we have entered the Lenten season in preparation of Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we seek to break free of our tie to worldly things and strive to grow ever closer in our relationship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ. In this way we will be ready to receive Him on Easter Sunday and bring his message of salvation to the world. 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 cwl.on.ca and give it to them. The deadline for application to the Bishop Pappin Bursary is Jan. 31st of each year.

I would like to draw your attention is the Provincial Development Fund. You may not realize National has a Development Fund too. 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 cwl.on.ca. Both these funds are setup 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

The joyful heart always grows in freedom.

A Year With Pope Francis – Daily reflections

As I write this article, I am in “election mode” preparing for the provincial election in July. I am also aware of elections taking place in 9 out of the 13 diocesan councils in Ontario. Although many of us have experienced a very cold winter, we look to the joy that spring brings which is a time for change. Elections bring that opportunity. I pray and invite all members to pray for the councils holding elections that they will experience renewal and growth.

Annual report time has provided me the opportunity to read the reports from diocesan past presidents. Reports reflect how past presidents have served as mentors, promoted the understanding of the revised *Constitution & Bylaws* 2013 and maintained the archives and history of the League in their dioceses.

My service to the League on the provincial council is very soon ending and I have had many opportunities recently to reflect upon this part of my League journey. To meet and serve with so many like-minded and faith-filled women has been truly the most joyful, wonderful and humbling experience...one for which I am eternally grateful.

A few parting tips for past presidents at every level:

- Promote renewal every two years: encourage women to stand for office by “being there” for them when they courageously step up to the plate.
 - Know that you are not only a mentor...but you are a role model. Treat members with kindness and to quote National President Barbara Dowding, “let your light shine so that others will want to follow in your footsteps!”
 - Celebrate accomplishments! Get your successes onto the provincial and national websites. Toot your horn!
 - Ensure archives are up to date and stored safely in a central location and not in homes and basements!
 - Promote membership in every way you can. Be creative! Think outside the box!
- One Heart* calls us to welcome and accept all women.
One Voice calls us to be together and in unity.
One Mission calls us to service.

As a League member, we joyfully accept that God’s presence blesses us every day. Through our efforts, prayer and sharing of our God given gifts we are always blessed with joy filled moments. As the prayer of St. Francis says “*for it is in giving that we receive.*”

The League has been a precious gift in my life and my prayer is that more women will see that the benefits of the League are eternal! Together, we need to make this happen!

Community Life

Mary Jane Yaeger, Chairperson

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

Submitted by Suzanne Mullins, Committee Sub-Chairperson

SUPREME COURT REVERSES DECISION

It is appropriate that we emphasize the need to respect the dignity and rights of persons in light of the recent decision of the government physically assisted suicide. It is challenging us as Catholics to stand by what our church teachings have called us to do. Watch carefully as decisions are made regarding this policy. Remember that our new theme requires us to be united in One Heart, One Voice and One Mission.

Bishop Paul-Andre Durocher, President of the CCCB in a recent statement emphasizes our need to provide support for all those suffering. He encourages us to entreat our government to provide good, quality palliative care and home care. He asks that the government and health care workers and associations implement policies and guidelines that respect freedom of conscience of health-care workers and administrators not to accept suicide as a solution.

Submitted by Linda Marie O'Hagan, Committee Sub-Chairperson

Pope Francis Recognizes Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero as A Martyr (February 4, 2015)



Pope Francis announced that Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero would be recognized as a martyr, assassinated for the Catholic faith. The declaration of martyrdom was announced in a "Promulgation of Decrees of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints", which stated that the archbishop was killed *in odium fidei*, Latin for "in hatred of the faith."

The initial controversy surrounding Romero's sainthood stemmed over doubts as to whether Romero was killed for political reasons in his efforts to support the poor, rather than for his faith. Romero was known for taking a political position against the Salvadoran government's policies of oppression and violations of human rights. From 1977 until his death, he spoke out against these abuses and defended the country's poor and oppressed.

Normally beatification requires that the deceased has performed a miracle during their lifetime, however, if the person is recognized as a martyr, then this requirement no longer needs to be met.

