



ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

January 2014 Edition

Featuring Toronto Diocese and the Community Life Standing Committee

We Have Seen the Lord – As People of Faith



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Betty's Blog



Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas season and rang in the New Year with family and friends to enjoy it with!

The New Year has us reflecting on the past year first wondering where it went and then on the wonderful memories we shared. Traditionally it is a time when people make one or more New Year's resolutions. Well, we in the League are always making resolutions! The ones that come from the grassroots and we stick with to get them all the way to government. They are important issues that are not made it passing and we follow through with them unlike some new year's resolutions made with all the best intentions.

We face the New Year with much hope and excitement for what is to come. If any doubt should surface, Jesus is there for us to remind us we are not alone. Today, January 12, we celebrated the Baptism of Our Lord. It is a time that reminds us that He plunged into the water of the Jordon to be baptised so He could join with us in the fight against sin. Imagine how John the Baptist must have felt! Now we walk by faith and not by sight knowing the Holy Spirit gives us the strength that we need to be of service to His people. Thank you Lord for your breath from heaven!

Blessings and hugs for the start of the New Year

Betty



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Helping Out the Missions

At the traditional "Welcome Back" September general meeting at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Etobicoke, the Community Life Chair Pat Dyson had two projects underway. She is pictured here on the right along with Mary Ann Amodeo the president. As the picture shows, the table is filled with knitted goods that the members have been busy making over the summer break. These items have since been sent to the Northern Catholic Missions. Also in the box that Pat is holding, are the stamps that are collected all year round for Development and Peace. At each meeting the box is out on the table and members can drop in their stamps. These projects are ongoing all year round and the members are very generous with both of these initiatives.



Little Angels

In the Spring of 2013, the ladies of St. Francis Xavier Council in Mississauga decided to help fill a very special need. Infant death is one of the most devastating experiences any parent could face. Parents may experience anger and hopelessness, and many families grieve in silence. Parents who lose their babies often asked to see them. The babies are cleaned, dressed and given to the parents to hold for the last time... The clothes are used for the babies' funeral and the blankets are kept by the parents as mementos. Most of the babies are so tiny and clothes are not easily available. The ladies offered to sew, knit, or crochet to dress these Little Angels.



Helping the Youth Shelters

For the past several years the CWL members of Nativity of Our Lord Council in Etobicoke have also collected small winter items and toiletries for a youth shelter in their neighbourhood. The collection is kicked off at the October general meeting where larger toiletry bags are brought in and distributed. These are filled with many small items that the youth might need. The final collection is done on the day of their Christmas Brunch in December where all items are collected. The collection of soaps, shampoos, lotions and other personal grooming items along with mittens and socks all fill the many boxes of goodies that get delivered to the shelter in time for Christmas.



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FogQuest

In April of 2013, Melissa Rosato from an organization called FogQuest was a guest speaker at the St. John Chrysostom C.W.L. in Newmarket's general meeting. The invitation was extended to everyone in the parish. FogQuest is an international non-profit organization that sends volunteers to rural regions of developing countries to set up fog nets to catch fog, rain and dew to provide sustainable water for the people, both for drinking and irrigation.



The technology is inexpensive and does not require electricity or generators. When the water is caught in the nets, it is delivered by gravity flow. The people benefitting are taught how to work with these nets. One of the very successful projects is located in Tojquia, Guatemala. Melissa had a wonderful presentation, including a mini fog net which she demonstrated. The work that the volunteers do is great and they continue to look for areas that can benefit from this most unique system. Everyone in attendance found the evening to be very interesting and informative. More information about this organization is available at <http://www.fogquest.org/>.

Development & Peace

You may be aware of a program to donate to Development and Peace, but I am going to give information for those who may not be aware. You can collect used stamps and send them to Development and Peace. The stamps affixed on the right corner of your envelopes can be very useful. Members of Development and Peace, who are philatelists, will sell them to stamp collectors. The proceeds will help fund development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. If you wish to support this initiative, simply cut off the stamps from your envelopes without damaging perforations, and send them to: Development and Peace, 1425 René-Lévesque Blvd West, 3rd Floor, Montreal QC H3G 1T7



CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR
**Development
and Peace**

**Développement
et Paix**

Development & Peace – Share Lent Campaign

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Share Lent campaign material will be available on the D&P national website sometime in February. To receive material in time for Lent, place orders early and allow up to one month for delivery. (www.devp.org/en/sharelent)



Human Trafficking

The following was taken from the latest communiqué from Fran Lucas, National Community Life Chair.

