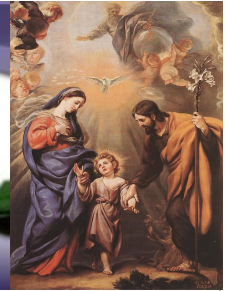




ONTARIO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF CANADA

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



February 2013 Volume 1, Issue 7

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Our thanks to Ottawa Diocesan

PAPAL INTENTION

General: That migrant families, especially the mothers, may be supported and accompanied in their difficulties

Missionary: That the peoples at war and in conflict may lead the way in building a peaceful future

February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family

Marlene's Musings

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

1 John 3:18

St Valentine's Day has become a part of our culture. We celebrate relationships and the greatest gift God has given us: love. Love is an action. We show our love through our actions on this special day and we should continue these actions throughout the year. This month as we enter the holy season of Lent we are called to act in charity and generosity. It is a time to reflect on our faith and to engage more deeply in prayer and acts of charity. Some suggestions to help make this a rewarding time include attendance at Mass daily, reading some scripture every day, praying together as a family, visiting someone in a nursing home, helping at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen, praying for refugees. We can reach out to those in developing countries by supporting Development & Peace in the annual Share Lent Campaign. Perform random acts of kindness. Our charitable acts are based in scripture and what we believe: *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."* Matthew 25: 40

Blessings, Marlene

Opening of the Agora Catholic Centre

The Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall held its first ever Catholic Showcase at our new Agora Centre in Cornwall. Our new bishop, His Excellency Marcel Dampousse was most



happy to greet people from across

our diocese. A resource binder containing a myriad of information

about our diocese was presented to newly appointed Bishop Dampousse. The showcase was an opportunity for catholic groups, services and organizations across our diocese to come together for the first time. All exhibitors displayed promotional material, brochures, flyers and answered questions from the visitors. The diocesan executive took advantage of the invitation and set up a table, displaying our

brochures, posters, flyers, prayer cards etc. Our milk bag mat and photos were on display and was a great drawing card to our booth. We proudly displayed our diocesan flag as well as the names of our executive and standing committees. We were able to recruit 5 new members for our diocese.



Advent Retreat Held at St. Peter's

St Peter's Parish (Cornwall) hosted our Advent Retreat on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This year 130 men and women gathered to hear our Spiritual Director, Fr. Kevin Maloney's topic "I believe in Jesus Christ." He reminded us of our priorities as Catholics. A prayer service to Mary followed with a very talented soloist, Helen McAlear, singing the Magnificat. All our hearts were lifted up through Mary to Our Lord, Jesus. Team work, advance advertising in church bulletins, good weather and "multiplication of the loaves" all contributed to an evening of spiritual enrichment and sharing. Did I mention that we had planned for 40 – 50 members to participate? Life is full of surprises!

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

The Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

HOLY FAMILY OF

NAZARETH, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

The Sheila McCool Pancake Brunch

St. Columbians Catholic Women's League has continued a Shrove Tuesday tradition for many years. In 1999, our Education and Health Chair, Sheila McCool, initiated a pancake breakfast for the students of Bishop MacDonell School as a way to interact with the youth of our parish. This event which is held

at the Knights of Columbus Hall is always enjoyed by the students, teaching staff and our league members who prepare and serve the food. Sheila was our league president from 2000 – 2002. She passed away in 2010. To honor her memory, our members voted to name the event "The Sheila McCool Pancake Brunch". A

plaque was presented to the school in 2011 so that future staff and students will be aware of the individual who originated this annual celebration.



Bishop Colli 's Messages



Bishop Fred J. Colli,
Bishop of Thunder Bay
Diocese and Ontario
Provincial Spiritual

Advisor regularly provides members with messages on our provincial website www.cwl.on.ca

In his Lent 2013 message he reminds us of the Holy Father's Lenten message stating that Lent gives us an opportunity "to mediate on the relationship between faith and charity: between believing in God, the God of Jesus Christ, and love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and which guides us on the path of devotion to God and others."

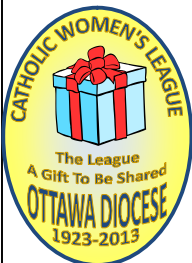
During his time as spiritual advisor, Bishop Colli has provided the provincial council with a talk at each of our meetings. Each presentation has related to our theme and the work of our members. Provincial council has found his talks to be timely and most useful. We encourage you to read all of these as part of your Lent 2013 reflections.

