



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

February 2014 Edition

Featuring the Ottawa and Alexandria-Cornwall Dioceses and our Spiritual Advisor

We Have Seen the Lord



Betty's Blog



"God is love and all who live in love, live in God."

In This Issue

Betty's Blog	1
From our Spiritual Advisor	2
St. Maurice Council	3
News from AC	4
Helping young families	4
Catch the Fire	4
Valentine's Day Raffle	5
90 Years Young	5
Lottie Gorski	6
Recognition	6
Pilgrimage to St. Joseph Oratory	7
Recognition	7
In the next issue...	7

The upcoming Valentine's Day has me reflecting on the greatest love of all. "Greater love has no one than this that one lay down one's life for a friend." The chocolate and roses are here today and gone tomorrow but the love of God is eternal. It's indescribable when you think of how profound what Jesus has done for us. Now that's unconditional love!

Pope Francis spoke of the love of God so beautifully. "The Lord loves us tenderly," he said. "The Lord knows that beautiful science of caresses, the tenderness of God. He does not love us with words. He comes close – closeness – and gives us His love with tenderness. Closeness and tenderness! The Lord loves us in these two ways, He draws near and gives all His love even in the smallest things: with tenderness. And this is a powerful love, because closeness and tenderness reveal the strength of God's love."

This love resonates in all that our League sisters do through service to His people. It is the bond of faith and friendship that binds us together. Just like any relationship, the more you get to know the League and its members, the more you love it.

Do you remember the Bell commercial that encouraged us to "Reach out and touch someone" or the song by Diana Ross, "Reach Out and Touch Somebody's Hand, make this world a better place if you can"? Years later this still holds true. Making that personal connection lets our members know that they are thought of and loved. Personal contact is still the best way to attract new members and encourage involvement.

Let's be contagious and spread God's love not only this month but for the rest of the year.

Love and blessings,

Betty



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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Spread the "Good News"

We are well into the New Year and I wish to take this opportunity to wish each one of you God's abundant blessings upon all your efforts to make Christ present in our families, parishes, community, and your important work with the Catholic Women's League.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, continually reminds us that we are called to deepen our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is fundamental to our faith and should influence all that we do and believe. The Lord takes us by the hand and leads us to what is good, true and beautiful. He helps us to recognize that this begins in each one of us as we see the Lord in ourselves and in each other. Through our baptism we have been given the Holy Spirit who empowers us and draws us into the mystery of God who is love. Immersed in this mystery we begin to believe the words of St. Paul who states, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13).

Throughout 2014 let us truly believe that we can do great things as we boldly proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Whenever I think of the Catholic Women's League I cannot help but think of "good news" because of each one of you and all that you do with great love in the Lord's name. Thank you for this powerful witness.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel watch over you and lead you to a deeper relationship with her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines





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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

St. Maurice CWL Council (Nepean, Ontario) Celebrates 35 Years

Our parish of St. Maurice, in Nepean (a suburb of Ottawa), had its start in 1964.

November 21, 1978 is the official date of our Catholic Women's League of Canada Council's formation.

On November 23, 2013 we celebrated the occasion of our 35th Anniversary, beginning with Mass, followed by a catered brunch served by youth of the parish. Monsignor Joseph Muldoon was Mass celebrant. Father Muldoon was our parish priest and CWL Spiritual Advisor from 1987-1993. Presently he is the CWL Ottawa Diocesan Spiritual Advisor. It was very special to have Father Joe back at the parish to share in this special occasion with us.

Eighty-one ladies attended this event. Past Presidents and past Spiritual Advisors were invited. Eight of our past Presidents, including one who is a Life member, were able to join us. Photos and memorabilia from over the years were displayed. There were goodie bags for everyone and door prizes for the lucky ones.

Each past President attending was presented with a rose and was recognized for their accomplishments during their term(s) of service. Sadly, we have lost some of our past presidents and they were remembered in prayer for their achievements as well.