"Pope Francis has directed that the problem of human trafficking be studied. This prompted a group of women religious to ask the pope to raise greater awareness in the church about the issue and a worldwide day of prayer and fasting has been established, February 8th, the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita who was a Sudanese slave, found freedom in Italy and became a nun in the late 19th century. Some types of trafficking include forced labour, sexual exploitation and human organ harvesting all of which are profitable criminal activities. (Source: V.I.S. Vatican Information Service www.vis.va). The British Columbia. Ministry of Justice has an Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons and it generates a Staying Current newsletter offering a wealth of information

<http://www.pssg.gov2.bc.ca/octip/docs/StayingCurrent.pdf>

Does your province have a similar resource?"



Bullying:

A plague to combat together

Bullying

A publication from COLF (Catholic Organization for Life and Family) entitled *Bullying: A Plague to Combat Together* offers the basis for a workshop on the topic or good reading material for teachers, parents and those that are involved and concerned about this topic. It may be obtained by calling 613-241-9461 Ext 161 or go on-line at www.colf.ca.

STAYING CURRENT
B.C.'s Office to Combat
Trafficking in Persons
Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch
Ministry of Justice



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Hunger Count 2013

In March 2013, 833,098 people turned to a food bank in Canada, down from 872,379 the previous March. Underlying this small drop is a concern of enormous proportions: food bank use remains higher than it was before the recession began five years ago. During a time of apparent economic recovery, far too many Canadians still struggle to put food on the table. *HungerCount 2013* bears witness to the need for food banks across Canada and moves beyond this, to seek solutions that address the root causes. Our five recommendations are simple but significant action items that would move our country towards real progress. The full report can be read at <http://www.foodbankscanada.ca/FoodBanks/MediaLibrary/HungerCount/HungerCount2013.pdf>

Ten Most needed food and household items

Pasta (canned or dry) & pasta sauces	Meat alternatives (peanut butter, soy)
Canned goods (beans, soups, & stews)	Dairy (fresh, canned, & powdered milk)
Canned and frozen meats and fish	Canned vegetables and fruit
Whole grain cereals	Infant foods and baby formula
Bathroom tissue and diapers	Personal hygiene products

Consider these figures from HungerCount 2013:

- 9.4% (78,311,212) people each month access a food bank for the first time
- 36.4% of those turning to food banks are children and youth
- 4.3% of adults helped are over age 65
- 11.3% of people assisted are Aboriginal
- 50% of households helped receive social assistance
- 11.5% have income from current or recent employment
- 16.4% receive disability-related income supports
- 8% of food banks ran out of food during the survey period
- 50% of food banks needed to cut back on the amount of food provided to each household

There have been so many events in 2013 that have caused us to stop and pray and maybe even act.

- Lac Megantic, Quebec train derailment
- The Philippines
- The ice storm in Ontario
- The floods in Alberta
- Events in our own communities (fires, floods, accidents, etc.)
- Deaths of friends and those in our own families

We must remember that we are members of the Catholic Women's League, a national organization, rooted in gospel values, calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.



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Happy New Year from the Toronto Diocesan Council!



We extend greetings and Best Wishes to all our fellow CWL sisters throughout Ontario. Our diocesan theme for 2014 is "*We Have Seen the Lord, Let His Light Guide Our Path*" and guide us he did! Our councils generously reached out, giving of their time and talents to "*share with others at home and abroad*". The Community Life projects outlined here are but a few of the many on-going projects in our diocese.

President, Mary Capobianco

Recognition

Holy Trinity Parish
Englehart Ontario
Diocese of Timmins

Receiving 40 year pin Dorothy Calaezzi

Receiving ten year Pins: Adriane McLean, Roxanne Rodgers, Lorraine O'Gorman

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