



December 2013 Edition

Featuring Hamilton Diocese and the Christian Family Life Standing Committee

We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith



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Betty's Blog



It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner.

This season reminds me that our lives are but an Advent. A longing and waiting to see Our Lord again someday. We serve Him and His people in preparation for our journey home. At Christmas we are reminded of God's love for us in the gift of Jesus. As St. Therese said, "A God who became so small could only be mercy and love." This is the example we are to follow all year long.

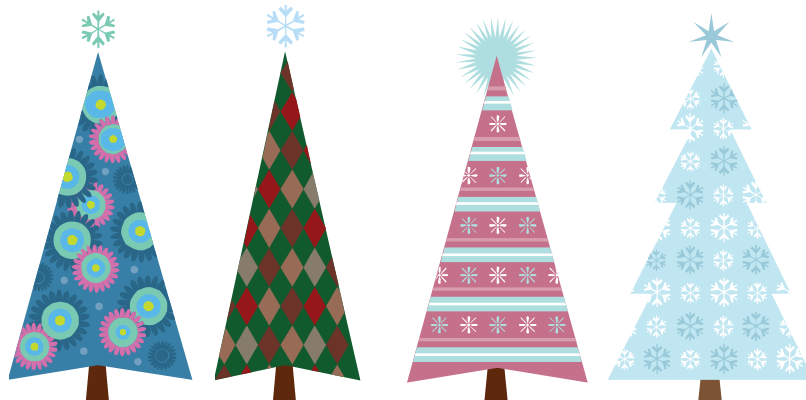
I offer you one of my favourite prayers and reflection and sincerely hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

May the true spirit of the Christmas season, its JOY, its beauty, its hope be with you now and always.

May His love fill your heart with gentle peace.

Blessings and extra hugs,

Betty Colareci





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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Dear Lord,

In this holy season of prayer, song and laughter, we praise You for the wonders You have sent to us- for a shining star, for an angel's song, for an infant's cry in a lowly manger.

We praise You for the word made flesh in a little Child, we behold His glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Prince of Peace, in many places Your children are endangered by war. Help us to work with You for peace in every way we can. Keep us, and those near and dear to us, safe from all harm. May we always feel the touch of Your presence.

Eternal Father, there are many in this world who need our help. Soften our hearts to show compassion to the poor. Move us to reach out to those in trouble. Help us to recognize opportunities for serving others and to understand that in serving others, we serve You.

God of all comfort, when we feel alone or abandoned, help us to remember that we can rely on Your Holy Spirit to give us the guidance and comfort we need. When darkness and despair overwhelm, help us to reach out to You. Thank you for being our strength, our hope and our help.

Giver of Life, make us a people of Your light. Make us faithful to Your Word, that we may bring life and light to the waiting world. Lord, grant us the courage to spread the gospel and give us joy in living it.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

If you look for Me at Christmas....

You won't need a special star.

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations,

You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do and listen to your heart,

You'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came,

And you'll find Me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.

**Love,
Jesus.**





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Christian Family Life Committee

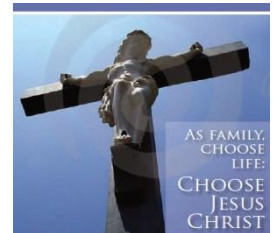
Marlin Taylor, Chairperson

Mary was taken up body and soul into Heaven: there is even room in God for the body. Heaven is no longer a very remote sphere unknown to us.

We have a mother in Heaven. And the Mother of God, the Mother of the Son of God, is our Mother. He himself has said so. He made her our Mother when he said to the disciple and to all of us: "Behold, your Mother!" We have a Mother in Heaven. Heaven is open, Heaven has a heart. - Pope Benedict XVI (1927- present) *Reflection on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Feast Day August 15*

As we approach the season of Advent and all the Christmas celebrations I want to use the words on the COLF magazine:

"As Family Choose Life: Choose Jesus Christ"



I attended the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Symposium on November 8-9, 2013 and they showed the film *The Gift* which is featured on LifeSitenews. I am attaching the link for everyone to view. The film, entitled *The Gift*, (www.cmdsmedia.wix.com/thegift) focuses on two physicians: Dr. Catherine McNally, a palliative care physician, and Dr. John Sumarah, a psychologist and educator who lost his wife to a five-month battle with cancer. In the video Sumarah describes his family's journey through the end of his wife's life, and how her life was a "gift" to him, even when she felt like a burden to him.

