



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

## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



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**Our thanks to St. Catharines  
Diocesan Council and provincial  
Legislation Standing Committee  
chairperson for their submissions**

### PAPAL INTENTION

**General:** That the public,  
prayerful celebrations of faith  
give life to the faithful

**Missionary:** That mission  
churches be signs and  
instruments of hope and  
resurrection

### April is dedicated to The Blessed Sacrament

### Marlene's Musings



During Lent, we watched the disciples change as they came to understand what they had witnessed. Alleluia rang out with joy on Easter Sunday. We met our newly elected Pope, His Holiness Pope Francis. In his first general audience, he invited us to open the doors of our hearts, to go out and meet others, to draw them near and to always go out with the love and tenderness of God. He also calls us to protect those in most need and to protect creation.

Easter brings the promise of new beginnings. God's creation starts to bloom as we see spring flowers and nature bursting forth. Spring ushers in convention time for diocesan councils who are busy preparing to celebrate the good works of the League in their dioceses.

The League offers every woman an opportunity to live the joyful gift of the resurrection and to share it with others. Make the extra effort to attend a diocesan convention. Renew friendships, be spiritually nourished and enjoy the sisterhood. As the Holy Father requests, reach out, meet others and draw them near. This special season of Easter calls us to share the good news...to sing out joyfully as did Mary Magdalene on Easter morning, in her joyful proclamation, "I have seen the Lord".

**Blessings, Marlene**

### St. Catharines Councils Link to Schools

The Diocese of St. Catharines is one of the smaller dioceses in Ontario but we have a big heart. All 32 councils are working hard to serve God and Canada. Many councils are involved with the feeder schools of their parish. Rosary Circles, Teaching Mass, Reading partners and family mentors are a few of the ways that councils link to the schools. All councils realize that

keeping active in the schools helps strengthen the triad of home, school and church. Watch in the coming years as some of our councils are planning creative ways to

engage the young women from high schools in CWL meetings/activities.



## Call to Service

Parish councils across the St. Catharines Diocese are actively involved in their communities. At our November Diocesan Council meeting donations were collected for the 2 refugee centres in the Diocese. The donations filled 3 vans and both centres were grateful for the assistance.

The Star of the Sea Parish Council has made over 1700 turbans for cancer patients to wear while going through chemotherapy treatments at the St. Catharines General Hospital.

### PRAYER OF THE MONTH

#### Prayer for the Spread of Perpetual Adoration

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins.

We need your peace in our hearts and among nations.

We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness.

May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord.

Please send down the Holy Spirit upon all peoples to give them the love, courage, strength and willingness to respond to the invitation to Eucharistic Adoration.

We beseech You to spread Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in parishes around the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament  
Help us to spread the glory of Your Son through Perpetual Adoration.

Pope John Paul II

For additional prayers and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament visit

<http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/pea/a2.html>



The Diocese of St. Catharines has been privileged with many dedicated, long serving members. One such member, Martina

## Saying Farewell

(Martha) Bonomi passed away on March 4, 2013. Martha was in her 107<sup>th</sup> year when she went to our Lord! She was a remarkable woman of deep faith and commitment to the League.

This past December, the Diocesan Council also lost a valued member, Lottie Doherty, Communications

Standing Chair. Lottie went to our Lord on Dec 17, 2012 after collapsing at our Christmas Diocesan Executive meeting. Lottie had taken on many roles throughout the years at the Parish and Diocesan Level. Lottie always answered the call to serve and was a wonderful mentor to many members. She will be missed.

## Legislation – Preparing a Brief

One of the roles and responsibilities of the Legislation Standing Committee Chair is the preparation of briefs and position papers on proposed legislation. Although this is not something done often there are some excellent resources available to assist you. The first of these is the Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook page 5 and 6,

*Composing the Brief.* A brief is a short statement or summary expressing the League's position on a certain topic. It is prepared from positions expressed in adopted resolutions or from the input of members responding to a discussion paper and is used as the basic document to make a presentation or submission to a public forum. Care must be taken to ensure accurate

information and proper form in the brief as it could have wide public circulation. Always remember to get approval before circulating a brief from your president, at all levels.



