



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

October 2013 Edition

Featuring London Diocese and the Past President/Historian Standing Committee

We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith

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Betty's Blog



This is my favourite time of the year. Harvest is upon us and God has taken out His paint brush to create a magnificent landscape of colours for us to enjoy. With Advent around the corner we prepare with anticipation for the birth of Our Lord. As the year draws to an end, we should be preparing for renewing memberships, recruiting new members and looking for those who would be willing to take a leadership position. It's an opportunity to look around and see the gifts that members have and can offer. To invite ladies from the parish to come and see what the CWL is all about. November is a time for remembering those that have gone before us with gratitude. December and January will have many celebrations and a wonderful opportunity to reach out and invite women to "JOY 'n us".

I would like to share my favourite sayings for this time of year.

BEING A CHRISTIAN IS LIKE BEING A PUMPKIN. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world to see.

CANDY CORN MESSAGE

YELLOW reminds us of God's "Light of the world",
Jesus Christ

ORANGE reminds us of the fiery flames that
Jesus saves us from

WHITE reminds us of the righteousness that is
ours through Jesus

The sweet taste reminds us of the sweetness of
God's Words!

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.





Life Member's and Past President's Social Justice Award

Why the Social Justice Award was established:

Following the untimely death of Life Member, Helene Regier, the London Diocesan Executive felt that we should have some way to recognize the work done by our Life Members and Diocesan Past Presidents. As many of these ladies were involved in or had great compassion for social justice concerns, the establishment of the Social Justice Award would be the most appropriate way we could recognize them. At the London Diocesan Convention in April 2013, the first awards were presented. The recipient's stories follow.



Elisabeth Dobbe (on the left in the picture)

For many years Elisabeth and her husband raised their sons who were both physically and mentally challenged in their own home. Their challenges were afflicted from bad vaccinations. After the death of their sons, Elisabeth and her husband became involved with Canadian Food for Children. Their home became the collection center for clothing, food and other necessities. They sorted, boxed and packed the items to be shipped to Toronto. All this was done at their own expense. Elisabeth also opened her home to Stratford and Area Right to Life. She has spoken with young and old always promoting that **Life** is precious. She has organized and takes busloads to Toronto for Lift Jesus Higher day and to Ottawa for the Right to Life rally. This is just a short synopsis of all the work Elisabeth has completed and continues to do.

Grace Enns (on the right in the picture)

Grace's leadership skills are very evident as she is the Prime Minister at the Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School in Leamington, On. Grace travelled to Kenya for 3 weeks in 2012 with the group **Me to We**. Grace related how one day while in Kenya she decided that she would take a walk, sit under a tree and journal. It was at that time she observed a young boy. Grace watched the boy and saw Jesus in him as he was always helping others and going without himself. Grace has been very active in raising awareness about environmental issues. She sees the beauty of our world as a gift from God. Her faith is a very important part of her life. "My biggest inspiration is Mother Teresa, who gave her life to serve the poor with her great love for God. I try to live my life as she would by caring for all people no matter whom they are, being humble, generous and making Jesus a top priority every day."



London Diocese

Life Member's Luncheon

On Sept 25, 2013 the Life Members in London Diocese spent the day with Life Member Gladys Dewey. We shared a few pictures and a sing along with the seniors of North Lambton Rest Home in Forest. The Life Members shared some memories of the past.

The luncheon was joined by Gladys center, from left-Pat Rivest, Lucy Hendrikx, Shirley George, Trucy Cornelis and Mary VanDyk. Absent were Muriel Murphy, Bev Weiler, Lottie Gorski and Maria Odumodu.



Bishop Sherlock Bursary

Upon the retirement of Bishop Sherlock, the Catholic Women's League London Diocese established a bursary in his honour to assist a seminarian attending St. Peter's Seminary in London. St. Peter's Seminary provides education, formation and residence facilities for candidates to the priesthood. On September 28, 2013, this year's bursary was awarded to a home-diocese young man. Mary Jean Horne, President (right in picture) and Cam Cadotte, Recording Secretary (left in picture) for the London Diocesan CWL, presented the bursary to Mr. Tim Theirault (center) from St John the Baptist Parish in Amherstburg, ON.





"We Have Seen the Lord-He Is In Us"

Catch the Fire Workshops Continue!

With 99 active councils, the London Diocesan CTF teams have been very busy providing workshops across over 21,349 square kilometers or 13,299 square miles with 120 parishes.

To date 15 workshops have been facilitated with 52 councils participating and over 400 members attending. The workshops are well received and many great ideas and comments are being communicated on the evaluations.

8 more workshops are planned in October and November. Many more are being booked for the new year. Our goal is to have reached every council in the diocese by May 2014.