The Vatican has not yet announced the date for the beatification (the last step before sainthood); however more information is expected to be released in the coming weeks. "Development and Peace partners in the region often refer to Mgr. Romero as an inspiration in their work with the excluded and the victims of all forms of social and political violence. They will surely welcome the news as we do," says Josianne Gauthier, director of Development and Peace In-Canada Programs.

The following are some of the links received from Linda Marie O'Hagan for Development and Peace.

We published a new blog post by St phane Vinhas, Emergencies Program Officer for Sahel, who went to Mali and Niger in December:

<https://www.devp.org/en/blog/contributing-food-security-sahel-improving-income>.

Here is the video for this year's campaign from Archbishop Durocher:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEaCdkFZurw>

Here is an update on the situation in Sierra Leone published by Cynthia D'Cruz:
[Good governance key to fighting Ebola in Sierra Leone](#)

Walk With Me Canada Victim Services

Ms. Timea Eva Nagy was born in Budapest, Hungary and is the daughter of a local police woman. Ms. Nagy is not only a survivor of Human Trafficking but also a speaker and social advocate on behalf of human trafficking victims worldwide. Ms. Nagy's sex slave nightmare took place over 14 years ago when she immigrated to Canada in the hopes of fulfilling a summer position as a housekeeper or nanny and earning a little extra income. Upon arrival she was kidnapped, controlled, and kept under horrible conditions and was forced to work in the sex trade in Toronto and surrounding areas for 3 months until one day she miraculously escaped her captors. (Taken from Walk With Me Canada website)

Founder of Walk With Me

As a result of her experiences, Ms. Nagy has founded the independent organization known as Walk With Me. Walk With Me is a community based organization established by a survivor of human trafficking to rescue and restore the dignity, freedom and well-being of human trafficked victims, by providing distinctive, coordinated and comprehensive immediate victim services in Ontario. Within the last 2 years alone her organization has assisted over 280 victims of human trafficking and continues to assist these victims as well as new ones every day. (Taken from Walk With Me Canada website)

Ms. Nagy can be contacted at www.timeaenagy.com and would be happy to come and speak to your council.

Donations are welcome and may include:

Tim Horton's gift cards, Gas gift cards, Grocery food gift cards, Walmart gift cards and unlocked used Cell Phones. Currently they are able to accept non receivable cash or check donations while in process of getting their Charity Status. Checks can be mailed to: *Walk With Me Canada Victim Services, 128. Hughson St. North, Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 1G6*

National Aboriginal Day – June 21 – Share in the Celebration!



On June 21st, Canadians from all walks of life are invited to participate in the many National Aboriginal Day events that will be taking place from coast to coast to coast. This is a special day to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.

National Aboriginal Day celebrations began in 1996, when it was proclaimed a national celebration by then Governor General Roméo LeBlanc. In 2010, June was proclaimed as National Aboriginal History Month when Parliament unanimously passed a motion to make June a month of recognition for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

June 21st is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations, Aboriginal people have celebrated their culture and heritage on or around this day. Today, all Canadians can celebrate National Aboriginal Day and foster a greater knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal cultures, traditions and contributions to Canada. The longest day of the year means it is the longest one-day celebration of the year. Join in! Visit nad.gc.ca to learn how you can participate or post your event



TAKE TIME

TAKE TIME to think –
It is the source of power.
Take time to read –
It is the foundation of wisdom.

TAKE TIME to play –
It is the secret of staying young.
Take time to be quiet –
It is the moment to seek God.

TAKE TIME to be aware –
It is the opportunity to help others.
Take time to love and be loved –
It is God's greatest gift.

TAKE TIME to laugh –
It is the music of the soul.
Take time to be friendly –
It is the road to happiness.

TAKE TIME to dream –
It is what the future is made of.
Take time to Pray –
It is the greatest power on earth.

Submitted by Jeannie Coleman
(Author unknown)



Education and Health

CAROL RICHER, CHAIRPERSON

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

Lord help me to stay on top of my spiritual, as well as physical wellbeing.

SEVEN DIMENSIONS OF WELLNESS

Wellness is much more than merely physical health, exercise or nutrition. It is the full integration of social, emotional, spiritual, environmental, occupational, intellectual and physical wellness. Each of these seven dimensions act and interact in a way that contributes to our own quality of life.

Social Wellness is the ability to relate to and connect with other people in our world. Our ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with family, friends and co-workers contributes to our Social Wellness.