In the beginning days of our council, the ladies worked on starting the Youville Centre, a recognized Ottawa institution today. Youville Centre enables teenage mothers to complete their education. Even to this day, as a council, we support the centre financially and help out in other ways when asked.

Since 1995, our council has been making and collecting loaves of sandwiches (14,642⁺ loaves thus far) for the Shepherds of Good Hope, a shelter for the homeless and less fortunate in downtown Ottawa. In the early days, once a month, some of our members prepared meals at the Shepherd's kitchen and the tradition is still carried on today.

This is just a couple areas where ladies from our council help others in the community. Members dedicate their time and talents to many other parish ministries as well. Their assistance is well appreciated.

In closing, at this milestone anniversary celebration, everyone enjoyed a hearty meal, shared stories and memories from the past and was able to meet with others they had not seen for a while. Faith, friendship and fellowship were shared by one and all. One past President (from the early 1980's) commented that she was surprised and touched to have been invited and was very happy to have come to the celebration. Our council has been very blessed with many caring, loving and giving women.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel bless our council with many joyous and faith-filled years ahead as we continue to do God's work for Canada.

Teresa Psutka (President - St. Maurice CWL Council, Ottawa, Ontario)



News from Alexandria-Cornwall

Our Lady of Grace/St. Pius X had a food drive for thanksgiving and the food was sent to St. Vincent de Paul. Here is a picture - pictured is Council President Margo Schwerdtfeger



Helping young families in the Ottawa Area



The Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall is excited to be taking part in Marty's Dream. We have built our own schoolhouse "piggy bank"!!

Our schoolhouse bank will be passed around at our upcoming general meeting. Let's have fun fulfilling this dream by being creative in how the money is raised – we look forward to meeting our goal!

This year the CWL from Our Lady of Miraculous Medal in Russell, Ontario collected items for St. Mary's Home. This Ottawa-based social service agency provides a full range of programs and services for young pregnant women, young moms and dads, and their infants and young children. Donations included 25 outfits, 17 blankets, 8 t-shirts, 12 pairs of socks, over 300 diapers and wipes, and numerous other items including washcloths, bibs, baby lotion, etc.

Catch the Fire

Catch the Fire workshops have set Canada's capital ablaze. Members came, from across the Ottawa Diocese, to attend the days in Stittsville in the west to Cumberland in the east, from the Ottawa River south to Greely. Participants were inspired, shared, made new friends, laughed, prayed, sang and had fun. Many said that they found it very helpful to them in their role at the Parish level. Some disheartened and tired members left re-energized, recommitted, and revitalized about the League again. Our ten facilitators worked together to model team work. They are very talented, generous and dedicated women. Their testimonies reminded all of us why we belong to an organization of caring, faith filled women. We are excited to be waiting for S'mores! Good things GLOW in Ontario and especially in the Ottawa Diocese.





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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

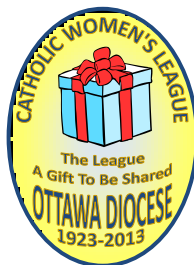
Valentine's Day Raffle

St. James council is excited once again to be organizing a St. Valentine basket for raffle. As we are all aware The CWL's mandate does not include fundraising, however it is in our best interest to have some funds available to help those in our community. With school mission trips and upcoming graduations it is great to be able to help out our parishioners in our community. Our members donate items for the basket for example, chocolates, wine, gift certificate, movie, popcorn, wine and more!! At Christmas we put donate a whole Christmas meal for the winner to prepare with their loved ones! We have had much success with our basket raffles!!



