



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

November 2013 Edition

Featuring Hearst Diocese and the Spiritual Development Standing Committee

We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith



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Betty's Blog



November is a time of reflection of those gone before us that have impacted our lives in various ways. All Saints Day keeps us mindful of the true heroes of our history. We look to them for guidance and with the hope and prayer that we too can become saints one day. Bishop McGrattan recently reminded us that to be a saint means to be holy. As our mission statement states, we are to be calling our members to holiness through service to the people of God. Our lives are a journey striving for that holiness that will lead us to the kingdom of God. Who is your favourite saint? What do they represent that draws you to them to intercede for you? When I was 7 years old, I watched the movie, *The Song of Bernadette* and was so moved by her story of dedication to Our Lady that she continues to be my source of inspiration. I chose her name as my confirmation and middle name.

All Souls Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the lives of so many that have gone before us marked with the sign of faith that pray and watch over us. Our family, friends and so many League sisters that have been the source of inspiration of our driving force. Our League sisters that through humble service, hard work, dedication and perseverance built the foundation from where the League could grow and develop to the amazing organization it is today.

As I drove along the parkway to see the beautiful array of fall colours that God had painted, it reminded me of my sister. Her final days were a time of grace just like the colour of the leaves that show their beautiful colours with the joy and faith of knowing that she would be born into new life. On November 19 it will be four years that she went to her eternal home and she is still showing me the beauty of our faith.

May all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Spiritual Development Standing Committee

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 (Executive Handbook, March 2012, p. SD-28).

Many individuals and families are struggling with financial burdens; dependence on food banks and shelters is at an all-time high. As a social justice project this term, w each parish council is asked to collect items for food banks and/or shelters. I am also suggesting that you say this prayer during your meetings:

Prayer to Make Poverty History

By: Cardinal O'Brien

Lord of Life,

Open our eyes to make us:

Aware of the poverty suffered by others;

Aware of the immorality of allowing that suffering to take place;

Aware of our rights as citizens to be heard;

Aware of the men, women and children dying as we speak;

Aware that our solidarity gives us strength;

Aware that our leaders may turn a deaf ear but Almighty God hears our cry;

And aware that only together can we: Make Poverty History.

Give us the strength and determination to work towards solutions and policy changes that can free our sisters and brothers around the world from the chains of poverty.

Inspire us to challenge our leaders to make debt relief and fighting poverty a priority, and make our voices loud and clear.

Amen. (retrieved from <https://educationforjustice.org/node/1452>)





The **Hearst** diocese is aglow! On November 3, St. Theresa's Parish in Geraldton held their session following the 10:00 am mass. To start the day the Knights of Columbus prepared a free brunch for all ladies attending.



Members of St. Theresa's Council decorated small bottles of Holy water and placed them at the hospital and various places in town.



Members of St. Theresa's Council in Geraldton partnered with the students from St. Joseph School and Ecole Ste. Joseph during the month of October to lead a living rosary.

Joanne Proulx, in her role as ZaZa a therapeutic clown, is shown here with life member Margarita Lefort during our convention banquet.



Pictured above is diocesan secretary Genny Sexton displaying some of the knitting that was gathered during the convention and sent to Sister Sheila Fortune, a pastoral agent in Natuashish, Labrador.



Remembrance Day

Why the poppy?

The association between the poppy and war dates back to the Napoleonic wars, when a writer saw a field of poppies growing over the graves of fallen soldiers.

During the Battle of Ypres in 1915, Canadian Lt.-Col. John McCrae was inspired to write the poem *In Flanders Fields* on sighting the poppies growing beside a grave of a close friend who had died in battle.

The poem was a great inspiration in adopting the poppy as the Flower of Remembrance in Canada, France, the U.S, Britain and Commonwealth countries.

The first poppies were distributed in Canada in 1921.

Today the volunteer donations from the distribution of millions of poppies is an important source of revenue for the Royal Canadian Legion that goes toward helping ex-servicemen and women buy food, and obtain shelter and medical attention.



Submitted by Anne Madden
Spiritual Development Committee Chair



In Flanders Field

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae





Spreading Christmas Cheer

The St. John the Baptist Catholic Women's League members in Longlac have held a long-time tradition. They and their family and friends annually entertain many seniors door to door with Christmas Carols. They then present each household with a Christmas ornament. The seniors in the community look forward to this event each year.



Recognition

Congratulations to all **Catch the Fire!** facilitators and participants this past month!

Good things are **GLOWING** in Ontario thanks to all of you.

Keep the fires **burning**, drawing nearer the faith, fun and fulfillment of the league and its sisterhood.