Emotional Wellness is the ability to understand ourselves and cope with the challenges life can bring. The ability to acknowledge and share feelings of anger, fear, sadness or stress; hope, love, joy and happiness in a productive manner contributes to our Emotional Wellness.

Spiritual Wellness is the ability to establish peace and harmony in our lives. The ability to develop harmony between values and actions and to realize a common purpose that binds creation together contributes to our Spiritual Wellness.

Environmental Wellness is the ability to recognize our own responsibility for the quality of the air, the water and the land that surrounds us. The ability to make a positive impact on the quality of our environment is it our homes, our communities or our planet contributes to our Environmental Wellness.

Occupational Wellness is the ability to get personal fulfillment from our jobs or our chosen career fields while still maintaining balance in our lives. Our desire to contribute in our careers to make a positive impact on the organizations we work in and to society as a whole leads to Occupational Wellness.

Intellectual Wellness is the ability to open our minds to new ideas and experiences that can be applied to personal decisions, group interaction and community betterment. The desire to learn new concepts, improve skills and seek challenges in pursuit of lifelong learning contributes to our Intellectual Wellness.

Physical Wellness is the ability to maintain a healthy quality of life that allows us to get through our daily activities without undue fatigue or physical stress. The ability to recognize that our behaviors have a significant impact on our wellness and adopting healthful habits (routine checkups, a balanced diet, exercise, etc.) while avoiding destructive habits (tobacco, drugs, alcohol, etc.) will lead to optimal Physical Wellness.

(The above information is taken from the University of California Riverside website)

We are all familiar with the many dimensions of wellness. But in our rush to be well in some areas, we often neglect to recognize just how important genetics and environment are to our overall wellbeing, a fact that was made evident by the lack of reporting in these areas in the recently submitted Annual Reports.

Genetics research is one of rapid advances, often controversial, confusing and frightening. It has even been said that it is all about designer babies and doctors 'playing God'. However, in the past few decades the science of genetics has transformed medicine and revolutionized the approach to disease prevention, diagnosis, therapy and cure.

While there is much good resulting from genetic research, there is a big difference between gene therapy and genetic enhancement, which seeks to change the very nature of man; to make him 'super human'. It is important that we understand the difference between the two. Gene therapy is a moral good, while genetic enhancement is morally troubled. Catholics must make a distinction between the two, so that we can reap the rewards of genetic research while rejecting the push to fundamentally change humanity.

We must also be aware of ethical concerns regarding the genetic modification of foods... their potential to trigger allergies and disease in humans ... damage to the environment ... cross pollination ... risks to the food web and to animals. Here again, benefits must be weighed against risks. We have a moral obligation to educate ourselves so that we can make wise, informed choices ... choices based not only on how things affect us personally, but also based on the impact they will have on the poor, on people in third world countries... morally sound choices based on our Catholic teachings.

How much consideration do we give to how our choices affect the earth's well-being, and the impact we and our families make on the environment? Every choice we make on a daily basis has a consequence for the environment, which directly affects our health and that of our children, our quality of life, the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Our earth is a fragile planet, with limited resources. As we continue to strip it of its natural resources by over-consumption, as we pollute the air, our water supplies and the foods we consume, our natural environment becomes unbalanced and unsustainable. As citizens of the world each of us is responsible for the health of our planet. It's our earth... if we don't look after it, who will?

Since his election as Pope, and the announcement that he had chosen the name Francis, we have all been aware of Pope Francis' concern for the **environment**. He continues to push for Christians to do more ... "A Christian who does not protect creation, who does not let it grow, is a Christian who does not care about the work of God; that work was born from the love of God for us" he says. He reminds us that it is our duty to "protect creation, make it grow".

We should pray for Pope Francis and his advisers as we await his encyclical on environmental degradation and its effects on millions of people. This document is expected to give us much to think about, and will no doubt resonate right through Christianity, encouraging us to work for changes that are much needed to guard the sanctity of God's creation, ensuring environmental wellness for generations to come.

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it are his". (Psalm 24:1)



Legislation

Linda Squarzolo, Chairperson
Sub-chairperson: Theresa McGuire

February 8th was the feast day for St. Josephine Bakhita. As a child she was sold into slavery and endured untold hardships and suffering. She found redemption in her encounter with Christ and His Church.