Our National Christian Family Life Chair, Margaret Ann Jacobs, stated that Archbishop Richard Smith in his annual report at the plenary session of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) focused on protecting family life. Proposing a national plan focusing on families, National Family week is to be an annual national event (www.cccb.ca) let us all take time to focus on our families for this advent season in a unique way. Do something that you have not done with the family before e.g.: (pray the rosary as a family one night a week) Sit as a family and look at a special movie without texting or cell phone interruptions. There are a number of small things each family can do together.



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Vocations in the Hamilton Diocese



In September, in Owen Sound, we celebrated the 12th annual Vocations Mass. This is to promote vocations to the priesthood, religious life, permanent diaconate, and married and single life. Joining us were the Diocesan Vocations office, religious communities, the Knights of Columbus, and the Serra Club.

For many years we collected pennies in councils and parishes throughout the diocese. These were donated to the "Pennies for Seminarians" Fund. This money was then presented to the Bishop at our annual convention, and he distributed the money to the seminarians.

When the government announced it was phasing out the penny from circulation, we knew we had to come up with a new name for this collection. It also turned out; we came up with a new idea on how the money could be used.

The idea was a bursary fund, and through work of our past diocesan President, Rosanne Sogan, and the counsel of Bishop Crosby, the "Our Lady of Good Counsel Bursary Fund for Seminarians" was born.

When we asked League members across the diocese to help establish a comfortable financial base for this bursary, they came through in spades. Now, a year later, applications can be made from our website, and the first bursary recipients have been chosen.



We continued to fan the flames for the League this year by holding ten **Catch the Fire** workshops and we plan to set fire with more in 2014.

Finally, we have wonderful news as we welcome a new council at St. Benedict Parish in Milton. They signed their charter in November.



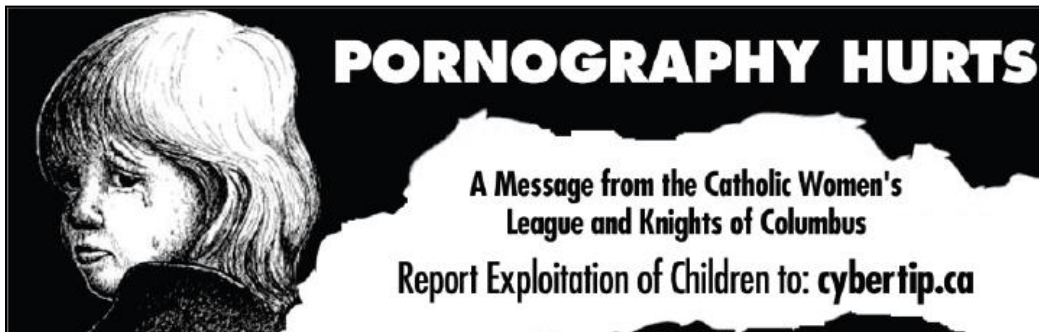


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October is Pornography awareness month in the **Hamilton diocese**. Together with the Knights of Columbus we have a project called the *Pornography Hurts Bus Campaign*. In its 18th year, this project first started by placing posters in all city buses in the diocese. Now it has grown to include several large billboards and roadside signs.



The poster depicts a teary eyed child, similar to the national post card. The message is "Pornography Hurts". The idea is to raise public awareness about the pervasiveness of pornography in our communities, with an emphasis on how it impacts children. It also provides a website to report exploitation.

The project runs at the same time as our WRAP (White Ribbon Against Pornography) campaign; where we hand out white ribbons and accept donations to support the *Bus Campaign*.

Recognition

The following have received service pins at
Precious Blood CWL Exeter, London Diocese:

50 yrs: Gerry Gregus; Christine Verlinde;

40yrs: Mary Koricina; Willie Verberne;

25yrs: Darlene Geoffrey; Gail Sararas;

10yrs: Christine DeLuca; Linda Wilhelm; Sharon O'Toole;
Barb Dietrich.

Maple Leaf Service Pins: Gerry Gregus and Cecilia
Mittelholtz



Advent Prayer

Good and Gracious God, help us to look for and find opportunities this Advent to become more aware of how You touch our lives each day. May we become ever more a sign of Your love in the world.

May we receive the Light of the World with joy this Christmas and reflect the Light of Christ in our family, parish and community.

Amen

With permission of Sr. Jane McDonell,
IBVM