90 Years Young

The Ottawa Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada has just completed the celebration of its 90th Anniversary Year. Planning for this year, of celebration, began in the summer of 2012, when officers went away for a cottage weekend. It had been decided that we, as officers, would host the convention as a way of thanking our many councils would had hosted in past years. We would take our turn. The opening of the convention began with the Feast of Our Lady of Good Council, April 26, 2013. St. Ignatius the Martyr Council hosted this very special event. Following Mass we all enjoyed a beautifully presented Wine & Cheese, in their parish hall. For the first time in many years, the Business Session and Banquet, for the convention, were held in a conference centre. Parish Council Presidents were asked to present the history of their councils. Half of the councils presented oral reports and the other half posters, which depicted their history in photos or memorabilia. Our Diocesan Past President worked tirelessly, to organize the history of our Ottawa Diocese; finding our archives a treasure box of information. It included numerous photos, newspaper articles and many other pieces which have formed our history. Our theme "The League-A Gift to Be Shared" and logo were used throughout the year, on our correspondence and as the theme for the decorations at the convention. As our diocese journeys forth into 2014, working for God and Canada, we find ourselves preparing for another convention. This year it we will be hosted by St. Philip's Council. This parish, founded in 1819, is the oldest English Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Ottawa and has a rich history of its own. We look forward to meeting with our sisters to celebrate our 91st anniversary. May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to intercede for us.





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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER



Lottie Gorski

Life Member, London Diocesan Council CWL

October 28, 1923 – February 1, 2014

It is with sadness we announce the loss of our Life Member, Lottie Gorski on Sat. Feb 1, 2014.

Lottie was a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for 61 years and was conferred a life membership in the organization in 1976. She served as London Diocesan President 1974 – 1976. Lottie continued her involvement at many levels of the League until her death. She was a great mentor to many. Her devout faith was apparent to all and radiated through everything she did. Her Polish heritage meant a great deal to her Lottie was gifted with a marvelous voice and took pleasure in sharing her talents through the church and as a soloist for many celebrations. She was multi-talented and eager to set people at ease. Her example has given all she touched a recipe for a life well-lived. Eternal rest, grant unto her O Lord. and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Recognition

ST.SIMON & ST. JUDE, BELLE RIVER

2014 List of New Members, and those receiving Anniversary Pins

NEW MEMBERS:

Sonya De Rose
Denise Deimling
Angela Dufault
Josie Gagnier
Marion Gauthier
Jo-Ann Hennin
Janine Le Blanc
Martha Massender
Liz Meloche
Annette Poisson
Eleanor Sylvestre

10 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Madeleine Barrette
Beverly Booker
Louise Catton
Marcella Caza
Carmel Chauvin
Betty Ann Kelly
Linda Larocque
Catherine St. Pierre
Geraldine St. Pierre
Doreen Snyder

25 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Linda Belland
Denise Cecile
Catherine De Clark
Mary Ann Grant
Rosella Pinsonneault
Helen Strong

40 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Linda Lee Cassidy
Bernadette Lanoue
Jeanne Lauzon
Connie Luhowy
Patricia Preston

50 YEARS OF SERVICE:

Rita Crosby

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



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

St. Ignatius The Martyr Catholic Women's League

Pilgrimage to the St. Joseph Oratory – Montreal

Annunciation of the Lord Parish CWL Council invited us to join them on a pilgrimage to the St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal. Our group consisted of 18 members and, on May 29, 2013 we left on our journey. On the way we watched a very informative and heartbreaking video of Kateri Tekakwitha's life and then proceeded to the Shrine, built in her honour. It was so inspiring. We then continued on to St. Joseph Oratory, arriving there at lunch time. After lunch we attended mass, participated in a guided tour of the Oratory which included Brother Andre's tomb, his humble home, the hundreds of crutches and to our delight were pleased to attend the Carillon Workshop. The music was "awesome". It was an extraordinary and spiritual day.



The service clubs of the city of Cornwall each Christmas collect items for a food basket to donate to those in need in our Diocese of Alexandria Cornwall. For example, the Lions may be responsible to collect cereal, Knights of Columbus - vegetables, etc. Well The CWL is responsible to donate JELLO!!

J=Jesus E=Evangelization LL=Lots of Love O=OOHHH so much fun!!

The charity of all of the different service clubs was amazing – we truly are a caring community!

It was so wonderful to say we donated over 3500 boxes of JELLO!



***In the March issue we will feature
Sault St. Marie Diocese and the Education and Health Chair***