Pope Francis has asked for a special day of prayer to end human trafficking. He declared this past February 8th as the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness to end the crime against the rights and dignity of the human person. He believes that the only way to eradicate human trafficking is through prayer and awareness on a global scale.

Millions of men, women and children, and in all countries, are forced into slavery. Traffickers lure their victims with false promises of jobs, education or economic security. The victims, once caught, are then kept from getting help by threats of violence against them or their family, holding onto their identification and subjecting them various forms of abuse. They are manipulated, intimidated, threatened and beaten. Many are forced into debt bondage and drug addiction. It becomes very difficult for them to escape. Many don't leave because they have no place to go.

The principles of Catholic social teaching include the sacredness and dignity of human life. We must pray for those who are suffering from this evil and be moved to learn more about what can be done to eradicate this crime.

In 2012 Canada established a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. The Criminal Code of Canada addresses penalties for those convicted of this crime. However, there is little coordination between communities. Forced labour is more prevalent in Ontario and Alberta than in other provinces. Survivors need support and protection. There needs to be a coordination of services for them. Letters can be written to Honourable Peter MacKay Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to ask to provide additional information, resources and assistance to those, of all ages, affected by human trafficking.

Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery;
Intercede with God on their behalf
So that they will be released from their chains of captivity
Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery
And let them look to you as an example of hope and faith.
Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.
We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.

www.usccb.org/stopslavery



Christian Family Life

Marlin Taylor, Chairperson

"We are called to acknowledge how beautiful, true and good it is to start a family, to be a family today... We are called to make known God's magnificent plan for the family...as we accompany them amidst so many difficulties." - Pope Francis, February 20, 2014

Ministry to our seniors

Have you ever thought of how you would cope if you couldn't do the normal things that you do from the time you rise in the morning until you retire at night?

Earlier this year I had surgery on my right wrist for carpal tunnel. I hadn't given much thought to the mobility of my hand post-surgery so I received quite a shock when I realized that I did not have the use of my hand. The functionality of my right hand was almost non-existent. My palm was bandaged and my hand wrapped in gauze, and for five days my arm was to be held upright in a sling. What can a person do with only one hand, and that hand not being the dominant one?

Ordinary daily activities became next to impossible without assistance. I wasn't able to do the simplest of tasks. I had a difficult time dressing myself and needed help. Bathing was difficult. I couldn't wash my hair. I couldn't cut the food on my plate. Buttering a slice of toast with one hand was impossible. Opening any kind of jar, container, or pill bottle was exasperating. I was fortunate to have my husband help me through the first few weeks of healing while I slowly regained strength and the use of my hand.

I had never been in a position of being so helpless; having so many restrictions on daily activities of life.

When I was in my "anguish" having a problem surrendering to the fact that simple tasks were temporarily beyond my capability, my thoughts went back to my mother and how dependent she had been on everyone in her elderly years. The manor became her home when she broke her hip. Shortly afterwards, her leg needed to be amputated, which then confined her to a wheelchair. Added to this was arthritis in her hands which made many things difficult or impossible for her. My temporary restrictions had been permanent restrictions for mom. Compassion suddenly welled up inside me and escaped through tears.

My "ah ha" moment shone a light once again on the circumstances many of our elderly members are dealing with. They are living with their own forms of "anguish" every day. They courageously surrender their independence through no choice of their own, and place their trust in the goodness of others. How many of our seniors are in nursing homes, manors, or are shut-ins at home who can no longer care for themselves as they once did. Have we forgotten about them? It wasn't that long ago when they were actively involved with meetings, voicing their concerns with social justice issues, and organizing bazaars and socials.

Our elderly members are part of our spiritual family and need our love, support and caring. If we aren't already doing this, let's begin to visit our seniors on a regular basis and offer ourselves to them wherever their needs lie, whether it be taking them to Mass, **praying with them**, helping them with meals, playing cards, reading to them, shoveling snow from their sidewalks, grocery shopping, or regular visits to manors or nursing homes, just to be with them. Our presence is invaluable.

Let's remember our elderly with **"One Heart"** filled with compassion, with **"One Voice"** that embraces life, and let love be our **"One Mission"** uniting us in the family of God.