Holy Family Retreat House

A hidden gem in the London Diocese is the Holy Family Retreat House. Nestled on a wooded lot on the shores of Lake Erie in Oxley, Ontario, Holy Family Retreat House was established in 1948 for the spiritual growth of the people of the London Diocese. Over the years, this holy ground has become a prayer, healing and joy for all who go there. Holy Family Retreat House offers retreats, both for groups and private, ongoing spiritual direction, a meeting place and a place for quiet reflection. The peace and power of God is apparent as you enter its gates. When in the area, please take the time to visit Holy Family Retreat House, Oxley Road, Oxley, ON www.holyfamilyh.com. The London Diocesan CWL Council utilizes Holy Family Retreat House for our yearly retreat, and for our orientation meetings. It is the perfect spot for discerning our path, planning for the year and connecting with each other for fun, friendship and fulfillment.

Recognition

St. Mark Council of The Catholic Women's League in Prescott, Ontario, hold meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month except, December, July and August. Our meetings are strong, and we donate to various charities all the time. We just celebrated our 85th Anniversary on September 22nd, 2013 for the Catholic Women's League. It just so happened that our parish priest, Father Brent Brennan was celebrating his birthday too. The Knights of Columbus catered a brunch for us, and everything was delicious, and we thank our brothers in the K. of C. for recognizing our endeavours. We used this day, Sept. 22, 2013 to pay recognition to our sisters in the C.W.L. with individual service awards. They are as follows:

NEW MEMBERS: Edith Batstone, Ann Norton

10 YEARS: Laura Bradley, Shannon Jones, Eileen Kearns, Kim Lawrence

25 YEARS: Muriel Franklin, Marie Lambert, Laura Lee Scott, Alanna Whelan

40 YEARS: Glenna Bonneau, Ann Davy, Peggy Israel, Anna Linnen, Evelyn Mallett

50 YEARS: Rosita McDonald, Regina Wert

60 YEARS: Joan Fortier, Reta Gannon

May the blessings of the Lord be upon them- We bless them in the name of the Lord!



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



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Marlene's Musings as Past President...

I am certain I share the same feelings as many past presidents! It's a real treat to be able to sit back and relax at executive meetings. Since many of you will be taking on this role at the parish level very soon, it is timely to cast a bit of light on what happens now as you adjust to the new role.

Firstly, it is very good for all councils to undergo change. New executive members bring a refreshing perspective; they share their God given gifts in different ways. That means that a new president brings new ideas and perhaps leads the council in a different direction. This is necessary for a council to stay vibrant and healthy.

So what is the role of the past president as the new president and executive undertake this change?

The past president can provide information on past history and can be a valuable resource especially early on in the transition. Careful mentoring is important. Often past presidents hang on to the role of president and become too critical of the new actions undertaken by the new leader. As a result, other members who witness such behaviour are often reluctant to take on the president's role or any executive position for fear of undue criticism.

Remember how you felt as a new president. Surely, you were a bit anxious and insecure. Did you receive constructive tips and were they delivered in a kind and thoughtful manner? Did the comments build you up or deflate you? Was assistance offered graciously and sincerely?

Past presidents encourage and upon request, offer recommendations in a kindly manner. Less criticism and more positive affirmations go a long way in establishing confidence.

As parish councils undergo elections and executive changes over the next few months, I encourage past presidents to reflect on their new role, and work at developing a positive constructive and mentoring relationship with the new president. As sisters in the League, let's show the true spirit of sisterhood by providing caring, helpful support to the new leader and her executive. The League will reap the benefit!



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Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine



The Diocesan Shrine located at St. Patrick's Parish in Merlin Ontario is another spiritual and holy ground within our diocese. The original shrine was established in 1963 in St. Mary's Ontario but moved to its current location in 1998. Our Lady's Garden began with the establishment of the Rosary trail. The rosary shaped gardens and trail contain all twenty mysteries. The Rosarian priests are available all year for personal confessions and spiritual direction.

A highlight of the summer is the London Diocesan CWL Day at the Shrine, held in July of each year. This day of pilgrimage is highlighted by a spiritual workshop, praying the rosary around the beautiful garden pathways, and a brown-bag lunch shared with your sisters on the grounds, or in the air-conditioned St. Patrick's parish. (It does get hot sometimes!).

We pray that the Shrine continues to be an instrument for people to come to a true devotion to our Blessed Mother and her son Our Lord, Jesus Christ!



O God, source and giver of all things,
You manifest your infinite majesty, power and goodness
In the earth about us:
We give you honor and glory.
For the sun and the rain,
For the manifold fruits of our fields:
For the increase of our herds and flocks,
We thank you.
For the enrichment of our souls with divine grace,
We are grateful.