## Annual Retreat – with a “Twist of Lemon”

The Diocesan Council organizes various events throughout the year for members to meet their sisters from across the Diocese. Some events are for fun, some are for faith and fulfillment while others are for all three—faith, fun and fulfillment. This past year we planned an Advent Retreat at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, New York. The retreat began with Mass being said by our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Matt Pendanathu, dinner in the cafeteria and a chance to view the Festival of Lights on the 15 acres surrounding the Basilica. The lights were all depicting the true reason for the season and very beautiful. Over 240 members in 5 buses travelled to the retreat. Unfortunately 23 members were left at one of the arranged pick up sites. This group however, made lemonade out of lemons. They went into town and had dinner together. The group then proceeded to one of the member's home for coffee and dessert before heading to a local church that was putting on a live nativity play. These women truly exemplify the best qualities of CWL members—making the best of a difficult situation. A bus was arranged to take these members at a later date to the Shrine to see the lights.



Pictured here is the “Lemonade Gang” – Saving the best for last!

### Up-coming Events

**April 7**

Divine Mercy Sunday  
St. John Baptist de la Salle

**April 8**

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

**April 11**

St. Marguerite d'Youville

**April 16**

St. Bernadette

**April 21**

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**April 22**

Earth Day

**April 25**

St. Mark, Evangelist

**April 26**

Our Lady of Good Counsel

**April 29**

St. Catherine of Siena

**May 1**

St. Joseph the Worker  
International Worker's Day

### Call to Service (cont'd)



St. Helen Parish Council in Vineland has hosted a Christmas Social for seniors in the Lincoln Township for the past 44 years. Each year the senior guests are

treated to coffee or tea and baked items as well as entertainment. There are door prizes and every senior goes home with a poinsettia plant. This event is always very well attended and averages well over 100 seniors each year.



**Catholic Education Week**

**May 5 - May 10, 2013**

[www.goodnewsforall.ca](http://www.goodnewsforall.ca)



## Annual Golf Tournament – Fun Day for Everyone



The St. Catharines Diocesan Council began to host an annual golf tournament for members and their friends three years ago. It has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow sisters in a casual setting. The day is filled with laughter and

fellowship. This event is also our fund raiser for the 2015 Provincial Convention we will be hosting. Pictured above: Claudette Koerner, Lisa Gravell, Trish Aubertin and Connie Venneri relaxing after a full day of golfing fun!

## Update on Resolution ON.12.02

The action plan related to the above resolution passed at the July 2012 convention encourage members to write letters to the Provincial Minister of Health and Long -Term Care to enact legislation to prohibit access to indoor tanning equipment for youth under the age of 18. On March 7, 2013, Health Minister Deb Matthews introduced Bill 30 - An Act to regulate the selling and marketing of tanning services and ultraviolet light treatments, into the Ontario Legislature. The bill calls for a complete ban of tanning salon use by any person under the age of 18. The private members bill is expected to pass with the support of the NDP. The persistent work and dedication of the members of the Catholic Women's League across Ontario has made this legislation a reality. Keep the letters to the MPPs of Ontario going in support of this new legislation.



### ***Catch the Fire!***

St. Catharines' team: Sue Pellerin, Betty Colaneri and Wilma Vanderzwagg looking "all ablaze!" Catch the Fire! launched in the Diocese.

## Tidbits

### **Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel – April 26**

Traditionally councils observe the feast of our patroness in some special way. Many celebrate mass together and then spend time socializing. In the past, April 26 has been chosen as a day of action whereby members reach out to those in need. How will you celebrate this year?

### **Ontario Diocesan Conventions Begin in Late April**

Each of the 13 dioceses across our province will hold its annual convention over the next two months. The first group take place around the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and continue until the end of May. During these conventions, business sessions and presentations are held. In some dioceses resolutions will be presented for consideration. Pray for the success of these deliberations.

### **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

Over the past few years, the chaplet, developed by Sister Faustina, has gained popularity among many members. It can be prayed individually or in small groups. To learn more visit

<http://www.catholicwarfare.com/Warfare/Chaplet.pdf>