Ottawa Diocesan Annual Advent Retreat

On December 1st 150 CWL members attended the Annual Advent Retreat which was facilitated by Sister Rosemary O'Toole. The Retreat "Advent Pondering With Mary – A Contemplative Woman" led us through 4 events in Mary's life – the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Wedding at Cana, and Pentecost. Sister Rosemary led us in prayer and reflection for each event and gave us time to think and share our own stories on how we have come to know and love Mary – how she can become our BWF (Best Woman Friend) or sister. It was truly a wonderful day of faith and friendship



Ottawa Diocesan Council to Celebrate its 90th Anniversary



In 2013 the Ottawa Diocesan Council will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary. We are planning a whole year of Celebration – highlighting our history, celebrating our present members and councils and looking forward with much anticipation to our future. The theme we have chosen for the year 'The League – A Gift to be Shared' will be the focus of most of our events including our Diocesan Convention in April. We are excited that our keynote speaker will be Teresa Hartnett and those of us who attended the Provincial Convention in Kingston last summer are looking forward to hearing her speak again.

Tidbits

Logo Designed for Provincial Theme

At the winter meeting the Provincial Executive chose this logo designed by Spiritual Development chair, Pat Rivest's nephew, Daniel. We are very grateful to him for sharing his talent and time. It can be used with permission of the creator. (Diocesan Presidents have been given electronic copies of this logo)



We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith

The Bible (upcoming mini-series)

Mark your calendars for the first of 5 – 2 hour shows beginning on Sunday March 3rd ending on Easter Sunday. Emmy winning producer Mark Burnett and his team has been working with the History Channel to produce the 10 hour mini-series retelling Scripture from the story of Noah to the Resurrection. Check out History Channel in your area for viewing times.

National March of Life 2012



behind the banner during the march. We have been privileged for the past two years to have Provincial Presidents Shari Guinta and Marlene Pavletic respectively attend the March for Life and the Rose Dinner.

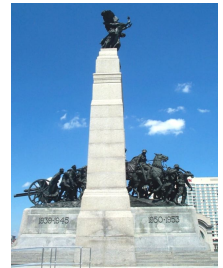
Each May the National March for Life is held in Ottawa during Pro-Life Week. The Ottawa Council has had a banner made and as many members as are able walk





Remembrance Day Wreath Laying an Honour

Every Remembrance Day the Ottawa Diocesan President lays a wreath at the National War Memorial on behalf of the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. It has been Diocesan President, Heather Sisk's honour and privilege to do so for the last 2 years.



Alexandria Cornwall Wreath Laying

A day to remember those who gave up their lives for our Country and the Veterans who survived to share those memories. Alexandria - Cornwall Diocesan CWL President Bernadine Greffe and Life Member of St. Francis de Sales Council - Kay Dubreuil were privileged to lay a wreath on behalf of the C.W.L. at the Cenotaph in Cornwall, ON.



St. James Parish Council in Maxville, ON (Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall) start Prayer Shawl Ministry

The shawls are all hand knitted by ladies in the parish and are distributed to the sick and shut-ins or to those who are facing surgery, loss of a spouse or a sick child etc. Each shawl is made in a pattern of 3 to represent the Holy Trinity, as each stitch is made there is a prayer said with it, so that the recipient feels the warmth and love of God as they wrap themselves up in the shawl. After

they are finished, Father blesses them, a card explaining the shawl is wrapped up and given to the person. So far we have given 16 shawls and two lap blankets. Those who have received these shawls have been up lifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles.

Celebrating Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

The Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Council sponsored a bus trip to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal to celebrate the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha on Sunday, November 4, 2012. It was a great opportunity for our members to grow spiritually as we united with our First Nation Sisters in welcoming this *Apostle of the Indians* into our heavenly company of saints. The highlight of the day was a visit to Francis Xavier Mission in Kahnawake, Quebec and the home of the Shrine of Saint Kateri. We all need to cherish the presence of this *Lily of the Mohawks* in a world that needs so much healing.

Maple Leaf Service Pin Awarded

On Thursday December 16th, 2012, provincial legislation chair, Colleen Randall, was awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin by her own St. Bernard parish Council in Ottawa. She stated: "My friend and Ottawa Diocesan president, Heather Sisk, was there to present the pin to me. I was touched and honoured. I cried. To me this is the most prestigious award bestowed on a member. It is for service not length of service and a commitment to the League and the church. I will treasure the pin for my lifetime and wear it with pride."



Fall League Development for Councils in the Ottawa Diocese was held in September. Participants share during workshop on annual reports.