Marriage and Family

Priests for Life Canada is airing a monthly program called "The Pro-Life Hour" on Radio Teopoli AM530 (<http://teopoli.com/category/radio/>). The program airs on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. with Fr. Tom Lynch and Fr. John Lemire co-hosting the one hour interviews. February's guest was Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministries in the Diocese of Hamilton, and Executive Director of Birthright. Her ministry includes everything that affects the family from the different stages of marriage, support for grieving families, visiting the sick, parenting, and mental illness. Her recent interview is available at www.priestsforlifecanada.com. Look for "The Pro-Life Hour" box to listen to the interview.

Teresa Hartnett offers a wide variety of workshops relating to the family. A new workshop pertaining to The Catholic Women's League's new theme has been added titled, *"One Heart, One Voice, One Mission"*, as well as a presentation on Saint Pope John Paul II Apostolic Letter: *Mulieris Dignitatem* (the Dignity and Vocation of Women) which gives a new and profound understanding of our role as women in the Church. If you are interested in having Teresa speak at one of your events, she can be reached through this website: <http://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/parent-family/workshops.php>.

Also available at this site, under Parenting, are 84 parenting tips for use in your parish bulletins. *"These tips have been written so that parents might find little nuggets that will help them as they engage in the important role of parent. The hope is that those reading the tips will find information to assist them in small and tangible ways and in a way that will positively influence the love they share with their families."*

World Meeting of Families Congress 2015

This event is scheduled from September 22–27 in Philadelphia. The theme is *"Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive"* which emphasizes the impact of the love and life of families on our society. Pope Francis' visit takes place on the 26th and 27th for the Festival of Families and the Papal Mass.

The 2015 Preparatory Catechesis, *"Love is Our Mission"* is available for purchase on-line. It holds a collection of what Catholics believe about human purpose, marriage, and the family.

More detailed information on the World Meeting of Families Congress is available at: www.worldmeeting2015.org.

World Meeting of Families Prayer

God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us
your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.
May your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.
May the example of the Holy
Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those
most troubled,
to be homes of communion and
prayer
and to always seek your truth and
live in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for
us.



Awards Celebrations Special Events

Renfrew's St. Francis Xavier Council, Pembroke Diocese honoured members at their June 2014 Year End Dinner.

25 Years of Service	40 Years of Service	50 Years Of Service	60 Year Of Service
Suzette Pelletier Teresa Surnoski Gertrude Windle Dorothy Wright- McIntyre	Mary Hass Arlette Hermans	Doreen Ballard Idena Durocher Elaine Turner Eileen Windle	Eileen Vice Verlie Wark New Members Debbie MacDonald Mona Mahusky Kate Windle Anne Wolfe
10 Years			
Teresa Friske Shawna Lemebchick			

Holy Family Catholic Women's League of London, Ontario awarded the following Pins:

10 Years of Service	25 Years of Service	50 Years Of Service	60 Years Of Service
ADAMIAK, Elizabeth ARMSTRONG, Ellie CANDUSSO, Carol CONNOLLY, Cecelia CORRIGAN-LOBB, Carol CUSHING, Heather HARTNEY, Jackie HEALEY, Pat LAVIGNE, Gisele MARTIN, Barb McCONVILLE, Margaret MEINERT, Elizabeth MORGAN, Mary Ann PARSONS, Alice VLASMAN, Hilda	BLACKETT, Kathleen JOHNSTON, Dora LOOBY, Maureen LEENDERS, Willy LYNCH, Lorraine McGUIRE, Mona O'MEARA, Marie POL, Dorothy SALTERS, Anne SCARFE, Anna Mary SMITH, Barb STARRATT, Sue TROLLER, Terry VERSTEEGH, Mary Lou	BOYER, Aneatha BROCK, Ruth HAGARTY, Jean HAMELIN, Joan HESSELMANS, Elizabeth McLAUGHLIN, Pat RYAN, Freida SERT, Julie SWITALA, Maria TERPSTRA, Joanne VERHALLEN, Annie WILLBURGER, Ilse Valvasoria, Diane Rostenberg, Elizabeth	DUCHARME, Ulene NAGLE, Mary OFF, Shirley PARKER, Mona

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Subscription deadline date is August 6 2015 to receive the Fall issue