



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



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**Our thanks to Hearst
and Timmins Diocesan
Councils and Ontario
Provincial Spiritual
Development Standing
Committee Chair for
their submissions.**

PAPAL INTENTION:

General:

That bishops, priests and all ministers of the Gospel bear the courageous witness of fidelity to the crucified and risen Lord.

Missionary:

That the pilgrim Church on earth shine as a light to the nations.

November 2012 Volume 1, Issue 4

November is the month of the Holy Souls

Marlene's Musings

Catch the Fire is spreading in Ontario! Facilitators are training members to go into their parishes to both ignite and re-ignite the flame. The good news of the League is about to come to your parish. Invite **all** women of the parish to attend the workshop. Ontario is privileged to have two "Sparks", Hilarion Mitchell and Andrea Tjioe, who will help spread the enthusiasm and excitement. Provincial Council is hosting a training day for diocesan organization chairpersons this month. This *Year of Faith* calls us to grow in our faith and to share it with others. Catherine of Siena said: *"Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire"*. Let's live these words as we embark on this national project to revitalize the League.

In addition, national council is holding a contest that will reward development and participation at the parish level. Two parish councils with the highest rate of participation will have their 2014 national per capita fees waived. Keep tuned for further details. Blessings, Marlene

Spiritual Development Standing Committee

Spiritual growth is the very heart of the League and the essence of its existence. The Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Good Counsel, is the patroness of the League.

This spiritual dimension sets the League apart from all other women's organizations. League members must constantly be in the process of spiritual growth. Faith is a way of life, which is characterized by a constant and ongoing conversion and renewal

of mind and heart.

As women of the church, we are called to take an active and responsible role in the church's life and mission by way of active participation in the League, church and community.

Members are called to lead all people to encounter Christ. The League's mission will remain incomplete until we can say we have shared not only our material goods with others, but, more importantly, our gift of faith. The strength of League ministry can be

measured in proportion to the depth of the members' spirituality. Ongoing interfaith dialogues have revealed vast areas of common action and resulted in the collaboration of churches on a range of social issues.

During the month of November, let us call upon the Saints and all the faithfully departed, to help us live the Great Commandment of Christ – love God and love our neighbour. Let this Great Commandment lead us as we prepare for the season of Advent.

Question:
Is your council
praying the Nicene
Creed before your
meeting?

**PRAYER OF THE
MONTH**

Prayer for Holy Souls

Immortal God, holy Lord,
Father and Protector of all
You have created,
we raise our hearts to You
today for those who have
passed out of this mortal life.

In Your loving mercy, Father
of all, be pleased to receive
them in Your heavenly
company, and forgive the
failings and faults they may
have done from human
frailty.

Your only Son, Christ, our
Saviour, suffered so cruelly
that He might deliver them
from the second death.
By his merits may they share
in the glory of His victory
over sin and death.

For all the faithful who have
died we pray, but in
particular for those dear to
us, parents, relatives and
friends. nor do we forget all
who did good to us while on
earth, who helped us by their
prayers, sacrifice and
example.

We pray also for any who
may have done us harm,
and stand in special need of
Your forgiveness.

May the merits and prayers
of our Virgin Mother,
Mary, and those of all the
Angels and Saints, speak for
us and assist them now.
This we ask in Christ's name.
Amen.

Bag Bee

On Sat., Oct 12, twelve
members from Our
Lady of Fatima council
in Cochrane gathered
to sew bags for the
2013 provincial
convention. Material
was retrieved from
closets, drawers,
curtains and old
garments. Some ladies
sang as they worked-
cutting, sewing, and
ironing. It was like a
healing project as
stories were told

about some of the pieces.
A beautiful lunch was
shared and by 1:00 pm 20
bags were completed and
20 more were ready to be
sewn. What an
opportunity to showcase
what CWL can accomplish
when we work together
for God and Canada.



Small but Very Busy

The St. John the Baptist
Catholic Women's League
of Longlac's 27 members
were busy this year with
many community events:
starting a new Sunday
School Program, hosting a
St. John the Baptist
Community Picnic,
participating in a Cancer
fundraiser, "Yellow Flower
Power", and hosting a
CWL Tea.

Advent – The Season of Hope



Advent means coming.

Advent is a season of
quiet waiting,
anticipation, preparation
and hope. We are
preparing for Jesus to
make His home in our
hearts.

There are various ways of
celebrating Advent and
preparing for Christmas –
the Jesse Tree, the Giving
Tree, the Advent
Calendar, a Day of
Reflection/Retreat, an
Advent Luncheon/Tea,
special prayer time and

spending time with
family and friends. Also,
an Advent Wreath is a
very widely used means
of celebrating Advent
with daily prayers and
the lighting of candles.
The Advent Wreath is
rich in symbolism and
tradition. The Advent
Wreath has four
candles: three purple,
one rose and is made
with evergreen boughs
that form a circle. The 4
candles represent the
four weeks of Advent.
The colour purple is the
symbol of royalty and
penance and symbolizes
prayer and preparatory
sacrifices as well as good
works undertaken at this
time. Rose is the colour

of joy. Green is the colour of
life and hope.

On Gaudette Sunday (the
third Sunday), the rose
candle is lit which represents
joy and the priest wears rose
vestments. This Sunday is
the midpoint of Advent and
the preparation of the
faithful is now half over.
The candles represent light.
Jesus, the Light of the world,
is the one who shines in the
darkness. The candles also
symbolize God's gift of faith.
The wreath is a circle – no
beginning – no end – this
reminds us of our God who
is eternal.

Our prayer for the Advent
Season is thanksgiving,
forgiveness and penance.
Take time this Advent to
quietly wait with one
another for the coming of
the Christ Child.

