



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

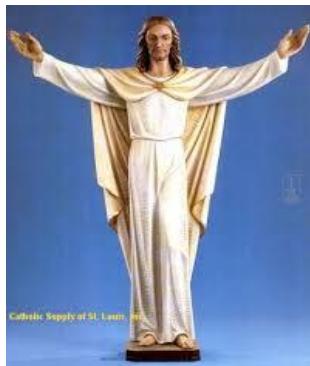


ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

April 2014 Edition

Featuring St. Catharines Diocese and the Legislation Standing Committee

We Have Seen the Lord



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Betty's Blog

Spring has finally arrived and with it our season. We are an Easter people.



Easter says to us that despite everything to the contrary, His will for us will prevail; love will prevail over hate, justice over injustice and oppression, peace over exploitation and bitterness. Knowing this brings us great Joy that springs deep down inside. And that spring never runs dry, no matter what happens. Only Jesus gives that joy. He had joy, singing its music within, even under the shadow of the cross.

An especially significant symbol we see often during this Easter season is the reason I am so fond of it. Our Christian culture views the butterfly as a symbol of resurrection. The story of Christ, through His passion and death, was buried in a tomb for three days, and then, came to life again to offer hope to all Christians of life after death. The butterfly that begins as the insect who 'dies' as a caterpillar, is buried in the cocoon for a length of time, and emerges to new life. A beautifully colourful creature who has the ability to transcend the ordinary and take flight into the heavens. The butterfly represents the spirit or soul that takes flight with the breath of God.

Did you know? It was customary in Old England for blacksmiths to refuse to hammer nails into horseshoes on Good Friday. Household chores that used nails were also suspended. This custom was intended to show respect for Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful, come among us as wind and fire and ignite our lives with renewed faith.

Come, Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful, be the wind and fire that brings new life to your church and open our minds and hearts to your presence among us.

On this Easter Day, fill our hearts with Your light and Grace that we might joyfully echo the words of your Holy Angels, "He is not here in the tomb, He is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!" Amen.

May the Risen Lord bless you and your families during this Easter Season.

Betty



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Easter Message from Our Spiritual Advisor Bishop Bergie

"Resurrexit, sicut dixit" (He has risen as he has said, Alleluia)

Dear Members of the Catholic Women's League,

At Easter we celebrate the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead fulfilling his promise. Our Lord has triumphed over sin and death and has brought healing light to dispel the darkness. This indeed is a celebration of hope. Today we need this hope as we face the many challenges of life.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very happy Easter. May our Risen Lord fill your hearts with renewed hope and may Mary, our heavenly queen, help us all to rejoice. I offer to you a beautiful prayer to Our Lady that is prayed during the Easter season.

Queen of Heaven

- V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia
- R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
- V. Has riven, as he said, alleluia.
- R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
- V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
- R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Tidbits from your Legislation Chair - Linda Squarzolo

Centuries before Christ, Micah urged people "... to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." (6:8)

Pope Leo XII's document *Rerum Novarum* (*On the Condition of Workers*), written in 1891, was the first official publication of *Catholic Social Teaching*. Since then, many other major documents have been written on the subject. ***Catholic Social Teaching*** urges us to build a just society and live lives of holiness in a modern world. There are seven aspects to this objective.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. Every person's life and dignity must be respected and supported from conception to natural death. In today's world, life is under attack from threats such as euthanasia and assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, abortion and terrorists.

Call to Family, Community and Participation

The way we organize our society affects human dignity. Marriage and family are the core social institutions and should be strengthened and supported. People have a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good and well-being of all socially, economically, legally and politically, especially the poor and vulnerable.



Rights and Responsibilities

Every person has a right to life and a right to those things required for human decency, including housing, food, education, health care and employment. We are responsible for one another, our families and all of society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In society there are great divisions between the rich and the poor. God has a special concern for the poor and vulnerable. The church calls on us to put their needs first in our daily lives and in government policies. The measure of a society is how much care is given to those in need.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

All economic activity must be ethically structured. The economy must serve the people, not the other way around. The goal should be that every person have the possibility of living a dignified life and actively participate in the common good. To build a just economy, the workers must have decent jobs at decent wages. Jobs should be available for all those capable of working. Workers must give a fair day's work for their wages. Pope Francis stated, "Work is fundamental to the dignity of a person. Work, to use an image, anoints us with dignity, makes us similar to God, who has worked and still works ..."

Solidarity

We are one human and global family. We are our brother's and sister's keepers. Loving our neighbour has global dimensions. Consider the human and moral costs to the lack of clean water, famine, ethnic violence, persecution and poverty. We are called to strive for a peaceful and just society, where goods are distributed fairly.

