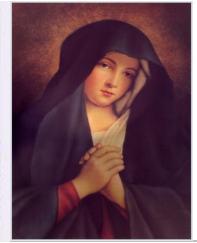




ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



In This Issue

Marlene's Musings	1
Catch the Fire	1
Prayer of the Month	2
Kingston Diocesan Executive Retreat and Planning Meeting	2
Biblical Women: Mentors for Today	2
TIDBITS	3
Catch the Fire Modules	3
Tooting Our Horn	3
First Time Impressions	4
Up-coming Events	4
Memories of the 65 th Annual Provincial Convention in Photos	4
Our thanks to Kingston Diocesan Council and Ontario Provincial President – Elect / Organization chairperson for their submissions.	

September 2012 Volume 1, Issue 2

September is the month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary (Dolorus)

Marlene's Musings

I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!

Luke 12:49

Over the past six months, I had the honour and privilege to attend eight CWL annual conventions; six diocesan, one provincial and the national convention in Edmonton. These conventions all offered an opportunity to share my faith with like minded Catholic women. The spiritual programs renewed my spirit. Celebrating the Eucharist with the CWL community nourished me and interesting speakers educated me. We know that conventions renew our commitment to the League. We return home with a renewed enthusiasm. We wonder why?

The League is a treasure chest of women coming together with common purpose and values, sharing and living our faith. The anniversary button promoted at the national convention had the slogan, *Catholic & Living It!* How can we maintain the renewal we experience at conventions? How are we living our faith? How can we be confidently Catholic?

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a special year for Catholics throughout the world to rediscover and share with others the gift of Faith. The upcoming *Year of Faith* provides a great opportunity for us. It calls us into a deep renewal of our faith through retracing the history of our faith, studying the Catechism, praying the Creed and seeking to be an active witness of what we believe. We need to seize this opportunity personally and collectively.

(continued on page 3)

CATCH THE FIRE – SET ABLAZE!

PAPAL INTENTION:
General: That politicians may always act with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth.
Missionary: Help for the Poorest Churches. That Christian communities may have a growing willingness to send missionaries, priests, and lay people, along with concrete resources, to the poorest Churches.

“Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire.” (St Catherine of Siena)

This appears on the promotional flyer of the new leadership program introduced at the 92nd Annual National Convention in Edmonton. During the presentation, team members dressed in vibrant reds, oranges and yellows, rose from the gathering carrying a symbolic flame. These were held high as they

walked to the centre of the room to form a huge bonfire. What a sight! What a feeling!

The program *“Catch the Fire”* was created in response to the need for basic leadership training. The program is designed to give participants the knowledge and tools needed to “be a fire starter” – which in turn will bring others to the League. The program embraces our love of the League, shares our

sisterhood and helps us to experience the joy of being a League member. The program will run for the next two years.



Catch the Fire trainees fan the flame as the new program is introduced

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Novena Prayer in Honour of the Sorrows of Mary (pray for nine days)

Most holy and afflicted Virgin, Queen of Martyrs, you stood beneath the cross, witnessing the agony of your dying Son.

Look with a mother's tenderness and pity on me, who kneel before you. I venerate your sorrows and I place my requests with filial confidence in the sanctuary of your wounded heart.

Present them, I beseech you, on my behalf to Jesus Christ, through the merits of His own most sacred passion and death, together with your sufferings at the foot of the cross. Through the united efficacy of both, obtain the granting of my petition.

To whom shall I have recourse in my wants and miseries if not to you, Mother of Mercy?

You have drunk so deeply of the chalice of your Son, you can be compassionate to our sorrows. Holy Mary, your soul was pierced by a sword of sorrow at the sight of the passion of your Divine Son.

Intercede for me and obtain for me from Jesus (mention request) if it be for His honour and glory and for my good, Amen.

Kingston Diocesan Executive Retreat and Planning Meeting

Executive members of the Kingston Diocesan Council recently gathered at Raby House, Kingston Mills, for their annual retreat facilitated by Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Father Brian McNally. The theme was *Centred in Faith and Justice, Responding to the call of Pope Benedict XVI to embrace **The Year of Faith***.

Father's introduction of Pope Benedict's Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei* (Door of Faith) which announces the **Year of Faith** started the day. Members were allotted time for quiet prayer and meditation on two sections of the document and then invited to share their insights. Father presented an overview,

the symbolism of the logo and the purpose of the **Year of Faith**. Pope Benedict wishes "to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope". October 21, 2011 will see the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks. Father stressed the historical importance of this event and suggested that we educate our students and members throughout the Archdiocese relating the story of her life. Members were encouraged to use the **Year of Faith** to rediscover and know our faith through study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, to be witnesses of charity and to develop and deepen our faith through

prayer, the sacraments, study of scripture, the liturgy, and especially the Eucharist. Father provided many resources, including a Eucharistic Novena in celebration of **Year of Faith** and the website of Father Robert Barron, www.wordonfire.org for insight on what is going on in the world. In the afternoon Bernadette Burgess, Life Member, provided an overview of the "Catch the Fire" workshop that was unveiled at the National Convention in Edmonton. Members of the executive are excited to have a planned, full day workshop offered to facilitators who will be trained by Bernadette and Margie Royle in early September.