News from Timmins Diocesan Council

The **Timmins Diocesan Council** is comprised of nine parish councils with a total membership of 598. Although we are few in numbers, we do our best to fulfill the Objects of the League and promote League programs and initiatives. We continue to promote the purchase of **Fair Trade coffee**, using it at meetings and conventions. One council is selling coffee and tea as a fundraiser.

For the past number of years, members throughout the diocese have faithfully supported **Canadian Food for Children**. Even non members have been busy knitting pneumonia vests. Doreen and her Aunt (who lives in another city) together have knit 2,000 vests. In one community, a store was closing, so members purchased clothing and shoes at bargain prices. Boxes of articles are delivered regularly.

In the city of Timmins, St. Anthony's Cathedral needed extensive repairs on the steeple. The diocese requested monetary assistance from all the parishes to help with the restoration project. Many CWL councils made contributions. One council responded by holding a unique fundraiser, an invisible dinner with no set up, no cooking, no clean up, no work. The parishioners were challenged to donate the price of a meal and the CWL council agreed to match the contributions up to a total of \$1000. There was an excellent response, making the fundraiser a definite success.

Our diocesan convention in May was very well attended, with lots of opportunities for spiritual development, learning and socializing. Attendees reported enjoying the entire weekend of fun, faith and fulfillment.

Workshops/presentations:

- a) *Spiritual Poverty*, Pauline Krupa, Provincial representative
- b) A guest from the Health Unit spoke on *Women's Health and Wellness*, addressing a number of health concerns and safe treatments for women. She stressed the importance of good eating habits, plenty of exercise and rest. A variety of questions were answered.
- c) **Catholic Missions in Canada**, video presentation, **Apostle of the North**. The video followed the Bishop of Whitehorse on his journey through the diocese.
- d) **Development and Peace** power point, **1% Can Make a Difference**, was presented. In a time where federal cuts are affecting many charitable programs, it is important to contribute what we can. Attendees were asked to return to their councils and revisit the *D&P 1% Fund* if it is not already being supported.

Attendees were asked to bring soap to the convention for Dr. Simone's charity, Canadian Food for Children. Large baskets were filled with soap and many other items were brought as well. One council has a crafters group who make clothing and quilts for a mission in Tanzania. The parish had a photo display on the wall showing the joy of the children who are benefiting from their good works. The crafters have been sharing a blog with a group of young people who are working with the people of Tanzania. One member brings in her laptop and all take turns reading and viewing the groups' adventures as they travel. It was an excellent convention and everyone went away with renewed enthusiasm, a joyful spirit and pride in the works of the League.

The theme we have chosen for our diocese for next year is ***Walking in the Light of Jesus***.

During **The Year of Faith**, we are being encouraged to strengthen our faith in such ways as reciting the Nicene Creed before each council meeting and studying the catechism daily on line at flocknote.com. Members across the diocese will continue their ongoing support for Dr. Simone's mission effort - making pneumonia vests, blankets, hats, etc. and collecting items such as clothing shoes, soap, candles and school supplies. National's **Catch the Fire** program will begin to be presented to councils in January.

Members attending Timmins' Convention each added a figure to complete this poster.



Samples of display boards at the Timmins' Convention ... a job well done by all chairs!



Tidbits

Invitation to Participate in a Survey

The national executive is seeking feedback about the League's website and *Be League* e-newsletter. Please take a few moments to complete the survey. It is a 20 question multiple choice survey, requiring less than five minutes to complete. The survey may be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KYJQ2P>.

Please copy and paste the link into your web browser to access the survey. All responses are confidential. Help our national executive to examine how the website and *Be League* may better serve members. Your input is important!

National Celebration to Commemorate the Canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was held Nov. 4 at St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal. Look for coverage of this event on Salt and Light TV or their website.

Prayers for Hurricane Sandy Victims

Pope Benedict XVI offered prayers for the victims of hurricane Sandy after the devastation along the eastern coastal region of the United States.



Development and Peace Education Campaign 2012

You can access materials for CCODP campaign on their website www.devpo.org

The Gospel of Everyday Life – An Adventure Worth Sharing!

This latest publication from Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF) is now available for free download at www.colf.ca Hard copies can be ordered as well. A good resource as we journey in this Year of Faith.

Up-coming Events

November 1

All Saints' Day

November 2

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

November 9

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

November 10

St Leo the Great

November 21

Presentation of Mary

November 22

St. Cecilia

November 25

Christ the King

November 30

St. Andrew

December 2

First Sunday of Advent

December 3 – 6

2nd National Catholic Conference on Resettlement in Toronto
With One Voice – We are the Hope

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Hearst Diocesan "Catch the Fire"
sweat-shirts designed by Lynn Olenik



St. John the Baptist Council
Longlac, ON council
executive.



Diane Denault is presented Life
Membership. Pictured with
Marlene Pavletic and
Margarita LaFort



July 1st – Geraldton 75th Anniversary Parade
Catholic Women's League Float. Father
Roger, Diocesan Spiritual Advisor waves at the
crowd as members look on.



Willy Anton, Nicole Pinneault and Bobbi Ratushniak from St.
Theresa's Parish in Geraldton display homemade prayer cards
that are placed in the local hospital for patients, staff and
visitors to share.



"Catch the Fire" Training
Verna Lynn Bergeron, Hearst Diocesan
facilitator, trained two members Yvette Belec and
Mary Lou Doran of St. Patrick's Parish Council in
Kapuskasing.



Items donated at Hearst Diocese
Convention for local food bank.

CWL is On-Line!

www.cwl.ca National

www.cwl.on.ca Provincial