Care for God's Creation

Caring for the earth is a requirement of our faith. We are called to be good stewards of creation. We are responsible for sustaining creation and the world for future generations.

It is our responsibility to ensure, as individuals and as members of society, that **Catholic Social Teaching** is being implemented. By monitoring policies of government, we can determine if these objectives are being achieved.



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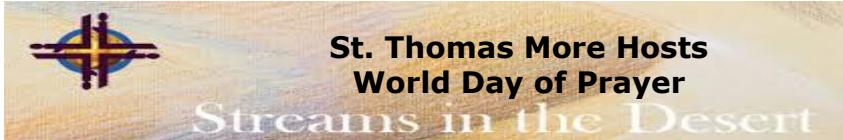


"Showered" in Catholic Faith

St. Michael's Parish in Fort Erie was honoured to have His Excellency Bishop Bergie for a weekend of celebration of faith. In true parish spirit, the CWL and the Knights of Columbus came together to ensure the Family Fun Day with a BBQ on Saturday and breakfast after masses on Sunday went without a glitch in spite of the deluge of rain showers. Bishop Bergie was a true Shepherd, mingling with parishioners, participating in the weekend events and winning the hearts of all who participated. It was a great success and an opportunity for fellowship with our Bishop.



Bishop Gerald Bergie and
CWL President, Pauline Taylor St.
Michaels Parish, Fort Erie



The St. Thomas More CWL held the World Day of Prayer service where 80 to 90 people from 10 different parishes participated. The program called for some of the ladies to "dress the part" and the altar dressed in white and yellow Kleenex made into lotus flowers. The hall was decorated with Egyptian columns, swags of gold netting, potted palms; the tables were covered in white, red and black table cloths set up in straight rows to resemble the Egyptian flag. The tables each had a vase with the Egyptian flag in it that was surrounded by more lotus flowers. The food was spectacular with the ladies trying out Egyptian recipes. There was Basbouse - Egyptian Palace Bread, Egyptian punch, flat bread and hummus, fruit, fig cookies, date and rice crispy squares made into pyramids. It was a spiritually moving event with creative and fun ideas to make for a very impressive day.

Annual St. Catharines Diocesan CWL Golf "Stream"

The Diocesan Golf Tournament was once again held to raise funds for the Provincial Diocesan Convention to be held in St. Catharines, July 2015. This year's event was not overshadowed by the torrential rains of the day; rather a day of golfing cut short but still a day of friendship and fun.





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St. Catharines Diocesan Achievements

St. Alfred's – Lovingly handcrafted 1,054 white doves onto red ribbons which will be given to each parishioner. The CWL Council is placing special attention on the Holy Spirit and the Power of Pentecost Sunday.



Star of the Sea – Has joined other inspiring parishes with a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Convenor Wilma Vanderzwaag has inspired the parish ladies to make shawls not only for the sick, but for brides, mothers to be, and infants at their Baptisms.

Holy Rosary – To thank the Knights of Columbus of the Holy Rosary Parish, the CWL provided all men of the parish with a buffet breakfast after mass on Sunday.



Across the diocese, the CWL has made turbans for cancer patients, supported Hannah House, knitted prayer shawls, worked at St. Vincent de Paul, participated in Right to Life events, bake sales, school rosary education, dedications to Mary, bake sales, fighting for legislation changes and many more activities. We are able to show how we can change the world, one initiative at a time.

St. Catharines Annual Retreat

Celebrating at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Center, over 270 women gathered together to celebrate "Social Justice and Women of Faith". The guest speaker was Sylvia Verde who presented a thought provoking speech on social justice; how we can continue our fight for social justice and how to tackle the obstacles that hinder our endeavours. Celebrating mass and the stations of the cross, the day was a ray of sunshine during a very bleak winter.

Ladies participating in the Stations of the Cross, Wednesday March 26 at Mount Carmel Spiritual Center





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Recognition

Holy Name of Jesus in North Bay, Ontario has passed a very important milestone. Our 60th CWL Anniversary was on February 3, 2014 and will be celebrated on May 3, 2014 with a dinner. Past Presidents, Diocesan Executive, past Priests and Bishop Plouffe have been invited for this special occasion.

Thoughts and prayers from all members across Ontario
As you celebrate this awesome milestone



Holy Name of Jesus

Submitted by Line Vidal
CWL Holy Name of Jesus Secretary

***In the May issue we will feature
Peterborough and Pembroke Dioceses and the Resolutions
Chair***