Biblical Women: Mentors for Today

The Kingston Diocesan Council's Annual Retreat will be held on Saturday November 3rd 9am to 3pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kingston. Sister Jocelyn Monette, a Sister of Zion, who lived in Rome for three years and in Jerusalem for six years, will facilitate this retreat. She is currently the executive director of the Catholic Biblical

Association of Canada. This retreat will:
 - **Explore** what a Mentor is and what she does.
 - **Look** at the scriptures through the lens of women's experience.
 - **Discover** new perspectives about the familiar and hidden stories of our biblical sisters.
 - **Reflect** on how their experiences can enrich

our spiritual journey as companions, mentors and guides.
 - **Strengthen** relationships with CWL sisters and our Lord.



Marlene's Musings (continued from page 1)

During this *Year of Faith*, I hope councils will promote opportunities for faith renewal in their parish communities. We need to reflect on who we are and what we are meant to be. We need to engage in public acts of witness to our faith. Let's make this year meaningful in our spiritual lives. Let us deepen our resolve to be *confidently* Catholic.

The new national theme, *We Have Seen the Lord*, begins in January 2013. What a great fit for the *Year of Faith* and the New Evangelization! In addition, the national program *Catch the Fire* calls us to reach out to all Catholic women. St Catherine of Siena said, "Be who you are meant to be and you will set the world on fire". We need to look within ourselves to renew our spirits. Only then, can we set the earth on fire and be who we are meant to be.

I invite all Catholic women to catch the fire during this *Year of Faith*. Reach out and profess your faith, not only in church but in your homes, among your families so the precious gift of faith can be passed on to future generations. Strive to be a confident Catholic! God Bless, *Marlene*



Catch the Fire Modules

The day after the convention, 120 trainees from across Canada met together to experience *Catch the Fire*. National council provided funding for the national executive, provincial president elects, provincial trainees (known as sparks), and diocesan trainees to experience the one day program. Using the metaphor of fire, sessions are themed after aspects of fire, showing the new life fire can bring. They include:

Light the Match: opening prayer, **Spark:** structure and function in the League, **Kindling:** League resources, **Light:** faith enrichment, **Warmth:** League sisterhood, **Energy:** standing committee challenges, **Heat:** resolutions, **Renewal:** working through resistance, **Fanning the Flames:** recruit, retain and re-member members, **Hospitality of the Hearth:** closing reflection, **Pass the Flame:** evaluation, **Wildfire:** sharing what you have learned.

TIDBITS

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

1. The Prophecy of Simeon
2. The Flight into Egypt
3. The Loss of Jesus in the Temple
4. Mary meets Jesus Carrying the Cross
5. The Crucifixion
6. Mary Receives the Dead Body of Her Son
7. The Burial of Her Son and Closing of the Tomb

National Theme 2013 – 2015 Announced

Betty Anne Brown Davidson, National President announced the national theme to begin January 2013 – *We have seen the Lord*

Letters to Prime Minister Harper from the National Convention Floor

Two letters were sent from the convention floor. The first urged the recommitment to the funding of non-governmental organizations who aid the global community. The second addressed our concerns over the current living conditions in First Nations' communities. View these letters on line at www.cwl.ca

Velma's Dream – New Project

Funding for the original project has been met. As a result a new project was named at the National Convention. The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) reports that the Beit Sahour Cooperative Society for Health Welfare offers health care for pregnant women and infants through Shepherds' Field Hospital. League members' financial support through CNEWA can provide health care for 300 women and their infants. Full details of this project can be viewed on line at www.cwl.ca

Canadians Addressing Sexual Exploitation (C.A.S.E.)

This year's theme will be available to all councils at www.4case.ca Use your white ribbons as a focal point to encourage members to sign this year's petition.

First Timer's Impressions

The 2012 Provincial Convention held in Kingston was the first Provincial Convention of The Catholic Women's League that I have had the privilege to attend. As publicity and public relations coordinator, my job involved bopping about taking photographs. While I couldn't participate in discussions, I was able to listen. There was a much respected formality to all the business sessions. Our National President and others involved in The Catholic Women's League for many years spoke words dripping with wisdom. Guest speakers were well versed and excellent. My favourite part was hearing each diocesan president report "one" way in which the theme *Dignity for All* was carried out in their diocese. These stories were overwhelming. I might just have to attend another convention to hear more!

Submitted by Shelley Stepanuik,
St. Francis de Sales – Blessed Sacrament Council, Smiths Falls



Kingston
Diocesan
Delegates are all
smiles as they
welcome
delegates from
across Ontario.

Memories of the 65th
Annual Provincial
Convention in
Kingston, ON



Up-coming Events

September 7
Meeting with Assembly of
Catholic Bishops of Ontario

September 10
World Wide Suicide
Prevention Day

September 15
Feast of Seven Sorrows of
Mary

September 16
Rosary Sunday, Midland,
ON

September 27 – 29
Ontario Provincial Council
Fall Meeting, Toronto, ON

October 8
Thanksgiving Day

October 11
Year of Faith Begins

October 21
Canonization of Blessed
Kateri, Rome, Italy

Tooting Our Horn

Members and spiritual advisors across the Archdiocese of Kingston are so proud of the new National President Betty Anne Brown-Davidson. We offer our continued prayerful support to Betty Anne, a member of St. Gregory the Great Parish Council, Picton. The same prayerful support is offered to Margaret Ann Jacobs, National Christian Family Life Chairperson and Shari Guinta, National Resolutions Chairperson, other successful Ontario members who let their names stand for office.



CWL is On-Line!
www.cwl.ca National
www.cwl.on.ca Provincial